Facility Management and Sustainability: A Fundamental Alliance

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A word from Planon and Schneider Electric

We believe that Facilities and Operations teams are vital to creating a more sustainable future.

Together, Planon and Schneider Electric have partnered to create the next generation of smart building portfolio management solutions to support organizations as they digitally transform their building systems and business processes into the healthy and sustainable workplaces of the future.

We aim to support organizations around the world in achieving their ESG goals – whether it's reaching ambitious and challenging net-zero targets or championing small changes throughout building operations that will add up to transformative progress in becoming more sustainable.

We know that sustainability isn't a new topic for many organizations. In fact, many are already integrating an ESG strategy in their business and exploring how they can make more sustainable choices. But defining and setting goals and starting to implement sustainability initiatives is one thing. It's something entirely different to be able to understand what and how to report on the progress and success of your ESG initiatives.

That's why we've come together to create this e-book. Inside you'll find Planon and Schneider Electric use cases and examples of areas where your Facilities and Operations teams can be proactive contributors to your organization's sustainability strategy. We hope you will find this e-book insightful and helpful no matter where you are on your journey to help your organization become more sustainable and future-proof.

ESG: Shifting talk into action

Sustainability, which not too long ago was viewed as the province of do-gooders and activists, is today not only mainstream, but an essential business concept. More than 90 percent of companies listed on the S&P 500 now publish sustainability reports, up from 20 percent a decade ago. Pressure on businesses to report progress on sustainability measures comes from all quarters: customers, employees, media, and investors. According to the analyst group IDC, sustainability-related KPIs are the number one new finance metric that IT and line of business managers think their organization should consider adding to regular reporting, cited as valuable by 55 percent of professionals.

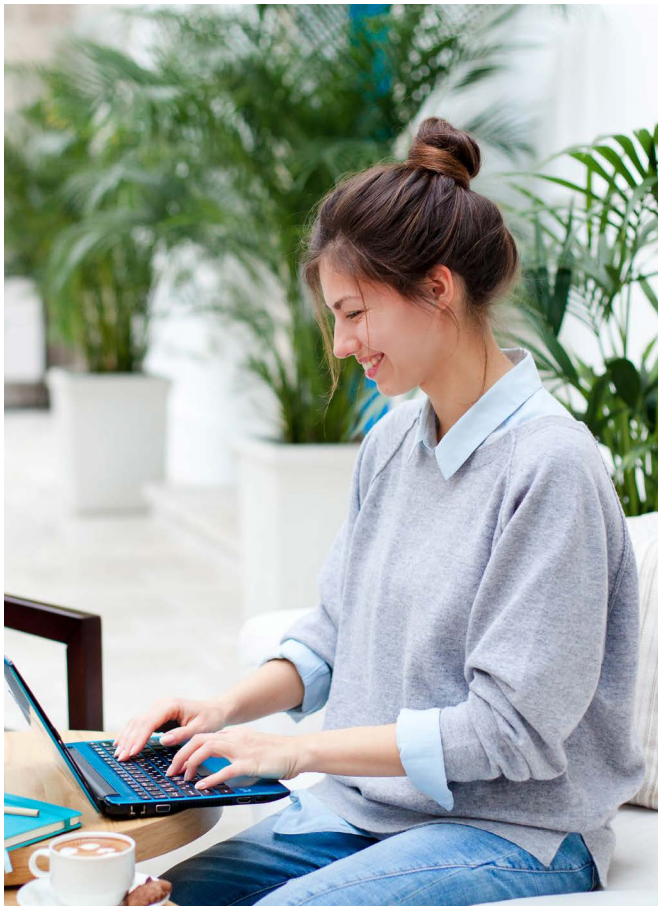
The economic impact of climate change is now impossible to deny. In the United States alone, there were 20 distinct weather events in 2021 that caused more than $1 billion in damage. Cervest, an artificial intelligence company that monitors corporate climate risk, told The New York Times that 88 percent of large companies have already had a physical asset such as a warehouse or office, affected by an extreme weather event. It has been estimated that an additional $23 trillion could be lost from the global economy by 2050 if the current situation persists, and that human rights and dignity in many parts of the world could be threatened as well, because a desperate population will tolerate conditions that would otherwise be unacceptable.

As a result, people, businesses and governments have become more aware of our own contributions to climate change, and have become more attuned to the need to mitigate further change, and understand that it makes economic sense to do so. In fact, in a 2021 study on the topic of how business models are transforming in response to climate change, Schneider Electric (ranked the world's most sustainable company in 2021 by the Corporate Knights Global 100 Index) found that 63 percent of companies who responded to the survey had identified potential climate risks, 29 percent of which already developed and published an action plan to address those risks.

Regulatory changes around the world have contributed to a business climate that favors sustainable development, because it is seen as less risky and more future-proof.

According to The New York Times, "What has changed in recent years is the perception of risk associated with climate change, prompting investors to steer money toward safer, higher-perform-ing green assets." ESG, a concept that originated in the investment community as a way to evaluate investment risks, looks at sustainability not simply as environmentalism, but as a set of practices and guidelines that increase the likelihood that a business will last through periods of change. Investments focused on ESG – those initials stand for Environmental, Social and Governance – today account for 35.3 percent of all assets in the world's largest investment markets, according to the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance.

