



# SUSTAINABLE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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# SUSTAINABLE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Paving the way for a greener future

## Background

Sustainability and sustainable development are increasingly impacting both the commercial world and our domestic lives. Today's businesses encounter sustainability issues daily, whether it be seeking alternative clean energy sources and recycling of waste, to providing ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) submissions or carrying out their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities. Sustainability drivers effect all business sectors, whether they be Construction, Manufacturing, Retail, Public Services and Health, Financial and of course, Technology, to name but a few.

The IT department plays a vital role in modern business operations, and therefore, the environmental impact of IT services and sustainability have become growing concerns in recent years. Since IT projects are an enabler of change, they can make an increasingly positive contribution to sustainability goals.

**Sustainable Project Management**, also known as **Green Project Management** or simply **GPM**, is an approach that embeds environmental and societal thinking into all aspects of project management. The core idea is to plan, implement, and assess projects in a way that minimises ecological impact and promotes sustainability, whilst bringing about economic benefit to the companies and all their stakeholders, both internal and external. It is an approach that not only focuses on achieving project goals but also on ensuring that these goals align with organisation's broader environmental sustainability objectives.

Sustainable Project Management approaches offer methodologies and standards to integrate sustainable practices into IT service management, as well as non-IT projects and is gaining prominence in diverse organisations across all industry sectors. In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, the integration of such sustainable practices into project management is no longer a novelty, but a necessity.

## Insights

The [Insights into Sustainable Project Management 2024](#) report, drawn from an extensive survey with over 10,000 responses from professionals in more than 113 countries, by [Green Project Management](#)<sup>®</sup> (GPM<sup>®</sup>), provides a rich and nuanced understanding of how sustainability is perceived, integrated, and operationalised within organisations. Formed in 2009, GPM<sup>®</sup> is a global organisation that advocates for sustainability in project management practices and has developed a suite of best practice standards and sustainable project management frameworks.



The report highlights a significant increase in projects affected by extreme weather due to climate change, jumping from 38% in 2021 to 53% in 2024. This underscores the urgent need for project management to adapt to increasing climate volatility. It also reveals that 43% of projects experience critical or major impacts due to sustainability challenges, such as resource scarcity and regulatory changes, necessitating a strategic reassessment of project management approaches.

