



Thank you for your interest in the Western Sustainability Exchange (WSE) Sustainability Criteria. WSE has carefully designed the **Sustainability Criteria Questionnaire** to reflect the characteristics consumers demand in “Green” products.

WSE is excited to learn how your business/organization uses sustainable practices. WSE does not expect perfection or for you to use every sustainable practice. We realize achieving sustainability is a long process. We will use your responses not only to better understand how you practice sustainable concepts, but also to learn more about how your efforts contribute to our mission of:

**“Advancing sustainable practices that enhance economic opportunities which preserve open space, wildlife habitat, farm and ranchlands and quality of life for future generations.”**

We encourage you to call us at 406-222-0730 to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have. **WSE also may contact you if we need additional information.**

To learn more about Western Sustainability Exchange, please visit

**[www.westernsustainabilityexchange.org](http://www.westernsustainabilityexchange.org)**.

Welcome aboard the journey to sustainability,

*Lill Erickson*

Lill Erickson  
Executive Director  
Western Sustainability Exchange



## Sustainability Criteria© Questionnaire

Please answer all questions. If a question does not apply in Sections 3 & 4, please check the N/A box.

### 1. Business/Nonprofit/Agency Operational Practices:

This section explores how your business, agency, or nonprofit use sustainable practices.

Have you developed and consistently follow a Sustainable Practices Policy? Yes No

#### Do you reduce your carbon footprint by:

Turning off computers, equipment & lights when not in use? Yes No

Using a programmable thermostat? Yes No

Using sensors to turn lights on and off? Yes No

Using Energy Star and other energy efficient appliances & equipment? Yes No

Using compact florescence lighting? Yes No

Using energy from renewable sources such as wind or solar? Yes No

Use hybrid or electric vehicles? Yes No If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

Use fuel-efficient vehicles? Yes No If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

Use biofuels? Yes No If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Do you have a policy & program to consistently recycle:

Office paper? Yes No Newspaper? Yes No Glass ? Yes No

Magazines & mail? Yes No Plastic? Yes No Cardboard? Yes No

Used oil? Yes No Aluminum or steel cans? Yes No

Computer disks & cartridges? Yes No Household batteries? Yes No Car batteries? Yes No

Cell phones? Yes No Computers and electronic equipment? Yes No

#### Do you consistently:

Use recycled or sustainably produced paper products? Yes No

Eliminate the use of Styrofoam containers? Yes No

Discourage the use of plastic water bottles? Yes No

Discourage the use of disposable products? Yes No

Use biodegradable and/or organic cleaning products? Yes No

Use sustainable building designs and materials in new construction and renovations? Yes No

Minimize development footprint of buildings & roads? Yes No

Use xeriscaping, native and drought resistant plants in landscaping? Yes No

**Do you consistently purchase:**

Sustainably produced food? Yes No      Organic food? Yes No

Locally produced food? Yes No      Products free of animal testing? Yes No

Purchasing "green" power from renewable sources such as wind or solar? Yes No

Purchasing carbon offsets, energy credits and/or green tags to offset impact? Yes No

**Do you provide:**

"Living wage" jobs? Yes No      Health insurance and other benefits? Yes No

Donate money, product or services to nonprofits? Yes No

Provide incentives to employees and customers who bike or walk to your business? Yes No

## 2. Product or Service Outcome

**This section explores how your product/service results in or produces sustainable outcomes.**

**Does your product or service:**

Promote renewable energy sources? Yes No      Promote energy conservation? Yes No

Increase energy efficiency? Yes No      Facilitate waste reduction? Yes No

Facilitate recycling? Yes No      Facilitate sustainable building designs and materials? Yes No

Preserve wildlife habitat, open space and biodiversity? Yes No

Prevent or significantly reduce the release of toxic substances into the environment? Yes No

Support local production of goods? Yes No

## 3. Product Production

**This section explores how in the creation of your product or service you protect soil, water, air, open space, wildlife and fish resources?**

**(IF you produce a food product, please skip Section 3 and complete Section 4)**

**Not applicable. I don't produce a product. (Skip Sections 3 & 4 and complete Section 5)**

**Do you reduce toxic substances & waste by eliminating or significantly minimizing the use of:**

Dyes? Yes No      Synthetic fertilizers? Yes No      Inks? Yes No

Synthetic herbicides? Yes No      Solvents? Yes No      Synthetic pesticides? Yes No

Other synthetic chemicals such as \_\_\_\_\_



Controlling noxious weeds and pests through integrated pest management? Yes No Not Sure  
 Monitoring to measure the condition of range, pasture, riparian and water resources? Yes No Not Sure  
 Providing open space? Yes No Not Sure If so, approximately how many acres? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Providing fish & wildlife habitat? Yes No Not Sure If so, for what species? \_\_\_\_\_

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Being certified by an independent party to document sustainable practices? Yes No Not Sure  
 If so, who certifies your operation? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Producing a product from raw materials produced within Montana or the Northern Rockies? Yes No  
 If so, where do you process? \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Questions for Meat Products

#### In the creation of your product, do you use meat from livestock operations that:

Eliminate the use of growth hormones and subtherapeutic antibiotics? Yes No Not Sure  
 Feed livestock "animal by-products" as protein? Yes No Not Sure  
 Use synthetic chemical fertilizers on grain or hay fields? Yes No Not Sure  
 Use rotational grazing to protect rangelands and sensitive areas from overgrazing? Yes No Not Sure  
 Use back pour to control parasites? Yes No Not Sure If so, which chemical? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Use feed grown with pesticides and herbicides? Yes No Not Sure  
 Use insecticides ear tags for feedlot animals? Yes No Not Sure  
 Finish livestock in a feedlot? Yes No Not Sure Finish livestock on grass? Yes No Not Sure

#### Do the livestock operations provide humane conditions such as:

Meaningful access to the outdoors? Yes No Not Sure Suitable shelter? Yes No Not Sure  
 Balanced feed rations? Yes No Not Sure Veterinary care? Yes No Not Sure  
 Low-stress animal handling techniques? Yes No Not Sure

**Please provide any additional information you would like to add about your product/service**

**Continued on next page**

## 5. Sustainability Statement

Please tell us in your own words how you believe your product or service qualifies as sustainable. This description will be used at the Expo to describe how your business is "green" (We ask that you please limit yourself to 50 words or less).

### Legally Binding Affidavit:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our questionnaire. Before you are done we ask that you please sign the following affidavit, attesting that the above information is true & correct. We appreciate your time and interest in joining with us in promoting sustainable practices in the West in order to preserve our rich lifestyle and landscape.

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**Signature**

**Date**

**Name of Organization**

**Contact Name**

**Address**

**City**

**State**

**Zip**

**Phone**

**E-mail**

**Website**