

ENVIRONMENTAL MATURITY



Responsible Business Alliance

Advancing Sustainability Globally

WHAT IS MATURITY?

As our understanding of global environmental challenges improves, the programs and solutions needed to address them have become increasingly complex.

An environmental program's "maturity" is comprised of its ability to implement increasingly complex practices, achieve more robust and resilient programs, and quickly adopt new practices. Programmatic maturity follows a developmental "maturity curve" that spans from basic understandings to leading practices. Additionally, maturity differs among programs, companies and industries because of the unique obstacles they each must overcome.

Maturity can be applied to a broad scale of scope and topics as long as it reflects a granularity that helps actors identify incremental and achievable improvements. For example, it could be as specific as the carbon measurement capacity for a single facility, or focus on broad systems like the sustainability reporting practices of an entire industry. Using maturity as a framework can help identify incremental and viable practices that can help industries and supply chains make meaningful environmental improvements.

MATURITY PROVIDES A CLEARER PATHWAY TOWARD PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Identifying programmatic maturity can help break down complex and interconnected issues into their core components, allowing them to identify actionable steps in overall programmatic development. Maturity emphasizes and recognizes that:

- Program growth is a journey that every program, no matter their current capacity, must actively pursue.
- Every program is at a different point in that journey and, as such, has unique challenges.
- There are specific and incremental improvements that every program can take to increase their maturity.



When a company is able to reflect on their own capacity, and identify the maturity level in which their program operates, they are empowered to create a clearer pathway for programmatic development that will achieve greater performance, resiliency to system failures, and ability to adapt to new challenges. When an industry pursues increased maturity together, it is able to achieve cleaner, more stable and reliable supply chains.

RBA ENVIRONMENTAL MATURITY PROFILE



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The Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) developed the Environmental Maturity Profile to help members and suppliers identify their maturity across 20 company-wide programmatic elements, and provide resources tailored to helping them reach the next maturity level. Completing an Environmental Maturity Profile requires a responder to:

STEP 1

IDENTIFY PROGRAM MATURITY

The Environmental Maturity Survey asks qualitative questions about a company's organizational structure, practices and systems to identify their environmental program maturity based on their:

- **Systems and Governance:** Ability to meet environmental compliance requirements, identify and manage environmental risks, and set and measure environmental goals
- **Resiliency:** Ability to meet environmental obligations while under stress and without operational failure
- **Adaptive Capacity:** Ability to adopt new best practices, address emerging trends, and overcome limiting resources



STEP 2

IDENTIFY RESOURCES

The corresponding Environmental Resource Library provides publicly available resources organized by topic and the level of maturity. Based on their unique maturity profile, a company will receive a tailored list of recommended tools and resources that will help build programmatic capacity and maturity to the next level.

Program Dimension	Program Element	Basic	Evolving	Established	Advanced	Leader
Systems	1		●			
	2			●		
	3				●	
Resiliency	1		●			
	2			●		
	3			●		
Capacity	1	●				
	2		●			
	3			●		

STEP 3

TRACK PROGRESS AND BENCHMARK

Companies should continue to update their Environmental Maturity Profiles as they develop their programs. The recommendations from the Environmental Resource Library will continue to provide specific resources for the next step in their maturity journeys.

As use of the RBA Environmental Maturity Profile continues, the RBA will develop more advanced tracking and analytics so that users can benchmark their progress against their peers, and customers can map their supply chains' capacity.