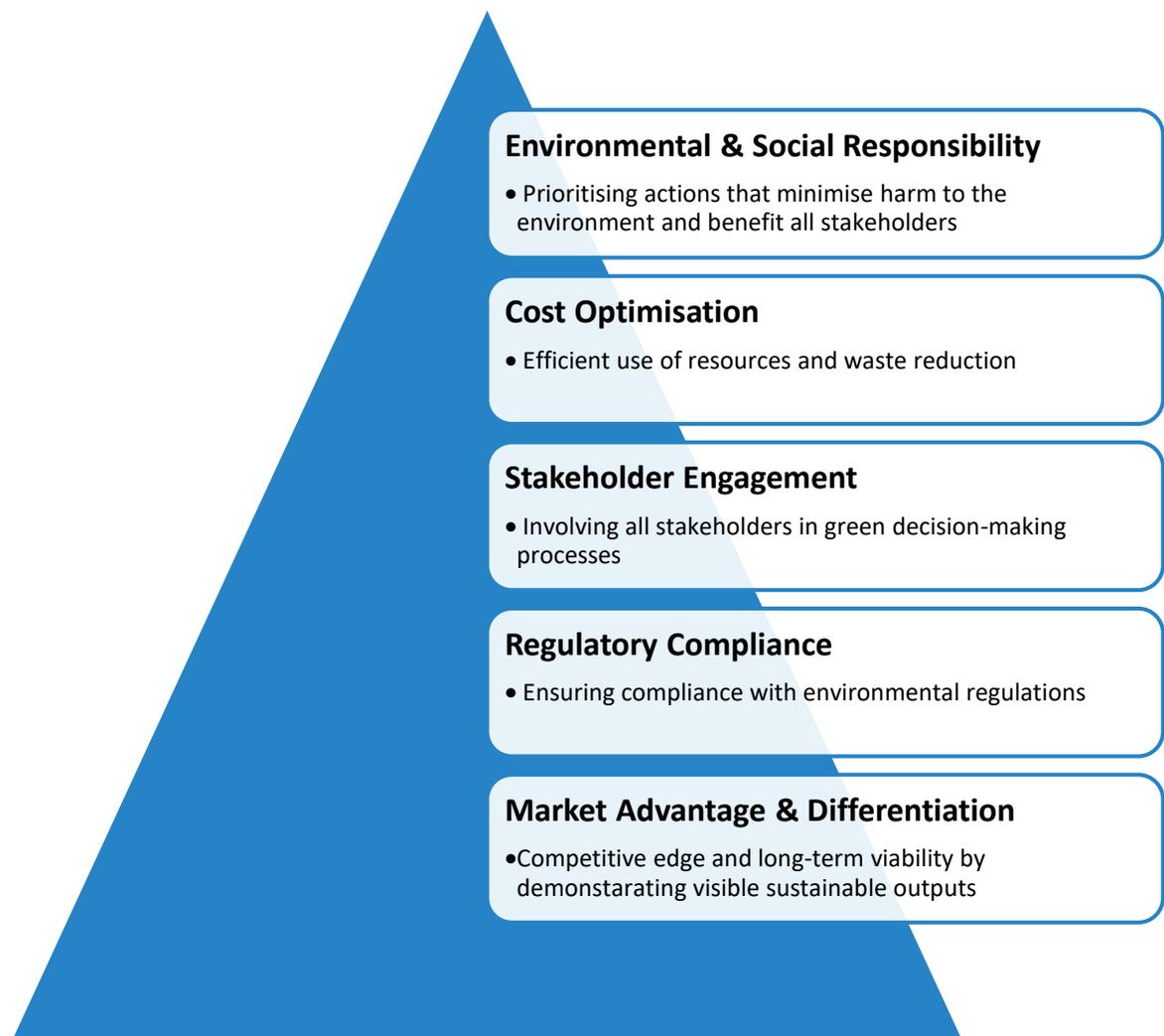
The report also shows that 39% of organisations engage in sustainability reporting and ESG disclosures, highlighting a commitment to transparency and accountability. However, a gap remains, with 42% not engaging in these practices, pointing to an area for improvement.

An overwhelming 73% of respondents place sustainability in the highest tier of importance, indicating a mature understanding of its critical role in achieving long-term success and resilience in project management.

The findings call for strategic adaptation and proactive mitigation strategies to navigate and mitigate the impacts of global sustainability challenges effectively. This includes integrating sustainable project management practices to ensure project resilience and success.

This whitepaper explores the principles of Sustainable Project Management and its application in the context of managing IT services.

## Benefits of Sustainable Project Management



# Sustainable Project Management in IT Services Management

As mentioned in the introduction, sustainable project management practices can be applied to all business sectors and public services. In this section we consider how we can apply green project management practices in IT Service Management, using suitably trained and skilled project managers.

## Applications

- **Energy Efficiency in Data Centres and Offices**  
Data centres are significant energy consumers. Sustainability practices will focus on optimising energy use, implementing energy-efficient technologies, and utilising renewable energy sources both in Data Centres and Offices.
- **E-Waste and Packaging Management**  
Proper disposal and recycling of electronic waste are critical. GPM approaches can be used to analyse and promote guidelines for responsible e-waste management and reducing the environmental impact of IT equipment disposal. Similarly recycling and minimising packaging from equipment supply is also key.
- **Working Practices**  
Using remote technologies to provide remote and hybrid working to empower staff and other stakeholders to work collaboratively, whilst meeting economic objectives of the enterprise and reducing the environmental impacts of travel.
- **Sustainable Procurement**  
GPM encourages sustainable procurement practices, considering the environmental impact of IT hardware and software throughout their life cycles. GPM also seeks to ensure supply chains are embracing sustainability and ethical practices.