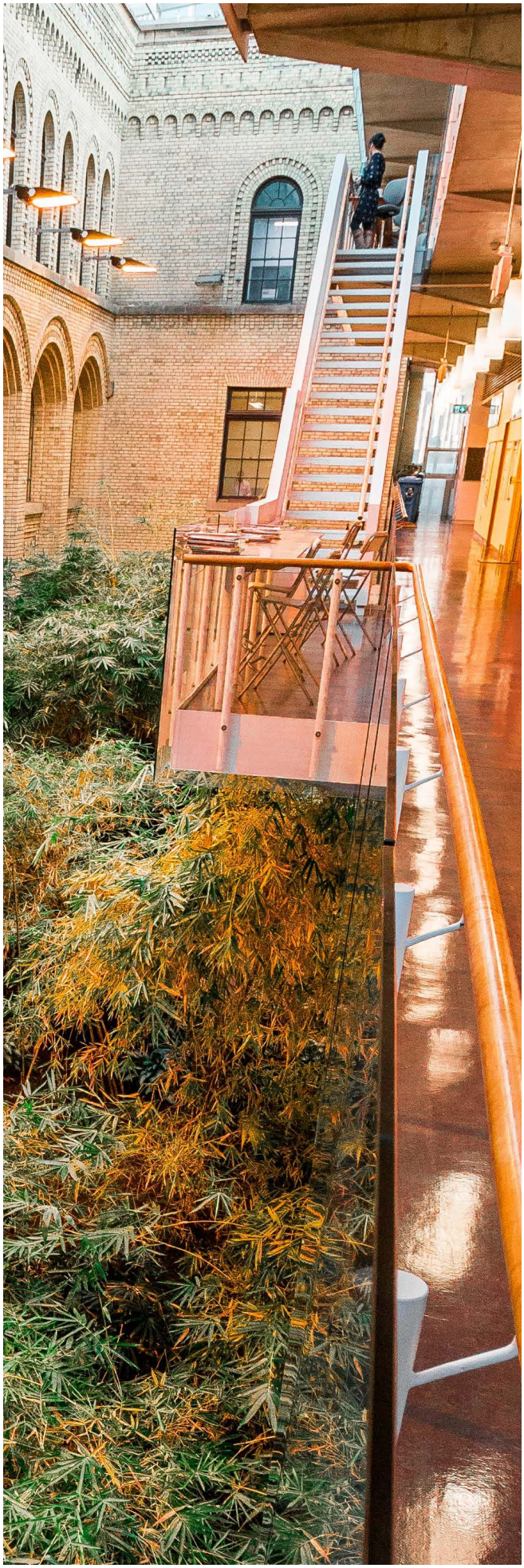
Despite all this, there is still uncertainty surrounding the meaning of sustainability and what actions and policies support it. Perhaps because of this, many seem to be content to let other parts of the organization manage sustainability efforts. But to be effective, ESG needs to be treated not as a public relations or communications issue, but as a concept that is a fundamental component of corporate culture, value creation, and risk management. As the authors of an article in the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance aptly state "ESG is not something that happens 'elsewhere,' but 'everywhere.'"



Even if organizations recognize that action to slow climate change, conserve resources, and promote social equity are needed, but they may still find it difficult to understand how to make investments that will protect and improve the world, but at the same time, be good for business. This is what leads to the oscillation between action and inaction. As an article in the Fall 2021 MIT Sloan Management Review put it: "In mission statements and strategic plans, many companies are making commitments to improving sustainability and reducing inequity — but when it comes to meeting those goals, they are tripped up by the financial implications."

"Facilities are at the center of future sustainability and resiliency efforts, and many are awaiting much-needed upgrades," says Juliana Beauvais, research manager for Enterprise Asset Management and Smart Facilities at IDC. In fact, she adds, "We are on the cusp of a tremendous opportunity for building owners and occupiers to not just participate in, but lead the charge for ESG transformation. What does it mean to be sustainable? How does an organization track, demonstrate, and improve its sustainability? What impact does the shift to sustainability have on the environment, society, and governments? These are the major questions we see organizations grappling with today as they try to move from talk to action."

Two oft-cited statistics from the World Economic Forum are that approximately 40 percent of the world's energy consumption and 33 percent of greenhouse gas emissions are due to buildings. So it only makes sense that those who design, construct, operate and maintain buildings should play a major role in organizational strategies to improve environmental performance.



The important role of Facility Management and FM Technologies

Facility managers, as the stewards of buildings through their operational lifecycle - the eyes and ears of the operation - are central to helping organizations improve their environmental performance. Because they are responsible for fixing things that go wrong, facility managers know when spaces are uncomfortable, when water fails to flow (or flows too much), when lights are out and movement through buildings is obstructed. They also know what the fire marshal has cited, what the health & safety inspector has pointed out and whether the elevators have had their annual inspection. FM sees which facilities are heavily used and need frequent cleaning, which areas sit vacant, what is brought into the building and what is thrown out.

In short, the facility management organization has the building performance data needed as a starting point for ESG improvements, often in a well-organized and readily reportable database structure such as an Integrated Workplace Management System. The data typically collected and managed in an IWMS - physical, operational and financial details about buildings, spaces, assets, equipment, disposables, organizational units and people - are the very elements that would form the basis of any sustainability improvement effort. The fact that many organizations have used IWMS to ensure that this data is accurate, up-to-date and well-maintained, gives them a natural head start in making the kinds of improvements that we look for in sustainability initiatives.

Other FM technology tools such as Environmental Sustainability Monitoring software, including Schneider Electric's Resource Advisor, and integrations between an IWMS and other important data-rich systems such as BMS and EPMS can give facility management teams a leg up in monitoring, managing, and sharing important data to support their organization's sustainability success.

