

Ready to start building sustainability in your upstream supply chain?

Use these worksheets to learn more about your suppliers' practices and to set goals. You might think your brewery is too small to make a difference, but remember that improving supply chain innovation and performance isn't achieved alone. As more breweries use these tools and share them with suppliers and consumers, awareness of upstream sustainability will grow.

Not sure if it's worth the effort? Consider the benefits: These tools give your employees an easy source of information to tell a story about your company and your beer. It might help you identify undesirable risks or practices within your upstream supply chain that you want to address. Or, you might discover that you are already supporting sustainable suppliers—and that's worth documenting and sharing. Consumer purchasing is increasingly driven by environmental values.

This tool is a set of worksheets that were created to supplement [How to Build a Sustainable Supply Chain for Your Craft Brewery](#). Each worksheet was designed as customizable template that you can use as a starting point and adjust as needed. If you have any questions or would like additional assistance, please contact the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) at nysp2i@rit.edu or (585) 475-2512.

How to use this template

Step 1

Consider your own environmental goals and practices, whether small, large, or aspirational. Use the "Self-Assessment Survey" to walk through different areas of your operation.

Step 2

Do your suppliers' practices help you achieve these goals or not? Use the "Research Your Suppliers" Questionnaire to get a basic idea of their environmental goals.

Step 3

Start a conversation with your suppliers. Tell them about your own environmental goals and that you are interested in learning more about theirs. Ask them to complete a Supplier Survey with you.

Step 4

Ask suppliers to review and sign off on your Supplier Code of Conduct, demonstrating their commitment to environmental sustainability.

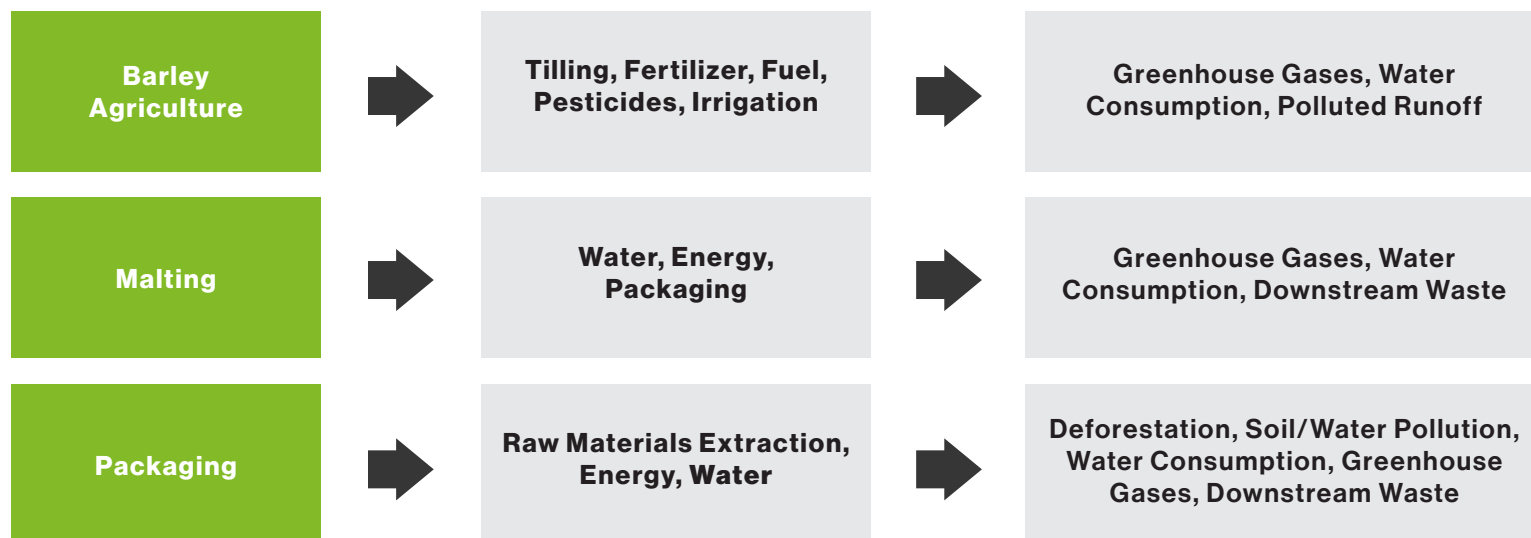
Step 1 | Self-Assessment Survey

Think about your own environmental goals and practices. Maybe you reuse hot water. Maybe you recycle or sell most of your beer by the pint. Or maybe your electricity comes from renewable sources.

Do you:

Know about and follow all local, regional, and state environmental requirements?	Yes	No	Not Yet
Use technology or practices to reduce your energy usage and related greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)?	Yes	No	Not Yet
Use technology or practices to reduce water usage?	Yes	No	Not Yet
Use technology or practices to reduce the amount of waste you generate or send to the landfill?	Yes	No	Not Yet
Use technology, practices, or products that minimize wastewater pollution?	Yes	No	Not Yet
Work with your community on environmental projects?	Yes	No	Not Yet

Consider how your suppliers' practices might affect your environmental goals. The biggest sources of environmental impact in brewing's upstream supply chain come from:



With these impacts in mind:

- Do any of your upstream suppliers currently employ environmental goals and practices that align with your own goals and practices?
- Are there any upstream suppliers that you want to know more about?
- When vetting new suppliers or renewing contracts, would you consider asking suppliers about their environmental practices?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, continue on to Steps 2 and 3.

