



The Business Case for Sustainability

“Are we facing a sustainability recession?” That was just one of the many thought-provoking questions discussed at Environment Analyst’s Sustainability Delivery Summit held this month (June 9-11) in Chicago, Illinois. Among other topics, the Summit featured a panel discussion on the business case for sustainability (click [here](#) for a summary of the session). The question was asked, “Why do we have to make a business case for sustainability?” Panelists representing energy, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, and real estate industries shared their thoughts about integrating sustainability across their businesses. Some insights from the session, straight from the documented key takeaways (click [here](#)), are as follows:

- Sustainability is facing a backlash – the topic has become politicized and polarizing.
 - Cost remains a key factor.
 - Language matters.
 - Investors are still engaged.
 - State-level regulations drive demand.
 - Long-term thinking is essential.
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Dive In! Sustainability as a Business Model Transformation

In the May/June *Harvard Business Review*, Visnjic, et. al provide how companies can “make sustainability not only a goal but also the driver of their business model.” The authors identify the following three primary challenges and provide detailed action steps to achieve them (click [here](#) to access):

- Strategic challenge: Identify a concrete path.
 - Organizational challenge: Introduce global change at the local level.
 - Collaborative challenge: Create integrated innovation units.
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Did You Know? GAO Issues High-Risk Series Report

Did you know that the U.S. government's environmental liability increased from \$212 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 to \$645 billion in FY2023? That stat comes from the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO's) report entitled *High-Risk Series: Heightened Attention Could Save Billions More and Improve Government Efficiency and Effectiveness* (GAO-25-107743). The GAO issues High-Risk Series reports in odd-numbered years. Check out the following two sections of this year's report, along with GAO recommendations (click [here](#) for a PDF of the report): U.S. Government's Environmental Liability (begins on page 116) and Transforming EPA's Process for Assessing and Managing Chemical Risks (begins on page 293).

Upcoming Events

SURF Events

SURF Sessions and Meeting at AEHS East Coast Conference

41st Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy
October 20-23, 2025

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Click [here](#) for more information.

Other Events

2025 National Brownfields Training Conference

August 5-8, 2025

Chicago, IL

Click [here](#) for more information.

RemTech Europe 2025

September 15-19, 2025

Ferrara, Italy

Click [here](#) for more information.

RemTEC & Emerging Contaminants Summit

October 14-16, 2025

Westminster, CO

Click [here](#) for more information.

ecoforum 2025 – From Contamination to Restoration: Protect, Sustain, Thrive

October 28-30, 2025

Brisbane, Australia

Click [here](#) for more information.

2025 Global Summit on Environmental Remediation

November 4–6, 2025

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Richland, WA

Submit abstracts by June 6; click [here](#) for more information.

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