

Sustainable Food Production (SFP)

SFP.105K Principles of sustainability in a food environment

Unit Summary

This unit is about understanding the principles of sustainability in a food environment and how these principles can be applied to achieve sustainability. It is important to view the development of sustainable food manufacture as an integral part of an organisation's corporate social responsibility.

This unit applies to you if you are a manager or consultant who has responsibility for developing strategy to support the achievement of sustainability in a food environment. It is expected that you will control and support others with regard to the development and implementation of strategy.

Related Units

This is a knowledge unit which underpins the skills set out in:

- SPF.101S Develop a strategy that strives to achieve sustainability within a food environment

You need to know and understand:

1. The principles of environmental sustainability in a food environment in relation to energy, waste, water usage and transportation
2. How environmental management systems (EMS) are used to support sustainability in a food environment
3. The relationship between sustainability and the three key elements of corporate social responsibility; economic, social and environmental
4. The legal requirements that influence sustainability and its development within an organisation
5. Sources of advice and guidance on achieving sustainability in food manufacture.
6. The benefits of sustainability to the organisation and its stakeholders
7. How to gain stakeholder commitment to the development of sustainable food production
8. The influences which impact upon the achievement of sustainability
9. How to establish targets for sustainable development including the use of benchmarking
10. How to control the efficient use of resources within organisational activities to help achieve sustainability
11. How the actions of others within the supply chain can influence sustainability
12. Potential barriers to achieving sustainability and how these can be overcome
13. How sustainability impacts on all the component functions of an organisation
14. How to collect and analyse the data relevant to resource utilisation including the application of cost benefit analysis
15. The role of continuous improvement to achieving sustainability

16. How to report on performance and improvements

Key Words

Influences	Economic, environmental, social, political and legal.
Organisational activities	Incorporating all: purchasing, supply, production, storage, packaging, transport and all aspects of business support.
Sustainability	Relevant to aspects of environmental performance and Corporate Social Responsibility.
Resources	Include: Raw materials, product, packaging, energy, water, transport, finance, people etc
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic • Environmental • Social (health and nutrition, food safety, equal opportunities, health and safety, science innovation skills development and ethical trading)
Barriers	These can be economic, practical, social, legal and the personal beliefs and attitudes of people
Waste	Packaging, food waste and household waste
Stakeholder	Stakeholders are both internal and external to the organisation concerned with or affected by organisational activity.
Benchmark	A comparative measure of one organisation against industry best practice.
Legal requirements	Relevant to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environment • Employment • Health and safety • Food safety and security