



# Introducing environmental sustainability into your business practices

27 July 2022

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RESPONSIBLE  
JEWELLERY  
COUNCIL

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Q&A

# Introduction

- Businesses big and small have a moral duty to sustain the environments and ecosystems around them.
- Comply with a fast-evolving set of national and international laws and regulations.
- Reduce operational costs, improve sales and market access, increase worker engagement and enhance brand reputation.
- Varies depending on the nature and scale of the business.



# Code of Practices (COP)

RJC CODE OF PRACTICES



General requirements



Responsible supply chains, human rights & due diligence



Labour rights & working conditions



Health, safety & environment



Gold, silver, PGM, Diamond & coloured gemstone products



Responsible mining

COP 3  
REPORTING

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NATURAL  
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MANAGEMENT

01

## Climate & Emissions

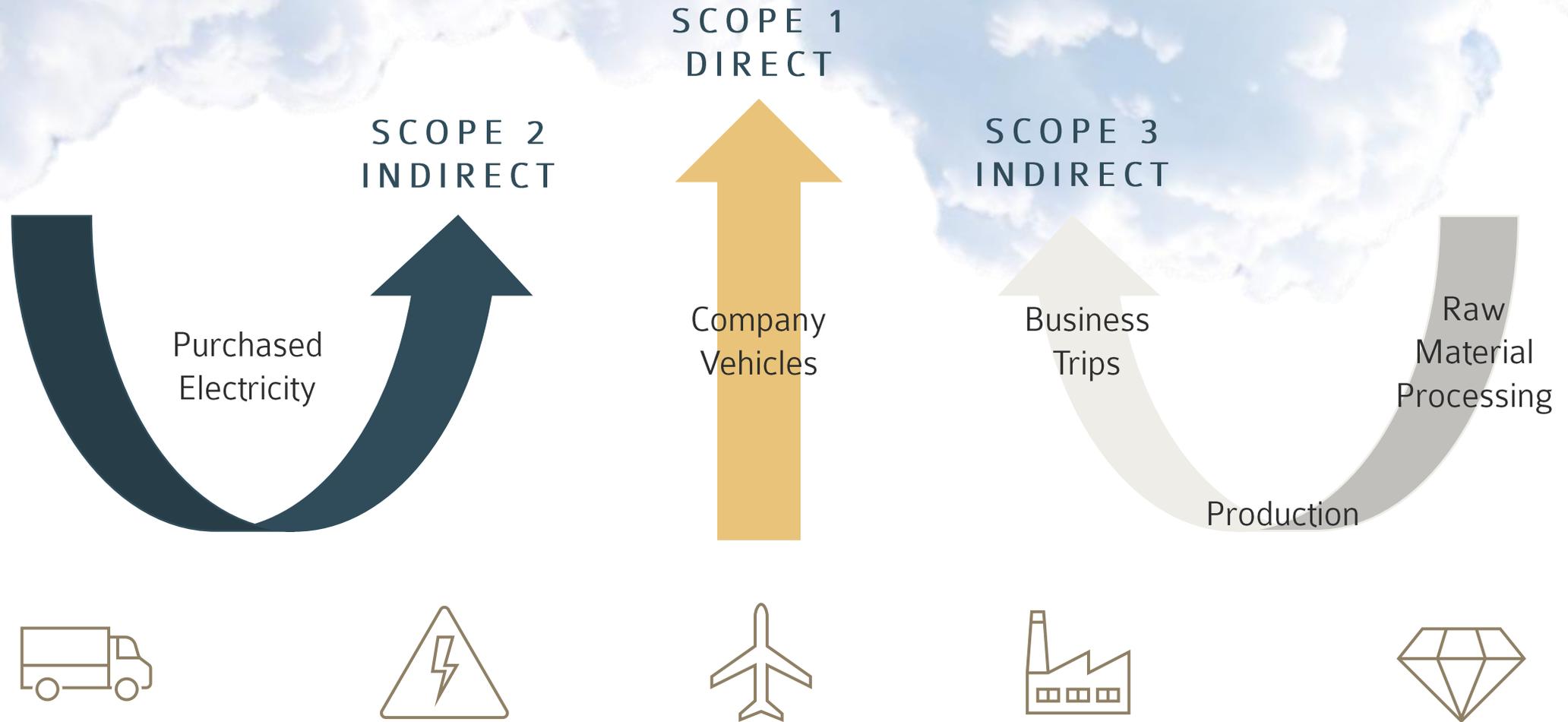
# Climate & Emissions

- COP26 highlighted the urgency of the climate emergency.
- Ambitious targets were set to reduce global GHG emissions by 45% by 2030.
- Carbon neutrality describes the state of net-zero carbon emissions.
- The first step to emission reduction is measurement, as you cannot manage what you do not measure.

