Responding to rising stakeholder pressures for performance transparency and long-time viability, organizations look to refine their reporting strategy in order to develop and communicate the most reliable and credible sustainability reports. To meet the needs of the diverse array of corporate stakeholders, it is important for companies to consider how well the relationship between impact areas and organizational strategy is presented in a report. This is successfully accomplished through following the internationally recognized reporting framework developed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the GRI Standards. Launched in October 2016, the GRI Standards have already been widely adopted as a benchmark for sustainability reporting, superseding GRI G4 Guidelines.

The GRI Standards represent the trusted framework for non-financial reporting which enables a company to effectively and systematically communicate their performance, business decisions and its key economic, social and governance impacts to stakeholders.

The focus of the GRI Standards is on Materiality, where conducting comprehensive materiality assessment helps companies and organizations to identify business opportunities and manage their most significant business risks. The GRI Standards’ disclosures are well aligned with each area of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international reporting frameworks and initiatives (European NFR Directive, United Nations Global Compact, ISO 26000, SASB, CDP, AA1000 etc.) granting consistency and improving efficiency in corporate reporting and communication practices.

Using the GRI Standards for sustainability reporting

- **Starting point**
  - Foundation
  - Core
  - Comprehensive

- **Apply the Reporting Principles throughout the reporting process**
  - GRI 101

- **Identify your material topics**
  - Section 2, GRI 101

- **Report contextual information**
  - About your organization and its reporting practices, using GRI 102
  - General Disclosures
  - Management Approach

- **Report the management approach**
  - For every material topic identified, using GRI 103

- **Report on each material topic identified, using the corresponding topic-specific Standard**

- Website: [https://www.globalreporting.org/](https://www.globalreporting.org/)
How we deliver excellence in Reporting based on the GRI Standards

Key steps of our approach

1. Kick off meeting and expectations assessment
   - Clearly define the purpose and value of reporting in accordance with business vision, mission, goals, strategies, targeted audience and reporting frameworks.
   - Develop the reporting plan with key milestones and action points.

2. Materiality assessment
   - Identify key impact areas and develop the GRI mandatory Materiality matrix.
   - Identify the attitudes, perceptions, interests and expectations of key stakeholders.
   - Map your communication and engagement plan with selected stakeholders.

3. Data collection
   Collect data relevant to your material economic, social and environmental issues, in a manner that is consistent and balanced.

4. Reporting content writing
   Disclose quantitative and qualitative information in the most engaging way, according to the GRI Standards.

5. Goal setting
   Guide you in your sustainability journey to set and achieve high-impact goals to overcome challenges and drive positive social, environmental and financial results.

6. GRI Content Index development
   We will secure the GRI Content Index Seal from GRI to verify the quality of our service and provide recognition to your report. GRI Content Index is mandatory for the GRI Standards.

7. Report design
   Develop inspired designs and user-friendly visual solutions which can expand readability and information absorption by internal and external stakeholders.

8. Recommendations for the next reporting cycle
   We will make invaluable recommendations for further improvements based on stakeholders input, best practices and your personalized sustainability action plan.
How we can help you enhance your impact

- Develop high quality Sustainability reports that meet the GRI Standards requirements and join an elite group of international reporters.
- Assure compliance to international initiatives like SDGs and United Nations Global Compact, through well designed CSR initiatives.
- Identify your company's strengths and areas for improvement based on international sustainability frameworks, including ISO 26000, SASB, GRI, AA1000.
- Become a recognized Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) through ILM certified, interactive and highly-specialized Sustainability and CSR Training courses.
- Enhance your company's value from External Assurance - verify the credibility of performance information and data included in your Sustainability report based on reliable methodologies and standards (AA1000, ISAE 3000).
- Develop a successful plan for CSR initiatives for better engagement with your internal and external stakeholders.
- Build a Sustainability and CSR strategy that fits your business model and corporate goals and yields short and long term measurable benefits.
- Measure and communicate your social value through Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodologies.
- Be awarded for your report, strategy or programs and receive recognition for your Sustainability endeavors!

Sustainability Knowledge Group
is a global advisory firm dedicated to creating value through strategic Sustainability & CSR solutions, including advisory, training, coaching and meetups. In recognition of the importance of sustaining competitive advantage in today's marketplace, we support companies to develop strategies that minimise risks and demonstrate leadership.

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