## Challenges

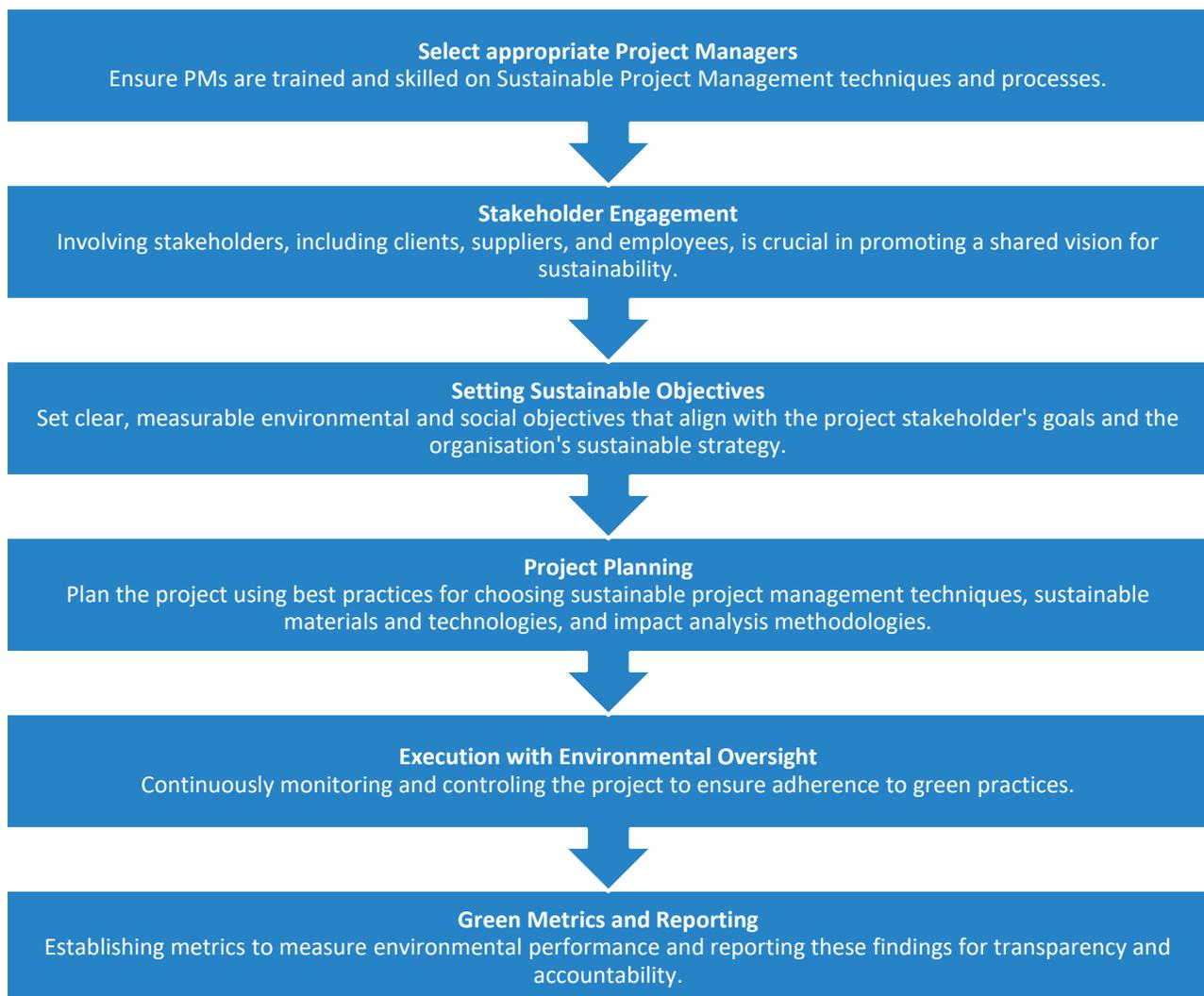
- **Higher Initial Costs**  
Implementing sustainable practices may require upfront investments, such as training Project Managers on sustainability techniques and methodologies. These start up costs will be more than the compensated for, as the benefits of sustainable project management accrue to the business.
- **Technological Challenges**  
Adapting to green technologies may pose technical challenges. This can be inevitable given the pace of change in green technologies, but successful companies are learning quickly to exploit

these new developments, aided by the structured approaches embedded in sustainable project management techniques.

- **Organisational Culture**

Shifting towards sustainability may face resistance in traditional organisational cultures. As the sustainability ethos in businesses matures, those who embrace a top-down approach to sustainability are increasingly empowering all levels of their organisation to adopt sustainable practices as the norm.

## Key Components of Implementation



## Case Studies

### BFSI

A leading financial institution adopted GPM to enhance its IT service delivery capabilities.