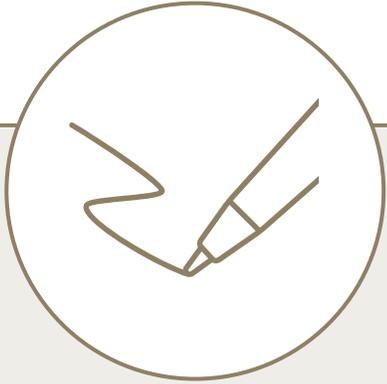


# Greenhouse Gas Protocol

Classifies emission sources into three scopes:



# Beginning your net-zero journey starts with three steps:



## STEP 1: MAKE A COMMITMENT

Make a commitment to  
reduce your emissions



## STEP 2: CALCULATE YOUR BASELINE EMISSIONS

Use publicly available  
resources



## STEP 3: MAKE A PLAN TO REDUCE

Create a reduction plan

02

Biodiversity

# Biodiversity

There are several systems that exist for designating areas of biodiversity importance and understanding these are essential to any project.



**PROTECTED  
AREAS**

**KEY  
BIODIVERSITY  
AREAS & HIGH  
CONSERVATION  
VALUE AREAS**

**HABITATS  
FOR  
THREATENED  
SPECIES**

# Existing conventions, standards and regulations

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- 1972 World Heritage Convention
- Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas
- The New York Declaration on Forests
- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

## INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

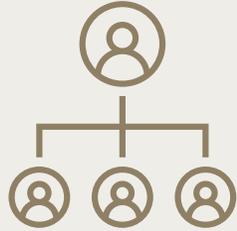
- IFC
- Equator Principles
- ICMM
- Mining and Protected Areas Position Statement
- MAC TSM
- Biodiversity Conservation Management Protocol

## NATIONAL LAW

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Offsets are often also a part of the legal framework in some countries and regions, including:
- Brazil, Canada, Europe, Switzerland and the United States

# Systems

There are a few key systems you can implement to help protect biodiversity:



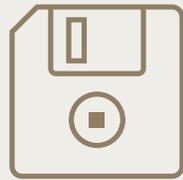
MANAGER



POLICY



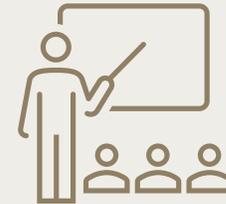
SET PROCEDURES



RECORDS

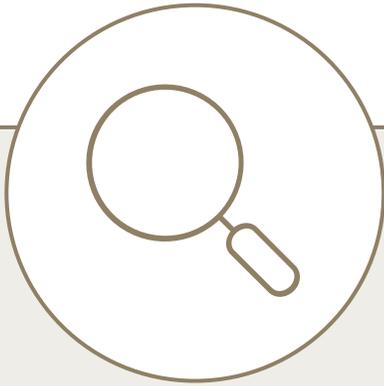


REPORT



TRAINING

# Steps to addressing biodiversity:



## IDENTIFY

Identify relevant KBAs

Integrated biodiversity assessment tool



## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Identify and assess risks

Make use of existing databases



## ADDRESS RISKS

Address the risks

Documented action plan to mitigate impacts

03

## Use of Natural Resources

# Use of Natural Resources

- Use natural resources more efficiently.
- Better for the planet, also reduces business costs.
- Commonly include energy, and water-saving measures.
- There are other land, air and water resources that businesses can target to improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact.
- E.g. paper, cardboard, wood, and plastics in packaging, or land use.
- Can impact local communities.
- Save money in the long term, increasing a company's profitability.