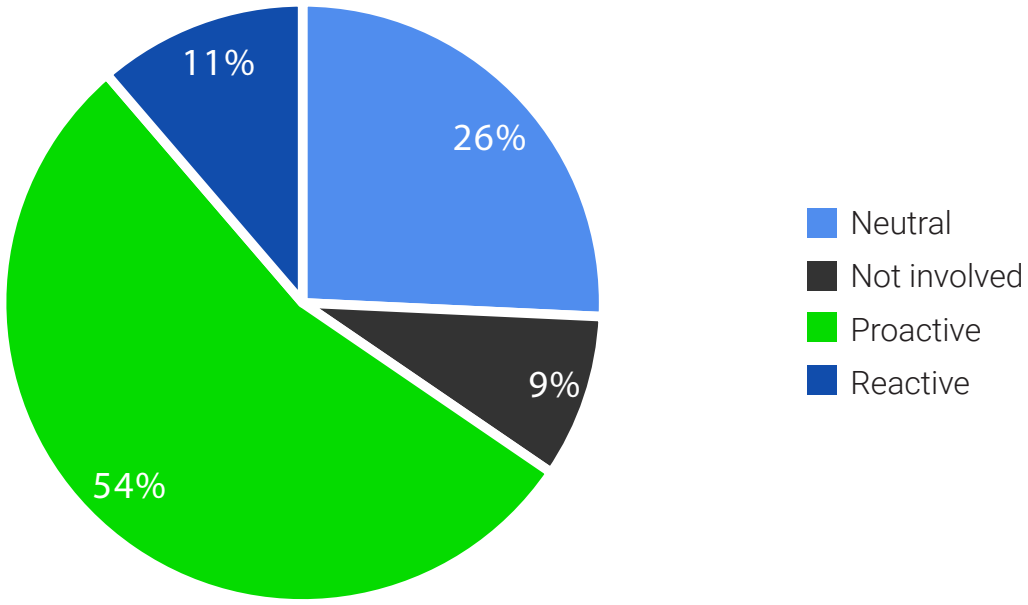
IWMS as an important FM tool for ESG

The affinity between ESG as a concept and IWMS as a tool is worth noting. An information management system like an IWMS is a governance mechanism – the "G" in ESG. These systems regulate and standardize data and processes to make them consistent, reportable and improvable. IWMS repositories are rich sources of data that can be mined for improvement opportunities in both the Environmental and Social realms. This is because they can integrate inwardly – with a single data repository that links disparate functions – and outwardly – with other important business systems, such as finance and human resources as well as operational technologies such as Building Management Systems (BMS), conveyance systems and metered equipment.

However, 30 percent of companies are still using outdated methods, such as spreadsheets, to collect and track resource and energy data, according to a recent Schneider Electric survey. While that percentage seems high, in 2020 and 2021, Schneider Electric witnessed a 24 percent drop in companies reporting use of spread sheets, and an almost equally large percent (20 percent) of companies reporting use of IoT devices, such as meters, sensors, and connected assets. This correlation makes sense, as many organizations will need a stronger tool than spreadsheets to help them organize and understand the new streams of data they collect from all the new IoT devices they connect to.

In a recent Planon survey, more than half (54 percent) of respondents indicated that their Facility Management and Operations organizations are proactively involved in sustainability efforts. But a significant portion (41 percent) also indicated that FM and Operations are either neutral or uninvolved. One reason facility managers may shy away from the ESG conversation is that the cost implications can be intimidating. Facility managers, used to fighting for their share of the budget – and often losing to other business priorities – may feel that they can't afford to consider sustainability in their remit. We often think of sustainability as requiring large, expensive projects; the reality is that an accumulation of small moves can sometimes be transformative.

How involved is your Facility Management and Operations in sustainability efforts at your organization?



Starting points for facilities teams who want to be more proactive in their approach to sustainability

It should always be remembered that ESG is about much more than building-related topics, but that buildings are an important component both because of their environmental footprints and because of the business activities they house. Here are some examples of sustainability initiatives and concepts that can be supported by facility management teams and their technology systems.

Build Connections with:
Your IT department, Business Analytics office, Operations and Maintenance managers or contractors.

It begins with the data:

The foundation of any improvement strategy rests on data that describes the current condition, which is of course the baseline for improvement. Analysts at IDC estimate that by 2024, the use of data and analytics will have enabled a 3 percent reduction in global CO^2 emissions by the industrial and commercial sectors (a net reduction of over 400 million metric tons of CO^2).

A richly populated database system like an IWMS can be an ideal vehicle for both establishing a baseline and tracking improvement. Since these solutions offer workflow and process management capabilities as well, they can also be used to implement processes that support sustainability, such as maintenance routines focused on energy consumption of building equipment. Systems that provide for establishment of objectives, and/or comparison to benchmark data, can be particularly useful as tools to monitor improvement efforts.

So what does this look like in practice? One great example is that from a global shoe and accessories retailer with more than 3,000 locations around the world. They needed a data management partner to ensure reliable and reportable data across their portfolio of geographically dispersed facilities.

With Schneider Electric, the company implemented a data management solution, EcoStruxure™ Resource Advisor. This tool compiles the retailer's electricity, natural gas, water, and wastewater data for more than 640 sites in the US, Canada, UK, and Ireland to ensure all data is captured and streamlined onto a single platform and is clear, concise, and correct.

With a solid foundation of data to start from, the company had the baselines it needs to manage and improve its resource use across many facilities.Here's another example. This global pharmaceutical manufacturer came to Schneider Electric with the goals of reducing total energy use and GHG emissions by 15 percent, reducing water use by 10 percent, and verifying and tracking metric baselines toward goals.

Because data visibility is key when setting baselines for corporate sustainability goals, the company implemented Schneider Electric's online sustainability and energy management platform, EcoStruxure Resource Advisor, as a data management solution.

With Resource Advisor, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer gained instant access to data and analytics for all users responsible for tracking the program's success. Using the online tool, the company was able to validate their data, identify their highest and lowest emission sources, create internal consensus on the path forward, and accelerated progress toward its sustainability goals.

