

## 7 Tips to Make Measurable Gains Through Sustainability

While sustainability initiatives often focus on reduction of carbon emissions, comprehensive sustainability programs actually encompass three overarching areas – **environmental**, **economic**, and **social**.

**Environmental:** This is the “planet” pillar — how companies preserve natural resources, like land, water, energy, and air by reducing the greenhouse gases they generate.

**Economic:** This is the “profit” pillar — ensuring the business can grow in a sustainable way, maintain profitability, and benefit shareholders over time.

**Social:** This is the “people” pillar — how companies impact their employees and the communities around them.

For utilities and energy companies looking to achieve sustainability goals around environmental protection, economic viability, and social equity, reviewing existing travel, expense, and invoice management is a great place to start.

**Here are 7 tips for building effective and realistic sustainability practices into your current policies:**

# 1

### Implement Sustainable Travel Policies

By encouraging employees to make sustainable travel choices, such as remote meetings, public transportation, or carpooling, your organization can reduce your environmental impact while also reducing costs associated with travel. This can also help promote social equity by reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality in communities.

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## Employ Sustainable Fleet Management Strategies

In recent years, many organizations have shifted fleets to more sustainable options, such as electric and hybrid vehicles. This not only reduces carbon emissions, but it can reduce fleet operating costs and achieve significant fuel savings.

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## Optimize Energy Usage

You can promote environmental protection by optimizing energy usage in your offices and operations. This can include using energy-efficient equipment, implementing renewable energy solutions, and monitoring energy consumption to identify areas for improvement.

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## Track and Report Carbon Footprint

By tracking and reporting your organization's carbon footprint from travel, you can identify areas for improvement and set goals to reduce your environmental impact. This can also help promote economic viability by reducing fees associated with carbon emissions.

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## Use Sustainable Suppliers

By working with suppliers that align with your sustainability goals, you can promote environmental protection and social equity. This can include suppliers that use sustainable materials, operate under fair labor conditions, or have a strong commitment to social responsibility.

# 6

## Administer Efficient Expense Management

By implementing efficient expense management solutions, you can reduce the environmental impact of your paper-based processes while also reducing costs associated with manual processing. This can also help promote social equity by reducing the burden of administrative tasks on employees.

# 7

## Promote Diversity and Inclusion

You can promote social equity by fostering diversity and inclusion in your workplace and supply chain. This can include implementing policies that support underrepresented groups, using software platforms that are equitable and accessible to all, and working with suppliers that share the same values.

Achieving sustainability goals around economic viability, environmental protection, and social equity means building policies, practices and, most importantly, choices into your travel, expense, and invoice management program.

**And by digitally connecting your data across the entire spending process, SAP® Concur® solutions helps refine that strategy – making sustainability foundational to your program and a critical part of your broader social responsibility plan, while also yielding measurable results.**

To learn more about why your travel, expense, and invoice management solution is critical to corporate sustainability, [download our whitepaper](#) or [Contact Us](#).