Through the implementation of standardised processes and workflows based on GPM principles, the bank improved service availability and reliability, resulting in a 30% decrease in system downtime and a 15% increase in employee productivity.

### Healthcare

A large healthcare provider integrated GPM into its IT service management practices to better manage its complex IT infrastructure.

By leveraging GPM's flexible framework, the organisation successfully streamlined incident, problem, and change management processes, leading to a 25% reduction in IT service disruptions and a 40% decrease in the time required to implement changes.

### Tech

A name brand technology company faced a critical challenge – the principles of sustainability were not deeply integrated into its project management practices across its vast portfolio of projects. In response to these challenges, the company partnered with GPM to revolutionise its project management framework, embedding sustainability at the core of its project delivery.

The implementation of GPM's sustainability frameworks and tools marked a significant transformation in the company's project delivery. Projects across the board reported a 25% reduction in carbon emissions and a 30% improvement in resource utilisation within the first year.

# Sustainable Project Management Training



In today's world managing projects well is not enough. You have to manage them in a sustainable way. Do you know how to do this?

- 22 k<sup>+</sup>** GPM certifications worldwide
- 100<sup>+</sup>** Countries where GPM training is available
- 700 k<sup>+</sup>** GPM standards downloaded

**Sustainable Project Management**  
**GPM PRiSM™ Practitioner**  
 Accredited training with an exam

**Green Project Management® (GPM)** is an integrated approach to implementing sustainability in project management. GPM is the world's largest organisation providing sustainability expertise through its network of Accredited Training Partners. GPM is the creator of the comprehensive sustainable project management methodology **PRiSM™ (Projects integrating Sustainable Methods)** and the **P5 Standard™** which enables organisations to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals through projects, while ensuring sustainable business benefits. On this basis, a system of training and certification has been developed.

Simplex Services has partnered with [Green Project Management® \(GPM®\)](#), the creator of the comprehensive sustainable project management methodology PRiSM™ (Projects integrating Sustainable Methods) and the P5 Standard™ impact analysis tool, which enables organisations to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals through projects, while ensuring sustainable business benefits.

The GPM PRiSM™ Practitioner Training is a three-day workshop, combining theory with case studies. It introduces the sustainable project management concept, responding to global challenges of today's world and the need to implement sustainable development principles in projects. The training is recommended primarily for project managers, sustainability professionals, CSR professionals, and strategic directors.

Upon completion of the PRiSM™ Practitioner workshop the participant will know how to identify and apply sustainability elements to projects and obtain structured and in-depth knowledge of project management techniques and methods as well as sustainability principles. In addition, participants will understand to how to carry our rigorous sustainable impact analysis of projects using the unique P5 Standard™ impact analysis tool. The participants will become aware of the benefits of using the PRiSM™ project management methodology and prepare to successfully pass the GPM-b™ certification exam.

## Summary

Implementing a sustainable approach to project management reduces risks, helps reduce costs, enables better value chain management, and supports and promotes a company's sustainable objectives and profile. It also supports process optimisation during and beyond project execution and in the wider organisation. In May 2024, the UK Gov released its framework for creating [Sustainability Reporting Standards](#). This will require corporate disclosures on sustainability – related risks and opportunities.

Integrating Sustainable Project Management principles by adopting the best practices from Green Project Management® into IT services will lead to a sustainable and conscientious future. Through the adoption of these practices, businesses can notably mitigate the environmental footprint, optimise resource utilisation, bring about benefits to all stakeholders and actively contribute to environmental preservation.

In the rapidly evolving landscape of IT service management, embracing sustainable project management emerges as an indispensable strategic initiative. By doing so, organisations not only meet present-day demands but also uphold their commitment to sustainable practices, ensuring the well-being of future generations.



The journey to a greener future is paved with the principles and practices of Sustainable Project Management.

## Speak To Us

**Simplex Services offers businesses a complimentary, no-obligation advisory** with our experts to review and analyse your organisation's existing IT infrastructure.

Based on these insights, our experts will assist you on the approach to implement Sustainable Project Management practices. Simplex Services as an Accredited GPM® Training Partner, also provides the necessary training and certification in sustainable project management as well as aid businesses with their ESG and sustainability requirements.

Book a free Simplex Advisory [here](#), and we'll set you on a path to sustainability.