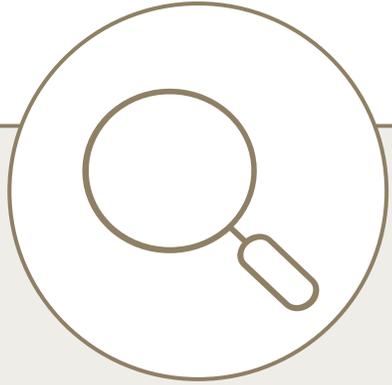
## INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Paris Agreement
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Environmental and Social Performance Standards
- Performance Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention
- Aarhus Convention
- Water Stewardship Framework
- CEO Water Mandate
- MAC TSM Water Stewardship Policy Framework

## NATIONAL LAW

- Regulations, guidelines and industry targets for water & energy efficiency.
- Under UNFCCC, governments are required to launch strategies for reducing GHG emissions.
- Some countries mandate disclosure on managing social and environmental challenges.
- European Union Directive, requires companies to include non-financial statements in their annual reports from 2018 onwards.
- Financial decisions that include climate- and water-related risks and opportunities.

# Energy, water and other resources



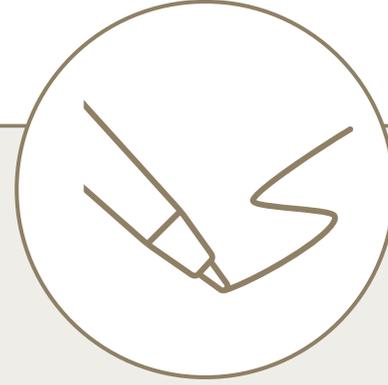
## STEP 1: IDENTIFY

Review your operations to identify your energy, water and other natural resource use by source, quality and quantity.



## STEP 2: PRIORITISE

Prioritise these opportunities for reducing consumption or increasing efficiency according to cost, savings and certainty.



## STEP 3: IMPLEMENT

Adopt solutions that are technically and financially feasible and cost-effective.



## STEP 4: REVIEW

Get senior management to regularly review.  
  
Report your use of water and energy.



## SAVING ENERGY

Move towards renewable energy

Install efficient lighting

Put heating and cooling systems on timers

Do regular equipment maintenance

Use energy-efficient appliance

Optimise equipment and processes

Turn off lights & equipment when not in use

Insulate buildings

Minimise use of hot water

Capture and reuse waste heat



## SAVING WATER

Fix dripping taps and leaking pipes

Install water-saving accessories

Consider treating water for reuse

Use dry techniques where possible

Avoid using potable water for non-  
drinking purposes

Calculate the minimum volume of  
water you need and make  
improvements where possible

04

## Hazardous Substances

# Hazardous Substances

- A hazardous substance is any material that poses a threat to human health or the environment.
- Generally defined as hazardous if they are flammable, oxidising, corrosive, toxic, radioactive or explosive.
- Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Chemicals Convention.
- Most countries have also have laws & regulations.
- There are substances that are subject to international phase-outs and bans.
- Complying with applicable law is essential.



