Sustainability Self-Evaluation Toolkit

Assessing your business's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Developed as part of our research, this practical self-evaluation tool is designed to help business owners and organisations assess their current sustainability practices. It provides a structured way to identify strengths, highlight opportunities for improvement and establish a starting point against which progress can be reviewed. It can form the basis of an in-depth discussion in a workshop with the University of Leicester Growth Hub.

Organisation **Date**

How to use this toolkit

Enter a whole-number rating from 1 to 5 for each question. Add the ratings for each area, then transfer your totals to the score summary on page 3.

1	2	3	4	5
No contribution	Minimal contribution	Moderate contribution	High contribution	Very high contribution

01 No Poverty

1–5

1.	Does the organisation allocate financial resources to poverty alleviation and hunger reduction efforts?	
2.	How much does the organisation spend annually on direct or indirect donations (e.g., food, clothes, medical supplies, and seed loans) for disadvantaged communities?	
3.	Does the organisation collaborate with local charities or NGOs to support poverty reduction?	

Overall rating (possible range: 3–15)

02 Good Health and Well-being

1–5

1.	Does the organisation invest in healthcare initiatives for the community?	
2.	What is the level of expenditure on medical and health resources, such as donations to hospitals or community health programmes?	
3.	Does the organisation provide employees and their families healthcare benefits beyond legal requirements?	

Overall rating (possible range: 3–15)

Assess your contribution

Continue rating each question from 1 to 5. Add the three ratings to calculate each overall rating.

1	2	3	4	5
No contribution	Minimal contribution	Moderate contribution	High contribution	Very high contribution

03 Quality Education

1–5

1.	Does the organisation contribute to improving education access in the community?	
2.	How much does the organisation spend on providing educational resources such as scholarships, school infrastructure, or vocational training?	
3.	Does the organisation provide any mentorship programmes or skill development workshops for students or interns?	
Overall rating	(possible range: 3–15)	

04 Gender Equality

1–5

1.	Does the organisation have women in top leadership roles?	
2.	What percentage of your top management team consists of female members?	
3.	Does the organisation implement policies or programmes to promote gender equality in recruitment, wages, and leadership?	
Overall rating	(possible range: 3–15)	

05 Decent Work and Economic Growth

1–5

1.	Does the organisation provide fair wages and safe working conditions?	
2.	What is the level of expenditure on insurance and financial/non-financial benefits available to employees?	
3.	Does the organisation support career growth, professional development, or employee training?	
Overall rating	(possible range: 3–15)	

Complete your assessment

Rate the remaining questions. Transfer the seven overall ratings below and add them for your total score.

06 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

1–5

1.	Does the organisation invest in innovation and sustainability-focused R&D?	
2.	How much does the organisation allocate to green and sustainable research and development?	
3.	Are new technologies or processes being developed to reduce environmental impact and increase efficiency?	

Overall rating (possible range: 3–15)

07 Environmental Sustainability

1–5

1.	Does the organisation actively reduce the environmental impact of its products and services?	
2.	Compared to competitors, are your products/services designed to be more environmentally friendly?	
3.	Does the organisation implement waste reduction, recycling, or sustainable sourcing practices?	
4.	Does the organisation take steps to prevent environmental accidents through process improvements?	

Overall rating (possible range: 4–20)

Score summary

Assessment area	Range	Score
01 No Poverty	3–15	
02 Good Health and Well-being	3–15	
03 Quality Education	3–15	
04 Gender Equality	3–15	
05 Decent Work and Economic Growth	3–15	
06 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	3–15	
07 Environmental Sustainability	4–20	
Total score	**22–110**	

Evaluation and next steps

Use your total score from page 3 to identify your current contribution level and plan your next steps.

Interpret your total score

77–110	**Strong SDG contribution**
44–76	**Moderate contribution; room for improvement**
22–43	**Minimal contribution; action needed**

Scoring note: the original bands omitted 43 and 76; these are included above. The original “below 22” category is not attainable if all 22 questions are rated 1–5. Check for missing or invalid ratings before interpreting your score.

Areas for improvement

Identify the assessment areas where your organisation scored lowest (relative to the maximum available score) and set actionable goals for better SDG contribution.

Future commitment plan

Develop a strategic plan to enhance the organisation’s sustainability impact by increasing investments, collaborations and sustainable practices.