The importance of data sharing cannot be stressed enough. Here's a great example of how one Schneider Electric customer was able to drastically reduce its energy consumption through better data monitoring and transparency. This American furniture manufacturer was able to create a more sustainable and efficient organization by optimizing its energy buying program through centralized data. Using Schneider Electric's EcoStruxure Resource Advisor, the company could monitor and track manufacturing and operating processes to minimize waste. It also helped the company identify opportunities to share data across the organization with key stakeholders. As a result of this collaboration and increased visibility of energy and resource data, the company achieved a 27 percent reduction in energy consumed in manufacturing compared to the past decade, was able to reuse, recycle, or reutilize 97 percent of manufacturing waste, and achieve zero waste to landfill status at nine sites so far.

Build Connections with:
Space planners, Human Resources Department, Environmental Health & Safety office.

Improve workplace quality and efficiency

In the social realm of ESG, IWMS systems can be used to document workplace usage, relative popularity of different workplace setups such as collaborative spaces vs. private spaces, preferred interior climatic conditions, and other factors that are indicators of employee satisfaction with the workplace. Occupancy sensors linked to an IWMS system can be extremely helpful in terms of monitoring actual usage. One company that recently invested heavily in a workstation reservation system supplemented with sensors to measure arrival and time spent at the reserved space, found that after check-in employees tended to congregate in lounge areas where they could interact. This type of data can be revelatory when it comes to planning for a workplace environment that is well-suited to workers.

Organizations looking to right-size their real estate portfolio, which also is a sustainable move because of the wastefulness of conditioning unused or poorly utilized space, can gain significant insight from monitoring spaces in this way.

In the past, workplace efficiency often meant densifying the office environment to conserve real estate. The rapid adoption of hybrid workplace options can be used to reduce the organization's facility footprint even as office workers gain individual space to provide better comfort, health conditions and, as a result, employee satisfaction.

Organizations that introduced home officing as a necessity during the COVID pandemic are in many cases finding that employees only want to be in the office for collaboration and interaction with their colleagues. Solitary work may in many cases be carried out more effectively in their homes.

Build Connections with:
Human Resources, Business Analytics, Environmental Health & Safety.

Use hybrid workplace options to reduce travel and save on energy consumption:

The widespread adoption of hybrid workplace options – in which part of a worker's time may be spent in a traditional workplace and part in an alternative such as a home office – changes real estate needs in a number of ways, including size of the portfolio and resource consumption. If only a portion of workers are showing up at the traditional workplace, there may be opportunities to realign the portfolio, reducing the size of offices, subletting or consolidating. Resource savings – less heating, cooling, water, etc. – would be among the expected benefits.

However, in determining whether this truly conserves resources, organizations would have to consider the shift in consumption to homes and third-party workplaces. Some companies have started providing allowances to employees to offset their costs for furnishing, maintaining and operating home offices. Where this is the case, and if a company also tracks home office locations in its IWMS, it may be possible to determine whether the move to hybrid has saved resources or just shifted their use.

Another potential energy-saver for organizations is daily transportation costs. Especially in places where the primary transportation mode is private cars, home-based workers are not consuming fuel and creating emissions for their travel to and from work. If a company is not subsidizing these travel costs, it may be challenging to quantify them, but if alternative office locations are maintained in the workplace management system, it may be possible.

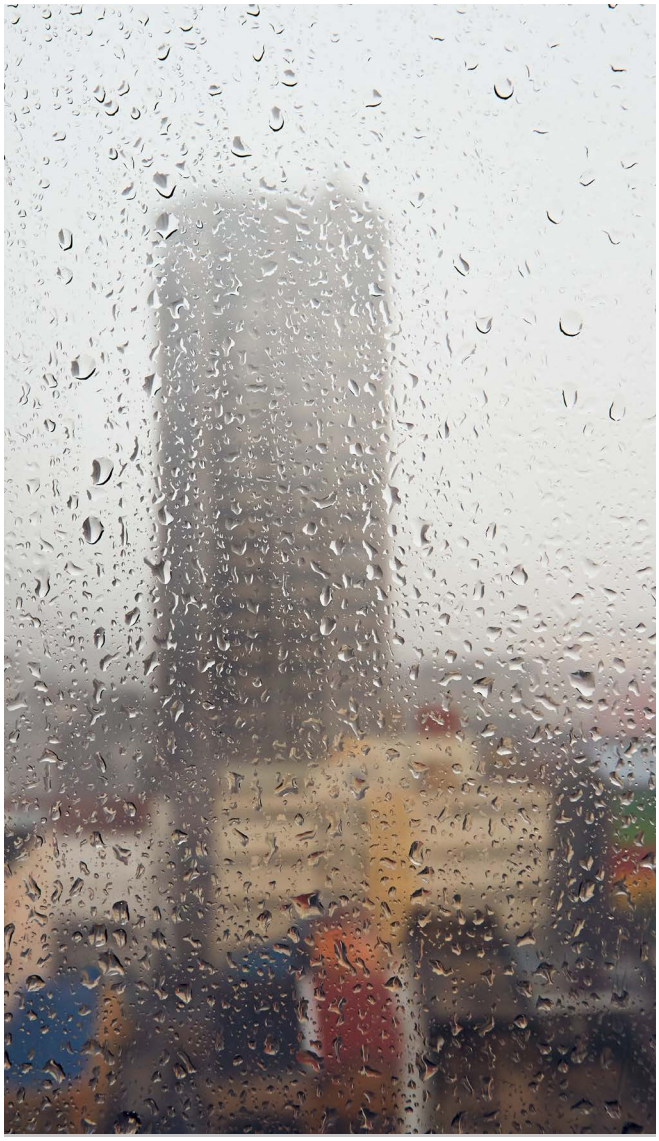
Build Connections with:
Finance department, Risk Management and Insurance.