Ensure that hazardous substances are handled safely & responsibly



05

# Environmental Impact Assessments

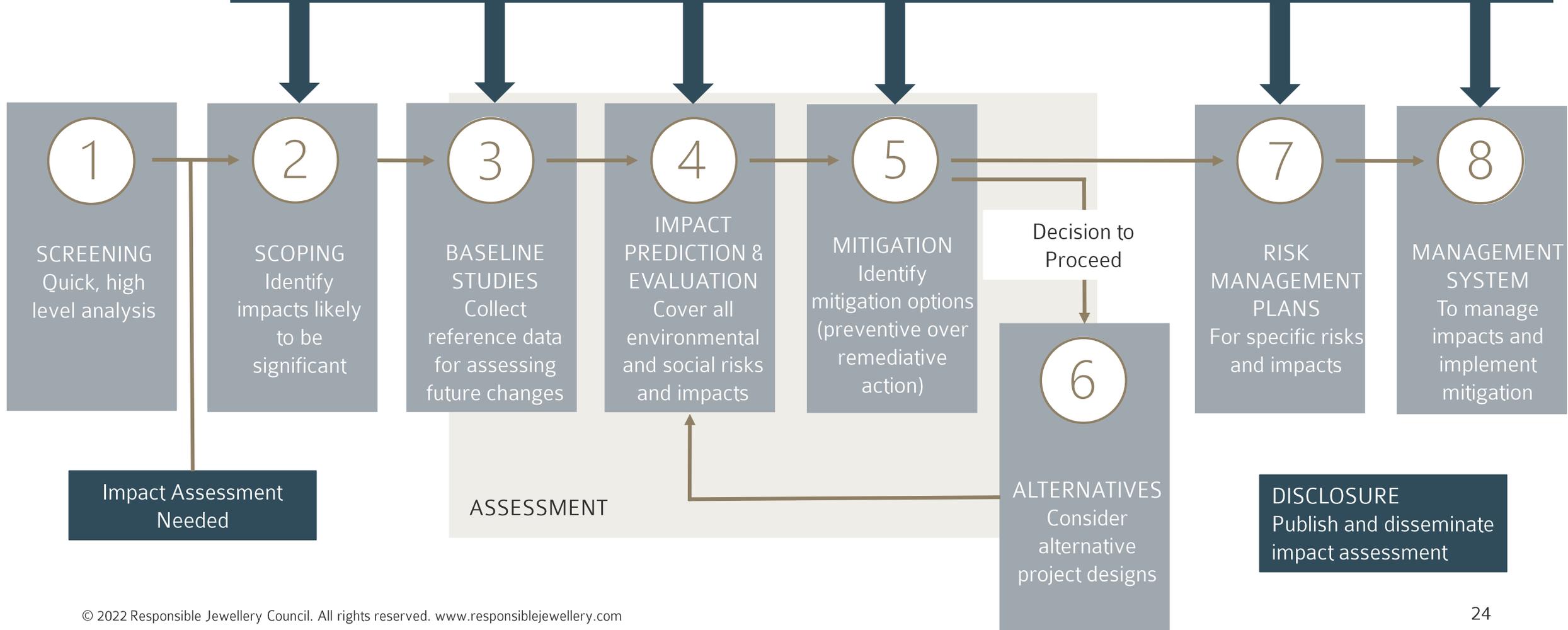
# Environmental Impact Assessment

- The process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical and social impacts of development proposals prior to major decisions and commitments being made.
- Environmental and social impacts are often intricately linked, and local communities are the ones who experience the environmental impacts, such as changes in air and water quality, biodiversity, and land-use change.
- Therefore, organisations carry out a combined Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).
- There are 8 stages to an ESIA:



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITIES - GOVERNMENTS - COMPANIES - NGOS - CIVIC GROUPS - TOPIC EXPERTS



