

456 Principles of sustainability in a food environment

SQA Unit Code

H13F 04

Level 3

SCQF Level 7

SCQF Credit value 4

Unit Summary

This unit is about understanding the principles of sustainability in a food environment and how these principles can be applied to achieve sustainability. It includes background knowledge related to the development of sustainable food manufacture and/or supply as an integral part of an organisation's corporate social responsibility.

This unit applies to you if you are involved in developing or contributing to the development of a strategy to support the achievement of sustainability in a food environment. You may also support others with regard to the development and implementation of this strategy.

In order to be assessed as competent in this understanding you must demonstrate to your assessor that you understand the requirements set out below in the context of performance in the workplace.

You need to know and understand:

Evidence of knowledge and understanding can be collected during observation of performance in the workplace. Where it cannot be collected by observing performance, other assessment methods should be used.

1. The principles of environmental sustainability in a food environment in relation to energy, waste, water usage and transportation
2. How environmental management systems (EMS) are used to support sustainability in a food environment
3. How carbon currency data (carbon footprints) is used as an indicator of sustainability
4. The relationship between sustainability and the three key elements of corporate social responsibility; economic, social and environmental
5. The importance of liaising with national policy makers to determine the influence of government targets and legal requirements on organisational sustainability
6. Sources of advice and guidance on achieving sustainability in food manufacture
7. The benefits of sustainability to the organisation and its stakeholders
8. How to gain stakeholder commitment to the development of sustainable food production
9. The influences which impact upon the achievement of sustainability
10. How to establish targets for sustainable development including the use of benchmarking
11. How to control the efficient use of resources within organisational activities to help achieve sustainability
12. How the actions of others within the supply chain can influence sustainability
13. Potential barriers to achieving sustainability and how these can be overcome

14. How sustainability impacts on all the component functions of an organisation
15. How to collect and analyse the data relevant to resource utilisation including the application of cost benefit analysis
16. How continuous improvement supports sustainability
17. How to report on performance and improvements
18. How to communicate effectively with stakeholders

Evidence of knowledge and understanding may employ examples of the following assessment methods:

- observation
- written and oral questioning;
- evidence from using company systems (e.g. Standard Operating Procedures)
- reviewing the outcomes of work
- checking any records of documents completed
- checking accounts of work that the candidate or others have written