

A Review of Sustainability Practices in Fortune 500 American Corporations Over a Decade

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Abstract:

The US federal government has historically been a reluctant participant in the sustainability movement but has gradually advanced toward a more sustainable future. The federal government has set a target of achieving 100% carbon-free electricity generation by 2050. Favorably, legislatures in many states and the District of Columbia have adopted more aggressive timelines for achieving carbon-free power generation. Despite the reluctance of the US government, a large segment of the US business community recognizes the need for sustainability policies to ensure long-term viability. Fortune 500 American corporations' sustainability related ranking is also compared with other global corporations' ranking in recent years.

After extensive review process at the university level and educating surveyed population about any potential privacy-related risk and informed consent was obtained before they could access the questionnaire. A questionnaire containing a list of the nine sustainability practices and demographic information was formulated and later distributed via emails to senior leaders of Fortune 500 corporations' leaders responsible for sustainability-related decisions

The findings illustrated in our literature review and data surveyed from Fortune 500 American corporations indicate that as a strategic decision, large US corporations have proactively adopted sustainability measures during last decade. The most important finding was that Fortune 500 corporations have employed sustainability practices more extensively in their domestic operations compare to their international operations. Also, there is a statistically significant difference in the involvement in sustainability practices between domestic and international operations. Finally, this study has provided guidance to the large American corporations and policymakers.