06

## Environmental Management

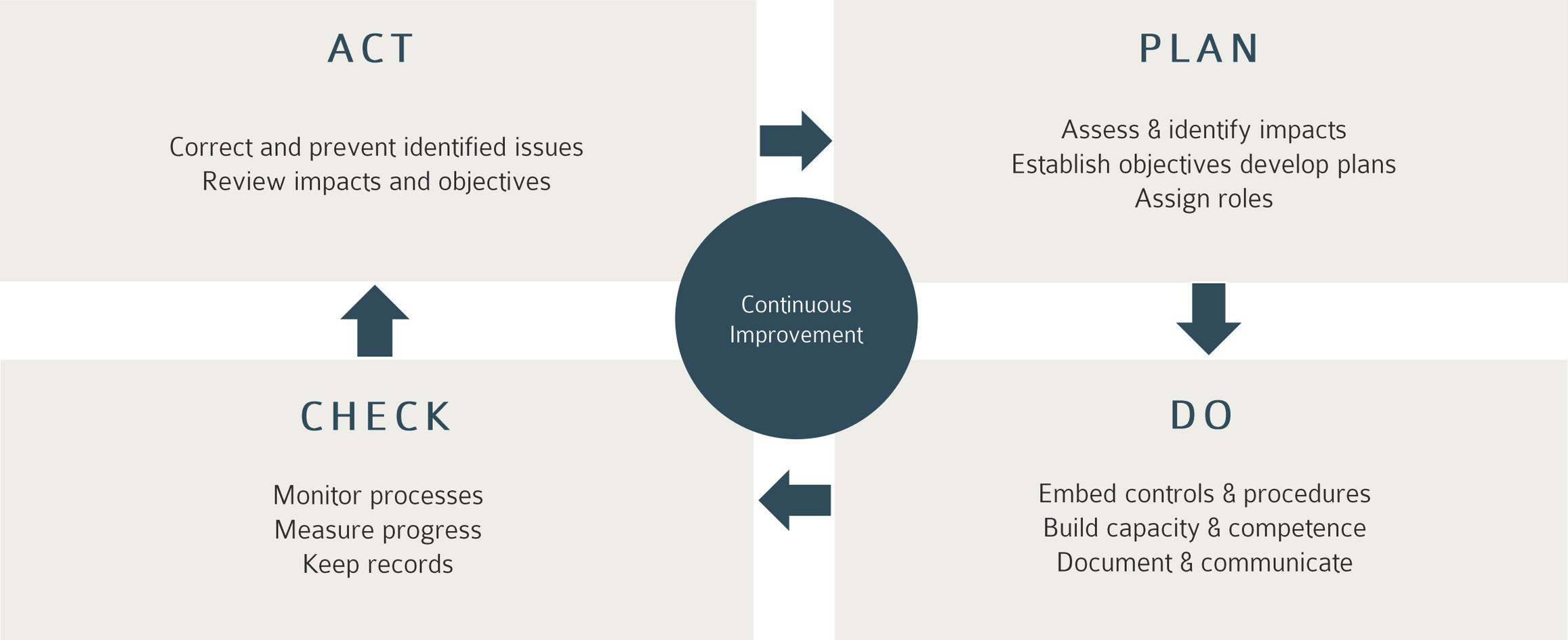
# Environmental Management

- Environmental management plan is an essential feature in helping your company address environmental impacts in your business.
- When making an environmental management plan and setting a strategy, a useful cycle to consider is the Plan-do-check-act cycle for continuous improvement.
- Implementing strategies for improving your environmental impact is not a one off action.
- Your processes and activities should be reviewed on a continuous cycle, to ensure they are effective.
- Actions must be monitored and improved upon.



# Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle

For continuous improvement



# Mitigation Hierarchy



07

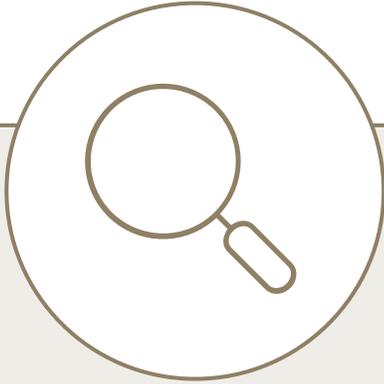
Reporting

# Reporting

- Sustainability reports are non-financial reports which aim to provide transparency on an organisation's environmental and social strategy and impacts.
- There are a number of benefits of producing sustainability reports:
  - Increases transparency and trust in your business.
  - Enhances competitive advantage.
  - Get ahead of legislation.
  - Comparability.
- There are several globally recognised ESG frameworks e.g. GRI, SASB and TCFD.
- RJC ESG toolkit launching later this year.



# Creating a report



## STEP 1: PREPARE

Assign responsibility

Review GRI guidance or equivalent

Identify relevant issues and stakeholders

Consider SDGs



## STEP 2: DRAFT

Be flexible

Draw on other existing reporting systems

Engage stakeholders

Set out issues, actions and outcomes



## STEP 3: PUBLISH

Use appropriate channels of communication

Post the report online

Send to stakeholders

Include contact information

# Is there any support available?

There are number of resources to support you



Retailer Sustainability Toolkit



Risk Assessment Toolkit



Small Business Sustainability Toolkit



Additional Guidance Material



Reporting Templates



Online Modules



Provision Specific Training Pages



Member Helpdesk  
training@responsiblejewellery.  
com



08

Q&A



training@responsiblejewellery.com



# RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

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CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT

Responsible Jewellery Council,  
Second Floor, Quality House,  
5-9 Quality Court, Chancery Lane,  
London, WC2A 1HP.

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

[communications@responsiblejewellery.com](mailto:communications@responsiblejewellery.com)  
+44 (0)20 7321 0992

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## CONNECT WITH US

Website: [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

Email: [info@responsiblejewellery.com](mailto:info@responsiblejewellery.com)

Twitter: @RJCJewellery

Facebook: @responsibleJewellery

LinkedIn: [/company/responsiblejewellerycouncil](https://www.linkedin.com/company/responsiblejewellerycouncil)

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