Mitigate ESG-related risks with good data and processes:

Anytime there is a goal, there are risks of not meeting that goal, and ESG measures are no exception. Natural disasters, faulty systems, flawed technology, inaccurate reporting and misleading communication are among the risks to achieving ESG-related goals. To complicate matters, ESG-related risks are not universally defined. Rather, "Each entity will have its own definition based on its unique business model; internal and external environment; product or services mix; mission, vision and core values and more," say the authors of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development report, "Enterprise Risk Management: Applying enterprise risk management to environmental, social and governance-related risks."

Well-documented processes, accurate, up-to-date information and well-placed alarms and notifications are ways that facility management organizations can protect against damage from facility-related ESG risks. Again, an IWMS system, particularly one that is connected to operational systems (such as BMS) that provide real-time data, can assist in all of these areas.

An IWMS likely will allow for documentation of facility-related ESG risks, and may even provide for prioritizing and defining mitigation actions. An IWMS also may aid in documentation of a business continuity plan. Such plans typically include identification of essential functions and outline ways to ensure uninterrupted work. And as possibilities for remote work, including work from home, proliferate, options for maintaining critical activities may become easier to execute.



But consider a weather phenomenon – a heat-driven wildfire in California or a flood in northern Europe – that forces evacuation from the area. Business locations, homes, and other facilities must all be emptied. Good records of all locations where business is conducted – including home offices – and the people who are essential to critical activities, may be the first step in ensuring business continuity. At the very least, it could provide an inventory of people and places affected by the evacuation. In a more sophisticated plan, it may also identify secondary work locations outside the affected area. A mapping application linked to the IWMS also can aid in visualization of the affected people and work locations.

Build Connections with:
Finance and Accounting, Legal Department, Corporate Information Office.

Meet reporting and disclosure requirements:

Reporting and disclosure requirements around ESG are increasing in many locations, and, like risk assessments, may affect the way that investors look at a company. Larry Fink, CEO of Blackrock, has described the increasing demand for ESG reporting as a "tectonic shift" resulting from growing realization that "climate risk is investment risk."

Also, of increasing importance are non-financial ESG disclosures, which is information regarding policies that businesses have adopted regarding environmental protection, anti-corruption and bribery, diversity and other topics.

As with risk assessments, well-documented processes and solid data are key factors in reporting and within disclosure compliance. While an IWMS will not provide everything needed, building management data is an important element, given the huge impact of buildings on resource consumption and emissions. Reporting on environmental and social issues discussed in this document – such as percentage of the workforce working from home, employee commuting, use of renewable energy, product procurement and disposal, etc. – are relevantnon-financial disclosures that may be captured in an IWMS.

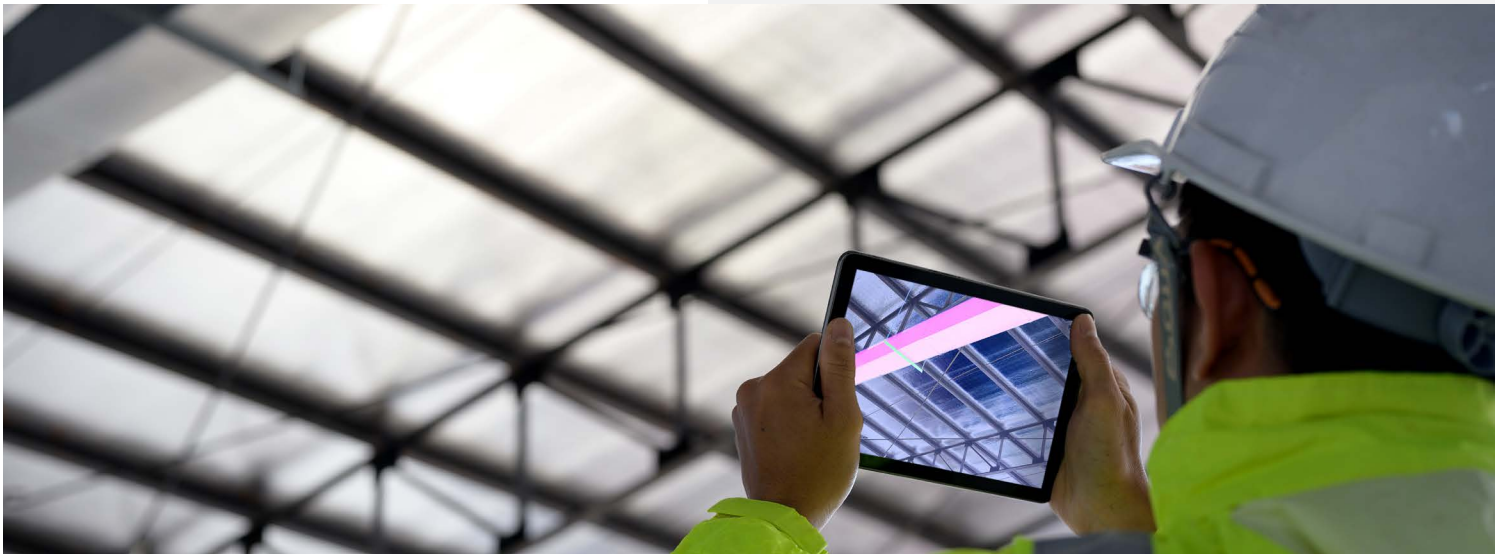
In the European Union, non-financial disclosure requirements are governed by the EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive. Other jurisdictions may have varying requirements; there is no global standard for ESG reporting, although several organizations are working to develop them. The Global Reporting Institute (GRI) offers for free an extensive set of sustainability reporting guidelines and standards.

