



# SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

*Improving environmental, social, and economic performance reporting.*

The concept of corporate social responsibility and sustainability has taken on greater significance for organizations around the globe. Many components such as waste reduction and energy conservation are not new, but the focus has spread across most industries. A major portion of what organizations now consider to be the cornerstone of corporate social responsibility revolves around sustainability reporting.

## TACKLING REPORTING CHALLENGES

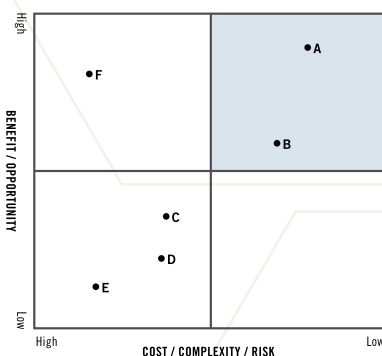
As corporate reporting on environmental, social responsibility, and economic performance has gained wider acceptance, more companies are publishing sustainability reports. These reports are designed to provide information on an entity's environmental, social, and economic performance and impacts, as well as its initiatives for improving performance in these areas. Because this area of reporting is rapidly evolving, different standards and frameworks have emerged, such as the Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) sustainability reporting guidelines.

As emphasis on sustainability continues to grow, it has never been more challenging to respond to these demands. Organizations face a number of issues when trying to implement sustainability programs, including:

- Determining which sustainability standards and guidelines to follow.
- Aligning sustainability programs with financial performance.
- Tracking and quantifying sustainability performance despite a lack of reliable data sources.
- Integrating sustainability metrics tracking into current processes or systems to eliminate time-consuming manual data collection processes.

## DEFINING A STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK

MorganFranklin helps clients develop phased approaches for building programs that are scalable and flexible enough to handle constantly changing sustainability requirements. Our teams identify and evaluate opportunities and implement the changes that provide the highest impact and lowest risk or cost.



After identifying high-benefit, low-cost opportunities, we frame the strategy necessary to implement the changes.

## Benefits of Sustainability Reporting:

- Turn strategy and data into actionable insights to improve profitability
- Improve enterprise transparency and performance
- Provide sustainability results to the correct levels in the organization
- Manage and mitigate stakeholder risk
- Incorporate sustainability into existing management systems and processes
- Develop an overall vision, policy statement, and strategic approach to sustainability
- Evaluate the establishment of systems and processes for achieving credible, verifiable sustainability reporting
- Provide benchmarking against peers' corporate sustainability programs
- Increase shareholder value while meeting stakeholders' needs and expectations

When it comes to developing a sustainability strategy, one size does not fit all. MorganFranklin helps tailor sustainability strategies to align with current business processes, allowing them to become more integrated into each organization's business model. The challenge for any organization is to focus on a set of metrics and indicators that have the greatest impact on internal and external stakeholders. While defining a reporting strategy, there are many factors to consider, such as:

- Properly aligning sustainability initiatives with other business initiatives.
- Implementing a sustainability strategy that the entire organization will follow.
- Ensuring auditability and transparency in sustainability reporting.
- Incorporating internal metrics while leveraging industry-recognized standards from the GRI.

#### **LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY**

A good sustainability strategy also involves leveraging technology to meet an organization's unique reporting needs. Should an organization develop custom applications to capture data and complete reporting, or should it consider a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) reporting product? Each option presents a series of advantages and disadvantages based on a company's constraints and needs. Whether implementing a custom application or a COTS product, the system should be able to:

- Manage a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) while optimizing opportunities for reuse.
- Automate the collection and gathering of quantitative and qualitative sustainability data from people and systems.
- Turn sustainability data into actionable information to improve financial and sustainability performance.
- Integrate with existing systems in order to reduce the cost of measuring sustainability performance.

#### **CHOOSE MORGANFRANKLIN**

MorganFranklin is a single source for all financial, management, and technology support with a proven track record leading time-sensitive and technically intensive initiatives. We bring together individuals with government contracting, operations, and Big Four experience, including an average of 20 years of experience at manager and higher staff levels. Our teams carry certifications and degrees such as CPA, CIA, CISA, MBA, and PMP, just to name a few. Our ability to tap diverse in-house expertise allows us to proactively manage your requirements and quickly address issues that could impact your compliance, efficiency, or profitability. Count on MorganFranklin to bring extensive experience, diverse perspectives, determination, and competitive rates to meet all of your financial and information technology needs.



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