Like a marathon, sustainability is not a quick sprint, but the rewards for sticking with it can be vast. Businesses that view sustainability and resources efficiency as a part of doing business have realized the value that it brings to their corporate objectives related to revenue, brand, operations, risk management, and corporate social responsibility.

However, many companies still struggle to prioritize which sustainability initiatives to pursue as they address global megatrends, including continued pressure on margins and profitability, resource scarcity, evolving consumer and stakeholder expectations, regulatory changes, and increasing supply chain and operational risks. Addressing these megatrends through clear strategies supported by data analytics and visualization can add both tangible and intangible value.
Sustainability initiatives drive business value in multiple ways through revenue enhancement, cost reduction, and risk management.

How we can help
Deloitte’s Sustainability professionals take a practical and business-focused approach to helping companies build sustainability into their strategy and operations as a way to improve and protect margins, build brand value, and enhance risk resilience with the goal of supporting business growth. We work with companies to evaluate and develop sustainable strategies that can help drive toward near-term and long-term results. Our sustainability consultants are experienced at identifying opportunities across the value chain and across industries to create potential resource-based financial value. Our services include:

- **Sustainability strategy** — Developing a road map to address sustainability risks and opportunities in support of business growth objectives, stakeholder engagement and communications, and brand enhancement programs, as well as prioritizing sustainability initiatives through detailed value quantification.
- **Resource productivity and risk mitigation** — Identifying ways to address energy, water, and materials risks across the value chain.
- **Sustainable operations and supply chain** — Refining operations and the supply chain by addressing diverse issues such as supplier engagement, sourcing and procurement, packaging, closed loop recycling, supply chain transparency, and human and labor rights.
- **Reporting and disclosure** — Identifying ways to improve collection and reporting of data in compliance with laws, regulations, and stakeholder expectations.

Potential top and bottom-line benefits

- Ability to prioritize sustainability activities and employ strategies to understand where program investments should be focused on capturing value.
- Sustainability strategies that analyze various aspects of a business to identify where sustainability initiatives might have significant impact.
- Quantitative and qualitative outputs that help companies prioritize and refine their sustainability strategy and improve their financial returns.
- Reduced materials cost and price volatility to help drive profitability and increase competitive edge.
- Supply chain improvements, including significant savings in manufacturing and sourcing costs, as well as product quality enhancements that can contribute to increased market share and improved margins.
- Improved supply chain transparency that can help reduce risk for social issues around human rights, labor rights, and anticorruption issues.
- Risk mitigation by understanding business operations and supply chain through a sustainability lens.
- Improved reporting, from basic compliance to third-party assessment scores that can help enhance brand and social license to operate.

Ways to get more value now

- **Don’t go it alone.** Employees are often passionate about sustainability, regardless of their job function. Engaging them on sustainability can improve overall program impact and staff collaboration. However, so much input sometimes makes it challenging to stay focused on priorities. A value quantification methodology can help you stay the path.

- **Don’t underestimate the value of sustainability initiatives.** Our engagements often uncover surprising opportunities for our clients to focus on positive impacts that were not considered important before.

- **Don’t be shy.** Take advantage of the opportunity to leverage sustainability initiatives to enhance public perception, including giving existing employees more to be proud about and helping reinforce the image of the company being an employer of choice.

The big idea

At a time when executives are required to make many difficult decisions affecting many people, often in adverse ways, effective sustainability isn’t just about good corporate citizenship — it’s simply good business. Imagine having a significant and positive business impact and improving employee and customer engagement at the same time.

Learn more

Sustainability initiatives can create significant improvement in supply chains, driving down costs, improving efficiency, addressing risk management issues, and even enhancing revenues. To learn more about how Deloitte can help, visit www.deloitte.com/us/scsustainability.

**Kyle Tanger,** Director, Deloitte Consulting LLP
ktanger@deloitte.com