

## Overview

This standard is about working to develop and maintain the sustainable utilisation of natural resources. It describes the skills and knowledge requirements that help to ensure the sustainable utilisation of natural resources. The sustainable use of natural resources is an essential underpinning component for any organisation that relies on the utilisation of natural resources such as minerals, fuels, water aggregates, trees, fisheries, game and wildlife and the countryside itself.

The role described by this standard requires an understanding of the natural resources being utilised by an organisation, including a clear understanding of the economic, social and environmental factors that define sustainable utilisation. It requires the application of this understanding in support of the development of business targets that promote sustainable thinking within organisations. It also requires that organisational activity is reviewed to determine opportunities for improving the sustainability of resource utilisation. The actions taken should address any negative impacts associated with both organisational activities and the economic impact of natural resources.

Finally, it requires that ideas for improving the efficient use of natural resources are communicated and shared with others.

This standard would be appropriate for:

Those responsible for supporting the development of sustainable business practice. It is likely to apply to technical staff, manager and owner managers within SMEs, and particularly those with responsibility for implementing environmental policies and programmes.

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## Performance criteria

### *You must be able to:*

P1 identify the range and characteristics of the natural resources utilised by the organisation, including limits of sustainable utilisation

P2 identify the legal and policy requirements that control the utilisation of the natural resources utilised by the organisation

P3 benchmark current organisational natural resource utilisation levels to identify the sustainability of current practice

P4 identify opportunities and targets for improving the sustainability of natural resource utilisation

P5 identify potential barriers that may limit the impact of any actions taken to improve sustainability

P6 confirm proposed utilisation of natural resources complies with legal and policy requirements and falls within limits of sustainable utilisation

P7 gain approval for sustainable natural resource utilisation targets from decision makers

P8 advise on the design and development of processes and products that promote the sustainable utilisation of natural resources

P9 specify procedures for monitoring and evaluating the future utilisation of natural resources by the organisation

P10 promote the positive impacts of sustainable utilisation to others

P11 develop and implement strategies to overcome barriers within limits of authority

P12 support the implementation of monitoring and control procedures

P13 evaluate the impact of measures to improve the sustainable use of natural resources

P14 communicate to stakeholders the benefits of sustainable utilisation

P15 encourage stakeholders' endorsement of the actions taken to improve the sustainable utilisation of natural resources

## Knowledge and understanding

### *You need to know and understand:*

- K1 what the sustainable utilisation of natural resources is
- K2 the legislation and policy frameworks that control the utilisation of natural resources
- K3 the characteristics of the natural resources utilised by the organisation, including those that determine levels of sustainable utilisation
- K4 how the organisation utilises natural resources and how closely this approximates to the limits of sustainable utilisation
- K5 the economic, social and environmental principles that underpin the future sustainability of natural resources
- K6 how to develop targets for the sustainable utilisation of natural resources
- K7 the principles of benchmarking as a method of identifying opportunities for improvement and promoting good practice
- K8 the barriers that can limit the impact of measures to improve the utilisation of natural resources
- K9 the benefits that come from the sustainable use of natural resources and how these support sustainable business practice
- K10 how to recognise actions that can improve the sustainable utilisation of natural resources
- K11 how to develop and specify targets
- K12 how to promote the positive impacts of sustainable resource utilisation
- K13 how to monitor and evaluate the organisation's utilisation of natural resources
- K14 data collection and analysis
- K15 the interest that stakeholders have in natural resource utilisation
- K16 how to communicate actions and benefits to stakeholders

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## Scope/range

Legal and policy requirements:

- 1 national
- 2 European

Sustainable utilisation:

- 1 economic
- 2 social and ethical
- 3 environmental

Stakeholders include:

- 1 decision makers
- 2 organisational colleagues
- 3 customers
- 4 suppliers
- 5 government departments
- 6 non-government organisations
- 7 the general public

Barriers include:

- 1 economic
- 2 practical
- 3 social
- 4 legal
- 5 stakeholder attitudes

COGSBP25

Promote the Sustainable Utilisation Of Natural Resources in Support of Sustainable Business Practice



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<b>Developed by</b>	Cogent
<b>Version Number</b>	2
<b>Date Approved</b>	30 Mar 2020
<b>Indicative Review Date</b>	30 Mar 2026
<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating Organisation</b>	Cogent
<b>Original URN</b>	COGSBP25
<b>Relevant Occupations</b>	Director, Environmental Manager, Farm Manager, Farmer, Technical Staff, Unit manager
<b>Suite</b>	Sustainable Business Practice
<b>Keywords</b>	sustainable; utilisation; natural; resources; business; practice

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