



Supply Chain Focus

Supply chains are complex, adaptive systems that move products, services, finances, and information from suppliers to customers. And they are increasingly at risk due to global factors such as climate change, social instability, and health crises causing companies to reevaluate them.

Further, in the Paris Agreement, an international treaty on climate change, companies are required to reduce emissions from their value or supply chain and achieve science-based targets. Further, they are called on to implement adaptation strategies to prepare for inevitable changes in natural systems.

Participants in the Lab, work as an Executive Team to manage their supply chain from raw material suppliers to post-consumption circularity. Charged by their Board to measure their performance against financial, environmental, and social metrics, they:

- Design and manufacture their products using life cycle thinking to reduce pollution impact and water and energy consumption.
- Reduce supply-chain disruption and improve supply chain safety.
- Engage with stakeholders in the supply chain about the topics that interest them.
- Adapt their supply chains for climate change using, for example, nature-based solutions and green or blue infrastructure changes.

Choose Your Format Supply Chain Sustainability



Introductory

Duration: 3-4 hours participant time per cycle, 1 cycle



Intermediate

Duration: 4-5 hours participant time per cycle, 1 to 3 cycles



In-Depth

Duration: 5+ hours participant time per cycle, 3 cycles



Use in virtual, in-person or blended classes.

Working together, participants learn new ideas, practice new skills, and discuss new approaches with their colleagues.



Apply concepts such as circular business models, sustainable sourcing, and sustainable packaging to the supply chain.



Analyze supply chain activities against financial, environmental, and social metrics to improve decision-making.



Use reverse logistics, green logistics, and sustainable procurement in real-world situations.



Summarize supply chain risk and mitigation strategies.



Modify product development to reduce cost and environmental and social impact.



Recognize the importance of working with stakeholders to ensure transparency, buy-in, and improvement.



Identify energy-consuming activities and sources of pollution across the product life cycle.



Understand strategies for social sustainability in supply chains.

The following table describes in detail 3 Lab formats: Introductory, Intermediate, and In-Depth. The longer participants are active in the simulation, the more features, content, and interactivity.

Team Activity	Formats for Supply Chain Sustainability		
	Introductory	Intermediate	In-Depth
Design and manufacture a physical product and make operational decisions.	1. Design and build a physical product using data about component cost, pollution and energy impact, and customer preferences.	1. Design and build a physical product using data about component cost, pollution and energy impact, and customer preferences. 2. Make operational decisions that are aligned with the company strategy.	1. Design and build a physical product using data about component cost, pollution and energy impact, and customer preferences. 2. Make operational decisions that are aligned with the company strategy. 3. Integrate sustainability into essential supply chain decisions.
Market the product.	1. Create either a storyboard or 30-second video commercial.	1. Create either a storyboard or 30-second video commercial. 2. Implement marketing decisions that are aligned with the company strategy.	1. Create either a storyboard or 30-second video commercial. 2. Implement marketing decisions that are aligned with the company strategy. 3. Make sure that supply chain performance aligns with company quality standards to earn labels and certifications.
Promote the company and product through Social Media.	Not available.	This is an optional activity described in the In-Depth format.	1. Post comments about the company and product to the Lab's internal Social Media feed and comment on other posts.
Engage with stakeholders designed into the Lab.	This is an optional activity described in the Intermediate format.	1. Consider scripted stakeholder perspectives related to company activities.	1. Consider scripted stakeholder perspectives related to company activities. 2. Engage interactively with stakeholders played by the instructor via the Lab's internal email app (optional).
Make leadership decisions for your company. (The instructor selects the topics. For the In-Depth format, we can also create custom topics based on instructor input).	1. Make decisions for 1 leadership topic described in the Intermediate format.	1. Make decisions for up to 3 leadership topics from the following list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Cycle Innovation. Water Stewardship. Supply Chain Disruption and Ecosystem Services. Product Take-back. Remanufacturing and Circularity. Supply Chain Safety. Corporate Social Responsibility. Product as a Service. 	1. Make decisions for up to 8 leadership topics from the following list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Cycle Innovation. Water Stewardship. Supply Chain Disruption and Ecosystem Services. Product Take-back. Remanufacturing and Circularity. Supply Chain Safety. Corporate Social Responsibility. Product as a Service. 2. Make decisions for custom topics (optional).
Propose a solution to a business opportunity related to supply chain sustainability. (The instructor selects the topics. For the In-Depth format, we can also create custom topics based on instructor input).	Not available.	This is an optional activity described in the In-Depth format.	1. Propose a solution to a business opportunity related to course content. Here are some examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a supplier Scorecard. Create a vendor management program. Develop a joint project with suppliers to reduce their footprint. Improve equality and social responsibility in the supply chain. Implement a recall process for damaged or tainted products. 2. Propose a solution for custom topics(optional).
Complete Debrief Questions and Surveys about company, team, and peer performance. (For the In-Depth format, we can create custom surveys based on instructor input).	Answer questions and surveys: 1. Supply Chain Sustainability Debrief Questions.	Answer questions and surveys: 1. Supply Chain Sustainability Debrief Questions. 2. Peer Evaluation Survey.	Answer questions and surveys: 1. Supply Chain Sustainability Debrief Questions. 2. Peer Evaluation Survey. 3. Team Evaluation Survey. 4. Answer custom Debrief Questions or Surveys (optional).
Make a final presentation to the Board of Directors.	Not available.	This is an optional activity described in the In-Depth format.	1. Present company strategy, progress-to-date, and future direction to a volunteer Board of Directors.