

Chapter 6 Sustainability Metrics and Reporting

Activity: Discussion questions to reinforce learning objectives and personalize its suggestions for next step practical applications.

Questions to deepen understanding of our global context and measuring the sustainable performance of enterprise systems.

- Why is it important to understand the concept behind The Ecological Footprint and Limits to Growth before embarking on sustainability-aligned reporting within any enterprise?
- What are the three categories that describe the different types of capacity within a viable system? Discuss where your organization's capacity lies in each category, in terms of achieving a sustainability-aligned goal of interest to you.
- When considering mental models and world view, what practices might we be mindful of when embarking on sustainability-aligned reporting? What questions might we be mindful of, in terms of our system's feedback loop signals?
- In what ways does sustainability-aligned reporting differ from traditional reporting?
- What are the different types of capital, and what is the importance of attributing value to these other types of inputs/outputs, as opposed to strictly measuring financial ones?

Questions to help personalize measurement concepts and generate practical ideas and activities to get started measuring their sustainability performance.

- Consider an enterprise you know well your company, community, church, school, or family. How would you answer the questions related to your value stream, as outlined in Box 6.4 10? Where is the greatest opportunity to add value?
- Develop a sustainability-aligned goal for your enterprise, organization or community. Describe what makes it a S.M.A.R.T. goal.

Questions to deepen understanding of strong sustainability meaning and setting and achieving science-based targets and goals.

- How does strong sustainability differ from weak sustainability? How might the prevalence of weak sustainability be contributing to the Tragedy of the Commons?
- What are the nine planetary boundaries established in 2009 by the Stockholm Resilience Centre? Which of the nine boundaries have already been crossed as a result of human activity?



• What are the essential qualities that distinguish companies as Thriving?

Questions to deepen understanding of measurement pitfalls and the importance of considering the risks from ignorance and biased views of critical systems.

- What is ignorance bias? How does being mindful about our mental models and world view help us to avoid ignorance bias when presented with new information or diverse viewpoints?
- What lessons may we take from NASA's Apollo case study with regard to the seemingly impossible challenges we face today?