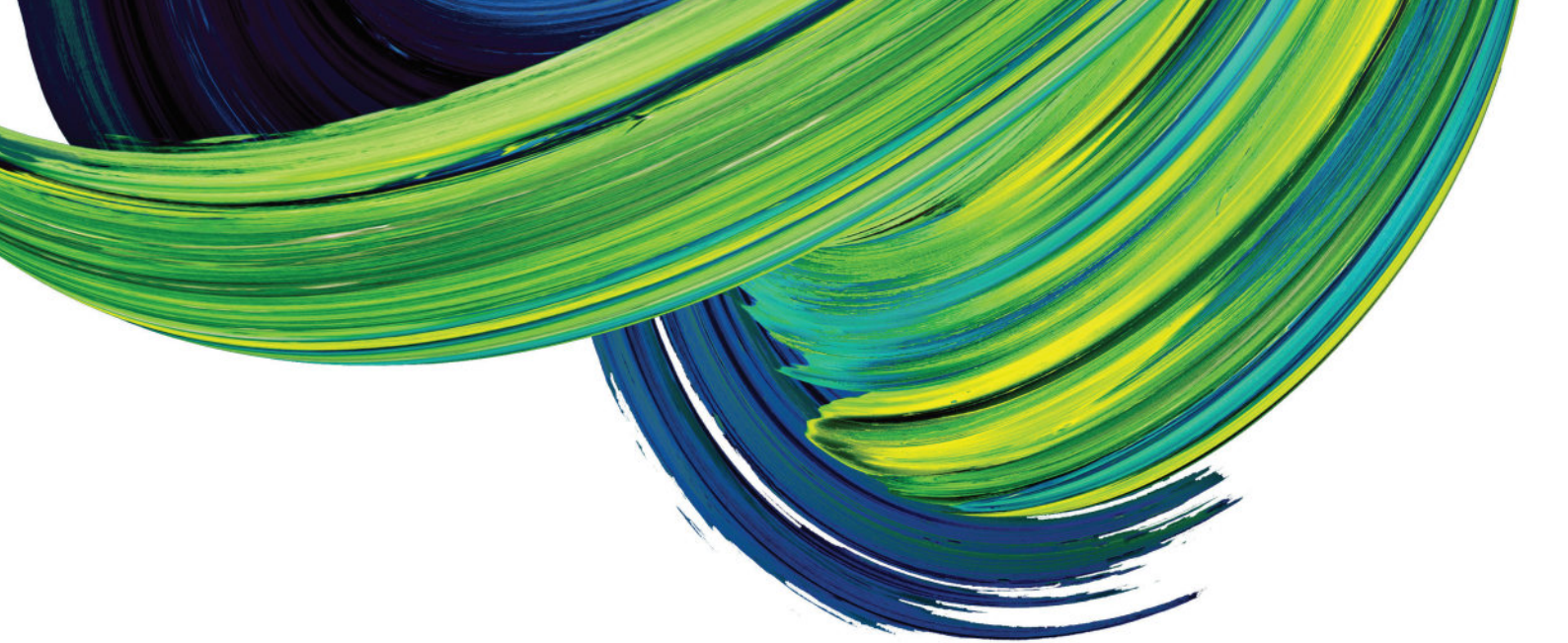


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# 「Sustainability: Are you Ready?」



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# Sustainability: Are You Ready?

Six years into the United Nations' adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the topic of sustainability has received a renewed global focus recently.

With the COVID-19 pandemic revealing the vulnerability of the environment and society, there is now a heightened consumer demand and investor appetite for businesses to commit to sustainability. Wide-ranging issues on sustainability, such as formulating / strengthening environmental, social and governance (ESG) programmes, adopting a circular economy model, and complying with mandatory sustainability reporting obligations affect all businesses, though especially those in the consumer goods and retail, food/agriculture, energy, and manufacturing industries.

Governments around the world have also started taking actions to embed sustainability into their nation-wide agendas. For instance, the Singapore Green Plan 2030 envisions a transition into a sustainable future, committing to greener buildings, greener vehicles, and greener cityscape. Another area of priority is food security, with the growing agri-food industry driven by technological innovations attracting multiple foreign companies to the agri-tech hub of Asia. Given the global momentum for sustainability giving rise to new issues and reinforcing existing ones, it is undeniable that a comprehensive sustainability agenda is now a necessary and strategic business consideration.

# Key Issues

As your business starts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing sustainability concerns is imperative to building/strengthening business resilience and public trust. Sustainability cuts across multiple issues, with the extent of relevance and importance depending on each industry, sub-sector, and business. Generally, some key questions you should ask yourself are:

1 Am I subject to mandatory or voluntary sustainability reporting obligations? How do I ensure my voluntary sustainability reporting obligations are in line with best practices?

2 How can I protect my new technologies/products/services relating to sustainability under intellectual property laws?

3 How do I mine and commercialise data on consumer preferences within permissible limits?

4 How can I ensure that my sustainability efforts do not amount to greenwashing? Do I have in place measures to avoid / mitigate product claims arising from my advertising practices?

5 Do I have human rights policies and codes of conduct to address human rights violation risks like modern slavery in my operations? Are my staff sufficiently trained on labour and human rights compliance?

6 Am I subject to any environmental compliance requirements such as recycling obligations applicable to my business? Am I eligible for any tax incentive schemes in this regard?

7 Should my company engage in green financing by issuing green bonds/sustainability-linked bonds and/or applying for green loans from the government/banks?



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# Contact Us

We would be happy to have a chat with you to see how we can assist your business with these issues.



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