Organizations looking to obtain accreditations or certifications related to environmental or sustainable standards, such as BREAM, LEED, etc. can also lean on data management systems such as an IWMS to self-audit and prepare.

For instance, Australia's largest commercial real estate services company came to Schneider Electric with the goal of achieving NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) accreditation for one of its buildings and to ensure the building is as resource efficient as possible.

Using EcoStruxure™ Resource Advisor to gather and centralize interval data from the building, the company was able to monitor and analyze irregularities and identify energy efficiency opportunities to improve environmental performance.

As a result, they achieved 5-star NABERS rating and attained compliance with the mandatory Commercial Building Disclosure program. The company can now confidently report the NABERS rating under the national Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme.



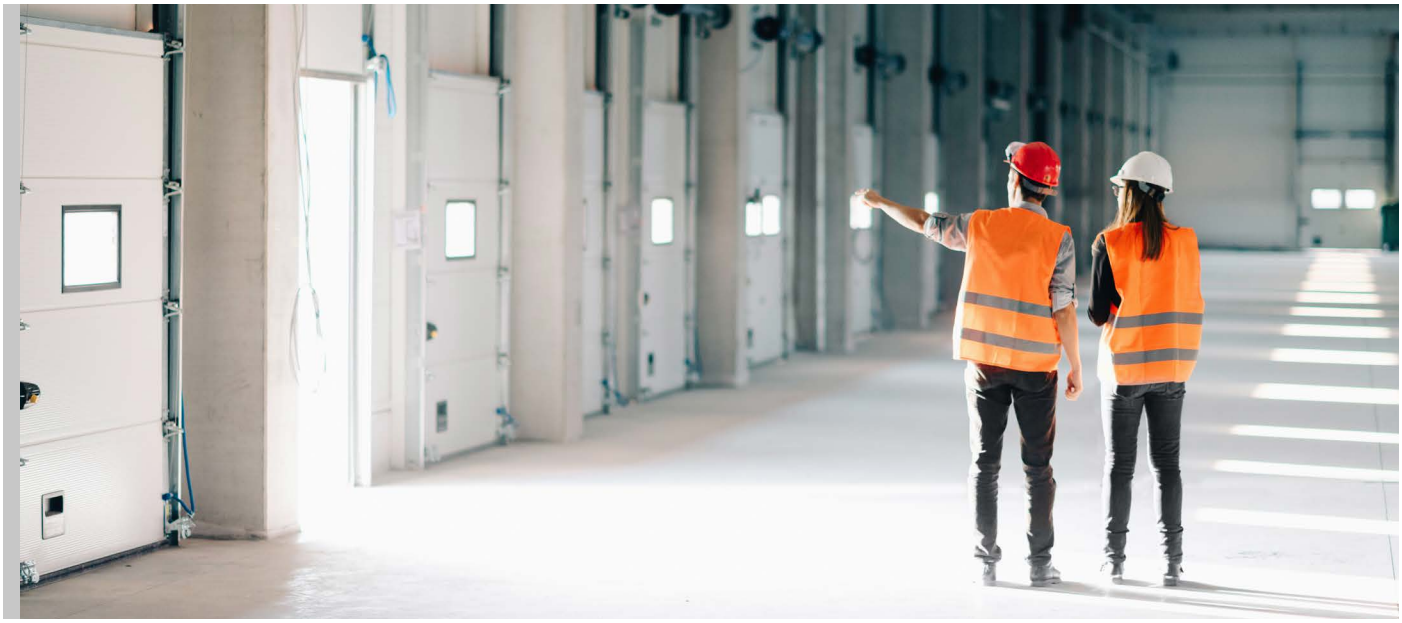
Build Connections with:
Human Resources, Environmental Health & Safety, Risk Management and Insurance.

Every workplace should be safe and healthy:

Alternatives to the corporate workplace have proliferated in recent years, initially due to the availability of technology that made remote connectivity practical, and more recently because the global COVID pandemic made remote work essential to business continuity.

Although coworking centers and third spaces – coffee shops, hotel lobbies, and such – are also used more and more, home officing is a particular concern. With home offices, questions of health and safety have become more complex. In a space controlled by the employer, it is a straightforward (if not always simple) task to meet health and safety requirements. But home offices generally are subject to no such supervision, and, especially when the pandemic forced individuals to create home "offices" overnight, the spaces that workers use can be substandard – attics, basements and garages with exposed wiring, inadequate air circulation, poor temperature control, dim lighting and other problems.

IWMS systems can help with this situation, at the very least by tracking these remote workplaces, something that is not currently a common practice for employers. Documenting locations, along with policies that document standards for home workplaces, may become an important consideration for employers, in part because questions of liability for accidents and injuries are starting to arise. Having home workers self-report on their workplace conditions – and tracking this data in the IWMS – may be one way for an organization to get a level of control over this.



Build Connections with:
Operations and Maintenance managers, Maintenance contractors and vendors.

Smarter maintenance can lead to major savings of energy and cost:

Among the many benefits of a strong maintenance program are extension of equipment life and lower operational costs. Both of these are sustainability benefits as well as cost savers. Extension of equipment life reduces material waste, traffic to the landfill. Lower operational costs are due, to a significant degree, to reduced energy usage.

It is well understood that preventive maintenance is more cost effective than reactive maintenance. The latter must be done on demand, usually results from equipment failure, and can be seriously disruptive to business when it involves critical equipment. Preventive maintenance, on the other hand, often leads to small, periodic corrections that are less costly and less disruptive. For many organizations, the desire to move from strictly reactive maintenance to some form of preventive maintenance is a key driver for implementation of an IWMS or CMMS system.

For example, one of the oldest and top ranked universities in the UK chose Planon to help them improve their maintenance management processes.