Step 2 | Research Your Suppliers

This worksheet is a guide to help you do some basic research about your main suppliers. If you manage your vendors and suppliers in an existing system (e.g., Excel, Quickbooks), consider adding some new fields like “relationship” and “environmental practices.”

Malt

Who are your top three malt suppliers? (In terms of purchase value or volume)

	Name	Supplier Type	Location	Contact	Relationship	Environmental Practices
1						
2						
3						

Grain

Who are the growers supplying your malt or other grain adjuncts? (If you are able to find out.)

	Name	Farm Type	Location	Contact	Relationship	Environmental Practices
1						
2						
3						

Hops

Who are your top three hops suppliers? (In terms of purchase value or volume)

	Name	Supplier Type	Location	Contact	Relationship	Environmental Practices
1						
2						
3						

Packaging

What are the top three types of packaging you use to sell your beer (e.g., kegs, growlers, pints, cans, or bottles)?

	Type	% of Total Packaging, if Known	Manufacturer	Contact	Relationship	Environmental Practices
1						
2						
3						

Other Upstream Materials/Suppliers

List any other upstream materials or inputs that you are interested in learning more about, (e.g., yeast, cleaning chemicals, honey, fruit, other specialty ingredients, bottle tops, labels, merchandise, or other types of packaging or waste coming into your brewery or taproom)

	Name	Supplier/Manufacturer	Location	Contact	Relationship	Environmental Practices
1						
2						
3						

Step 3 | Supplier Survey

Use this survey to have a conversation with your suppliers about their current and/or aspirational environmental goals and practices.

Company Name:	
Company Contact (Name/E-mail):	
Company Location:	
Supplier Type:	

Which option(s) best describes your company's environmental efforts to date?

- ☐ We have no environmental goals.
- ☐ We are in the process of setting environmental goals.
- ☐ We have established environmental goals.
- ☐ We have established environmental goals and measure our performance annually.
- ☐ We publish our environmental goals and performance reports annually.

For each area below, use the questions to collect more information about your suppliers' goals and practices.

1. Minimum Standards

- Are you familiar with and in compliance with various environmental laws and regulations in effect where you operate?
- Are you aware of the various environmental impacts of your manufacturing processes?

2. Greenhouse-Gas Emissions

- Do you use technology or practices to reduce your contribution to greenhouse gases and/or your reliance on carbon-based energy sources (e.g., renewable energy, energy-source reduction, or sustainable-production practices)?
- Do you consider load optimization and greenhouse gas reduction when shipping your products?

3. Water Usage & Reuse

- Do you use technology and practices to reduce water consumption and your contribution to downstream water pollution?

4. Waste Generation

- Do you responsibly manage or try to reduce byproducts of your manufacturing process?
- Do you try to minimize downstream pollution (e.g., sustainable and/or efficient use of packaging)?

5. Sustainable Raw-Materials Procurement

- Do you source your raw materials from sustainable and ethical sources?

6. Certifications & Reporting

- Do you have any published environmental goals?
- Do any of your products sold meet any third-party certified environmental standard?
- Do you monitor any specific environmental targets?
- Are you willing to complete this survey annually and certify that your statements are true?

Step 4 | Supplier code of conduct

Ask your suppliers to demonstrate their commitment to environmental sustainability. Share this Code of Conduct with them and ask them to sign off, acknowledging their receipt of it and certifying their operating practices meet your expectations. You can adapt the template to reflect your own environmental goals.

Sustainable Sourcing Statement

[Brewery Name] relies on suppliers from across [New York State/US/world] for the raw materials and supplies to produce our beer and get it to market. We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and we want to work with suppliers who share this value. This Supplier code of conduct describes the practices we look for when sourcing materials from upstream suppliers.

1. Minimum Standards

- Supplier complies with various environmental laws and regulations in effect where they operate.
- Supplier is aware of the various environmental impacts of its manufacturing processes.

2. Greenhouse-Gas Emissions

- Supplier works to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions produced as a result of its manufacturing process.
- Supplier works to minimize greenhouse-gas emissions associated with transportation/shipping of materials/supplies

3. Water Usage & Reuse

- Supplier works to reduce consumption of water during its manufacturing process and minimizes its contribution to downstream water pollution.

4. Waste Generation

- Supplier works to reduce the amount of waste it generates across all its waste streams and sends into the landfill waste stream, including packaging and manufacturing byproducts.

5. Sustainable Raw-Materials Procurement

- Supplier applies ethical and sustainable standards when selecting and procuring from its own upstream suppliers.

6. Certifications & Reporting

- Supplier is willing to complete an annual survey documenting how it implements or works towards these goals and practices.

Assessing Supplier Performance

After completing the Supplier Survey and reviewing this code of conduct, sign below as a way of certifying your acknowledgment and commitment to these goals and practices.

Signature:

Position:

Print Name:

Date:

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