



E3: ECONOMY - ENERGY - ENVIRONMENT

A SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGY

August 2014 E3 Manufacturing for a Sustainable Future

Featured Articles, Reports, and Tools

Feature Articles

IMCP

Federal program set to 'DRIVE' economy into future

August 23, 2014 - Since the recession officially ended five years ago, manufacturers have created 647,000 jobs nationwide, according to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Obama administration wants to build on that growth with the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative. The goal of IMCP is to raise the economic tides by lifting up the manufacturing sector. To help bring in the high tide in Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, and Alabama, stakeholders gathered to discuss plans for the Tennessee Drive for the Future initiative with the goal of boosting research assets, workforce development, and the supply chain.

Corporate Sustainability

A new green wave

August 30, 2014 - Why should firms make sustainability central to what they do? Environmentalists might reply that virtue is its own reward. But companies need more concrete returns—higher profits, or increased sales, or higher stock market valuations. The first wave of sustainability policies provided those. The new wave may not: sustainability targets could raise costs, not cut them, making environmentally friendly consumer goods more expensive than the eco-hostile variety. Efforts to combat social inequality could boost wages. Training can be costly. However, it can be argued that good sustainability policies still improve the fundamentals of businesses in the long run.

Science and sustainability goals: what researchers want businesses to know

August 29, 2014 - If your company is trying to plan for operating in a world where every fundamental resource is increasingly constrained, standard business goal-setting strategies may not apply. Instead, sustainability advocates and consultants are increasingly encouraging companies to get a better grasp on the science behind various environmental impacts and to set goals accordingly. Using science as a basis for sustainability targets is fundamentally about risk management, although it comes with potential reputational benefits as well. As the world's governments and markets inch closer to putting a price on environmental impact and a value on ecosystem services, companies with a better understanding of these issues could be better positioned to operate in a world in which resources are less available and more expensive.

Five trends that show corporate responsibility is here to stay

August 13, 2014 - For business, environmental, social, and governance responsibilities are no longer add-ons. They are integral to success. While the great majority of companies have yet to commit to this trajectory, there is a strong upward growth curve in actively engaged companies, with a vanguard taking serious action in all key markets. The growing feeling is that corporate sustainability has drawn a line in the sand, and it's best for business to get on the right side.

How to Gain Value from Sustainability Reporting

August 6, 2014 - Sustainability reporting offers the opportunity to give an intensive examination of a company's environmental footprint and business strategy. This presents a unique chance for those with a vision to seize it. Sustainability reporting can be a galvanizing moment for creating internal alignment and igniting innovation to better serve customer requirements and grow new business. Industry leaders across manufacturing and commercial services have provided great, forward thinking product strategies that improve competitiveness, business continuity, and resilience.

Sustainable Manufacturing

Lean and Green Can Be Profitable

August 18, 2014 - As manufacturers around the world adopt lean manufacturing and cut down on raw material consumption, energy usage, environmental waste, and pollution, they are learning that eco-friendly practices can be profitable. Lean manufacturing can position companies to be globally competitive fits well with green practices. In addition, sustainability issues are increasingly relevant to investors as they seek to integrate environmental and corporate responsibility factors in both current and future investment practices.

Improving Environmental Performance and Value Capture in Capital Project Execution

August 11, 2014 - Tremendous time, effort and resources are expended every day to develop and execute major capital projects. But beyond simple compliance with minimum legal and regulatory requirements, the delivery of a capital project can serve as a valuable opportunity to drive broader organizational change and a reduction in overall environmental footprint. Crucially, this need not generate additional costs. A "design for sustainability" approach typically seeks to incorporate the use of new technology or innovations, as well as adherence to best practices for identifying options to reduce resource consumption and the production of waste. Value otherwise left on the table can be recovered through a systematic and structured process of integrating environmental performance at each phase in the project implementation model.