After implementing Planon's IWMS, they were able to gain better control over their maintenance performance – reducing their maintenance backlog by 50 percent within three months and transition from a reactive maintenance model to a preventive one. The concept of preventive maintenance has evolved over the years from calendar-based routines based on expected deterioration to condition-based or performance-based maintenance triggered by automated signals from the equipment.

Equipment in need of maintenance often will use more fuel, run at higher temperatures, vibrate more intensely, generate more noise and emit more harmful residues than equipment in good operating condition. Monitoring these conditions – via connected equipment that sends signals to a command center such as an IWMS – can trigger maintenance activity as soon as an anomaly is detected, before there is a noticeable effect on the equipment's operation. The U.S. Department of Energy says that organizations can save about 20 percent in annual maintenance costs with these techniques that target energy consumption. This is significant because, while buildings account for 40 percent of the world's energy use, 51 percent of that energy use is due to HVAC systems alone.

A North American Automotive Supplier turned to Schneider Electric to identify low-cost energy conservation measures (ECMs) that resulted in substantial savings in energy use and cost.

After performing a comprehensive system overview, facility load breakdown, and energy cost analysis, several quick efficiency wins were identified. The customer discovered that simple adjustments to annual preventive maintenance schedules for boilers, adding variable frequency drives to pumping systems, performing repairs to insulation and steam systems, and correcting compressed air leaks would result in 5 percent annual savings and a 10 percent reduction in compressed air costs.

Build Connections with:
Operations and Maintenance managers, Purchasing department.

Replacements and upgrades provide low-cost improvement options:

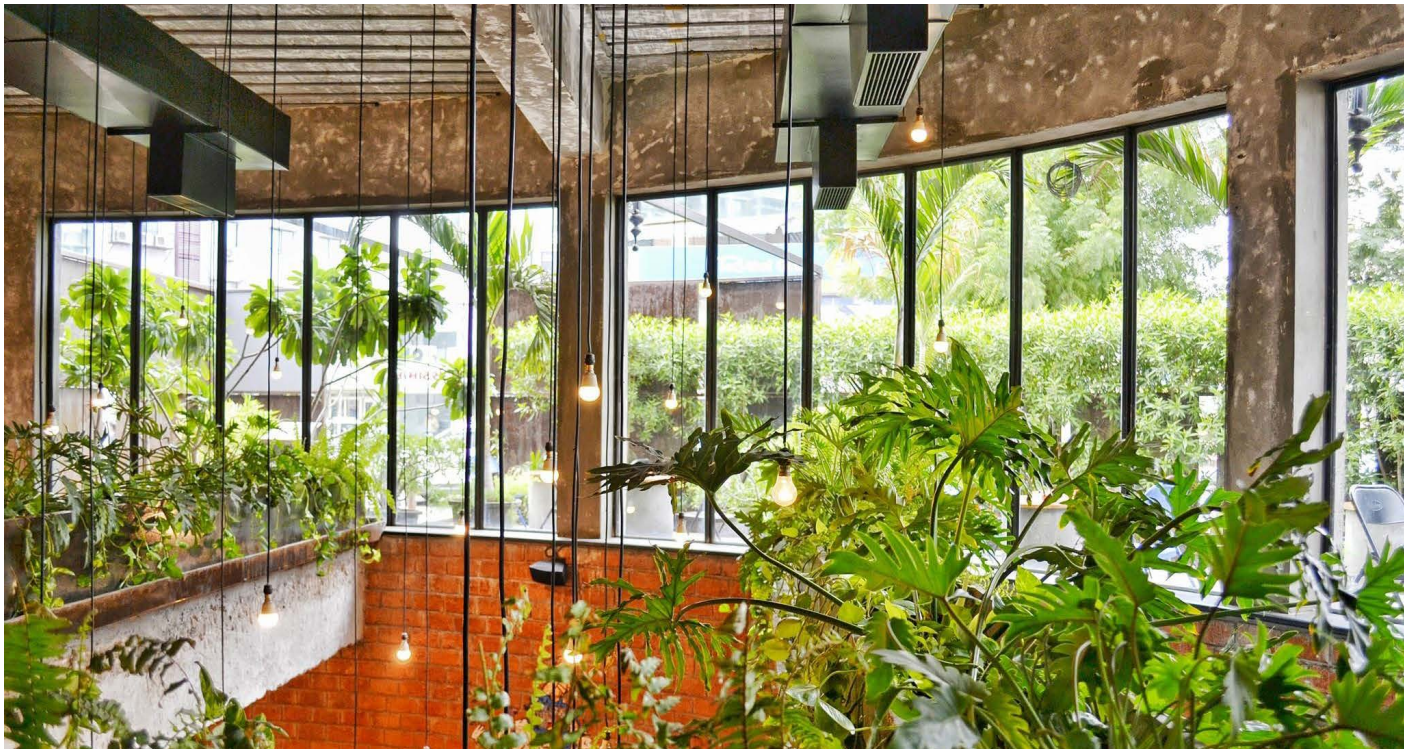
Natural replacement cycles for building equipment, installations and disposable items offer opportunities for sustainable improvement at relatively low incremental, and often recoverable, cost.
Energy-efficient items may have a higher purchase price than less efficient alternatives, but to truly understand the economics, organizations need to consider lifecycle costs. A basic consumable such as a light tube provides a good example. Large facilities typically have many thousands of ceiling light fixtures using fluorescent ballasts and tubes. The maintenance departments in those facilities often have replacement schedules for those lamps to ensure continuous lighting. At the very least, they replace fluorescent tubes on demand. For large buildings with corridors that stay lit 24 x 7, or facilities such as parking garages that are constantly lit, there may be many thousands of replacements in a year.

