

Sustainability Positioning Statement

Modern companies are embracing energy efficiency and taking a closer look at renewable energy for many compelling reasons including a reduction in greenhouse gases, cost predictability, and more stable business operations through energy resilience. While these actions support corporate sustainability, enlightened companies realize there is more to do beyond being a good steward of the planet's natural resources.

Sustainability incorporates corporate social responsibility (CSR) standards, as well as environmental, social, and governance (ESG) reporting metrics important to impact investors. The working thesis behind these related activities is that you can achieve a positive "triple-bottom line" from implementing sustainable business practices that drive social, environmental, and economic benefits - - in other words, "doing well, by doing good." As such, changing the conversation in boardrooms to include stakeholders, in addition to shareholders, is becoming an accepted approach to attain lasting enterprise value.

As CNBC reported, The Business Roundtable, a group of chief executive officers from major U.S. corporations, issued a statement on August 19, 2019 with a new definition of the purpose of a corporation. "Shareholder value is no longer the main focus of some of America's top business leaders... rather, investing in employees, delivering value to customers, dealing ethically with suppliers and supporting outside communities are now at the forefront of American business goals, according to the statement." In essence, the Roundtable has endorsed corporate sustainability ideals without labeling them as such.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/19/the-ceos-of-nearly-two-hundred-companies-say-shareholder-value-is-no-longer-their-main-objective.html>

As corporate sustainability gains momentum in the C-suite, senior executives are beginning to understand that an effective and coordinated sustainability program is one that is core to a company's business strategy and should be considered a key tenet of its mission and vision. Incorporating this holistic framework into the strategic planning process provides management the ability to create a cohesive platform for stakeholder engagement.

Renewable Trust is very familiar with the principles underpinning corporate sustainability and its practical applications for companies large and small. Whether you are already far along this path or just beginning to explore this topic, our team can bring an additional level of expertise to this important discussion. If you would like to learn more, please reach out to us at your convenience.