



A Chemical Industry View through an EHS&S Lens

An Environment, Health, Safety and Sustainability Market Update by AnteaTM Group | July 2012



In an effort to bring additional value to The Chemical Company network, Antea Group will provide monthly contributions to "View from Jamestown" focused on topical and industry current environment, health, safety and sustainability (EHS&S) issues. In this edition, we will explore how companies can accurately measure the value of their business's social and environmental initiatives and drive future business decisions with reliable data.

When working to define and report on the value of environmental and social objectives, companies need to ensure they have clear measures in place that can readily reflect the success of those sustainability endeavors to key stakeholders. Effective reporting hinges on a data collection system that is flexible, specific to your needs, and intended to enhance your sustainability programs (and overall business).

Recognizing that in these changing times companies may have to rethink and redefine their perception of "value" in the marketplace, many companies are turning to a solution that integrates both environmental and social dimensions to the traditional financial calculus that historically has defined success. While there may be differences of opinion as to precisely which sustainability measures are most material or best at delineating value, there is little debate on the essentials of good data collection.

Experience has shown there are fundamental aspects in managing sustainability data that can be condensed into what we term the *Five Essentials for Effective Sustainability Data Collection*. These *Five Essentials* serve as practical aids in the design and implementation of systems to better characterize/quantify the value social and environmental progress measures can bring.

1. Clear Data Definitions & Boundaries – specifying the scope, purpose, exceptions and limits associated with the data being collected.

2. Defined Data Collection Protocols – serving as a definitive description of how information is to be gathered and compiled, explaining methods, frequency, automation and documenting other important aspects in ways that assist those responsible for collecting this data.

3. "Built-In" Validation – integrating discrete data quality checks into collection processes, verifying completeness, accuracy and plausibility at logical points along the way.

4. Capabilities To Anticipate & Effectively Manage Change – improving when innovations reveal better data collection methods or adapting when changes at a company warrant modification to current practices/processes.

5. Routine Auditing & Assurance – designed to assure transparency and validate the data collection methods as well as the quantitative results of such efforts.

For more information about managing sustainability data and how effective data collection can be used to accurately measure the value of your company's social and environmental initiatives and drive future business decisions contact Antea Group.

About the Author

Anna Blitz is a Consultant with the Global Corporate Consultancy of Antea Group. With over 12 years of experience in sustainability and consulting, Anna provides expertise in corporate sustainability programs including development of environmental metrics, and preparation of sustainability report for national and global companies.

Contact Anna at +1 770 368 9513 or anna.blitz@anteagroup.com.

About Antea Group

Antea Group is an international engineering and environmental consulting firm specializing in full-service solutions in the fields of environment, infrastructure, urban planning and water.

By combining strategic thinking and multidisciplinary perspectives with technical expertise and pragmatic action, we do more than effectively solve client challenges; we deliver sustainable results for a better future.

With more than 3,000 employees in over 100 offices around the world, we serve clients ranging from global energy companies and manufacturers to national governments and local municipalities.

For more information, visit www.anteagroup.com.

Antea Group is a member of SOCMA and an active participant on the SOCMA Environmental Committee.