Replacing a fluorescent tube with an LED tube can reduce energy use by 20 percent to 40 percent, depending on the replacement strategy. At the low end, there are many LED tubes that can be used in existing fluorescent light fixtures.

The LED tube will last longer and use about 20 percent less energy. MetroLED, a Canadian manufacturer of LED devices, estimates energy savings of $26 annually for each tube replacement. A more ambitious upgrade – replacing the fluorescent fixture ballasts with LED ballasts, could double the energy savings, according to another manufacturer, Take 3 Lighting.

While an LED tube may be about 20 percent more expensive than a fluorescent one, it will typically last 3 to 5 times longer, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. This reduces purchase costs, as well as waste materials from disposal.

Moreover, these changeovers can be done incrementally, when budget allows, giving organizations a low-cost, gradual path to significant improvement.



For example, finding CapEx for equipment retrofits and upgrades was a reoccurring pain point for this multinational steel manufacturing company. The company wanted to build a long-lasting solution to overcome its capex problems.

Through the implementation of an Energy-as-a-Service business model with Schneider Electric, the company was able to find upfront capex required to design, install, and commission upgrades as well as OpEx energy savings measures to reduce payback and protect cashflow.

Using this combination of 3rd party financing and performance guarantees, the company was able to meet its financial and operational requirements, resulting in an expected annual savings of 37 percent and the avoidance of 2,300 metric tons of CO^2. The company replicated the same business model across additional sites to generate faster savings even more profitably than before.

Build Connections with:
Operations and Maintenance managers, Purchasing department.

Save by stocking sustainable materials and products:

An IWMS does not in itself provide sustainable alternatives to conventional products used in facilities, but it can provide a catalog that lists sources, prices, lead times, and other information for both conventional and sustainable products that could be used for the same purpose.

An organization that may weigh cost vs. benefit of sustainable purchasing in various situations could benefit from ready access to alternative products that might be used for routine replacements, renovations and/or capital improvements. As mentioned above, purchase price must be considered against lifecycle savings, so information about expected life also should be included in such an inventory.

For example, an organization investing in new flooring may look at a higher-quality option that costs 25 to 50 percent more per square foot but has an expected life twice as long as the cheaper option, may provide a value far greater than the initial investment. The environmental benefit comes in in using materials that will not end up in a landfill as frequently.

Build Connections with:
Creative minds throughout the organization through internal communications and incentives.

Climate change can be a license to innovate:

If a global crisis like climate change can be said to have an upside, it would be that it provides a fertile ground for development of creative solutions. Innovators may come from any corner of the organization and their solutions may touch on any aspect of the ESG spectrum.

At California State University Long Beach, IT Manager Walter Martinez and his assistant, Benjamin Partida, a Python programmer, used artificial intelligence and machine learning to create a device that simplified what had become a bewildering process: Sorting trash and recyclables into an increasingly wide array of disposal bins. Although the bins offered pictures of the types of waste that were meant for them, the large number of small images made throwing away the trash a time-consuming and confusing activity.

Building on an idea they had heard about from Microsoft, Martinez and Partida created a camera-based device that uses a library of images of various kinds of disposables to guide people to the right bin, signaling the correct choice with an LED light. Show the device a disposable item and be guided to the correct bin. The device reduces the likelihood of contamination of the various recycling types and even has entertainment value, thanks to the inclusion of sound effects culled from Sesame Street's Oscar the Grouch. Innovations such as this may fall outside the boundaries of the IWMS but may contribute to improvements – in this case adherence to recycling standards -- that can be tracked in

Conclusion

Sustainability can be a daunting topic in the business world, because of the enormous global implications. But like any huge task, it can best be tackled by breaking it down into manageable components. Focusing on the built environment makes sense, because of the enormous burden buildings put on the environment, and because buildings are the primary site of business activity.

Users of an information system such as an IWMS likely are already collecting information relevant to ESG reporting, disclosures and improvement projects. When that is the case, the next step is to focus on an organization's improvement objectives, and how these can be quantified and measured using the data in the IWMS. In some cases, the data may simply need to be filtered, sorted and aggregated to yield insight; in others, datasets may need to be supplemented with information from other sources.

It is important for facility management personnel to become familiar with an organization's ESG targets, so that they can offer up information from their systems that would support accurate documentation and reporting.

Wherever possible, facility managers should be at the table as creative partners in discussion of which objectives are achievable and how. With the wealth of data on an organization's buildings and building performance, facility management teams can seek out and create meaningful collaborations with other departments, such as IT, Space Management, Purchasing, HR, Legal, Risk Management, Health & Safety, and many more to help achieve success in the sustainability initiatives implemented across the entire organization. The bottom line is that no part of the organization should be disconnected from ESG efforts, and facility managers have a great deal more to offer than many other constituencies.

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About Planon

Planon is the leading global provider of Smart Sustainable Building Management software that connects buildings, people and processes. By eliminating data silos and aligning solutions into one shared information platform, Planon provides all building stakeholders with actionable and meaningful insights. Independent market research and consulting firms have consistently rated Planon as a global leader in the market. Planon has implemented its comprehensive solutions for more than 2,500 clients, supported by offices and partners around the world.

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About Schneider Electric

Schneider's purpose is to empower all to make the most of our energy and resources, bridging progress and sustainability for all. We call this Life Is On.

Our mission is to be your digital partner for Sustainability and Efficiency.

We drive digital transformation by integrating world-leading process and energy technologies, end-point to cloud connecting products, controls, software and services, across the entire lifecycle, enabling integrated company management, for homes, buildings, data centers, infrastructure, and industries.

We are the most local of global companies. We are advocates of open standards and partnership ecosystems that are passionate about our shared Meaningful Purpose, Inclusive and Empowered values.

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