



SUSTAINABILITY: STRATEGY AND REPORTING

The Registered Auditor, your trusted advisor

In Summary



A Changing World in Business and Sustainability

Sustainability is no longer just for large corporations. Today, every business – from family firms to growing SMEs – faces new expectations from customers, banks, investors, non-governmental organisations, local communities, and employees. Questions about carbon footprint, social impact, and ethical governance are becoming part of everyday business.

Rather than seeing these new requirements as an administrative burden, forward-looking entrepreneurs use sustainability as a competitive advantage – to build trust, access financing, and attract talent.

That's where the registered auditor comes in – helping you turn sustainability challenges into opportunities for growth. A registered auditor is uniquely positioned to help you in this journey.

Why Work with a Registered Auditor?

Expert guidance you can trust

Registered auditors are independent professionals with a legal and ethical duty to protect the public interest and serve the interests of business owners, shareholders, and stakeholders. They are independent professionals whose job is to bring clarity and confidence to your business information – financial and non-financial alike.

For over 70 years, they have built trust in financial markets through their work on financial information. Today, they bring that same rigour and assurance to sustainability strategy, implementation, and reporting – helping businesses navigate the fast-evolving landscape of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) expectations.

Bridging finance and sustainability

Financial and sustainability data are increasingly intertwined. The registered auditor understands both worlds: how to measure financial results and how to assess sustainability performance. This cross-disciplinary expertise means they can help you design sustainability processes that are efficient, credible, and aligned with your business goals.

Knowledge that keeps you ahead

Auditors receive continuous training on the latest sustainability assurance and reporting related standards – from the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) to the new voluntary SME standards (VSME). This ensures they can translate complex regulations into practical and concrete advice tailored to your size, sector, and ambitions.

The Added Value for Your Business

(a) Confidence for your stakeholders

When your sustainability information is reviewed or assured by a registered auditor, it gives your customers, investors, financial institutions, and partners confidence that the data is accurate and transparent. That trust strengthens your reputation and makes your company stand out in the value chain. That trust can open doors – from new contracts to easier funding.

(b) Stronger internal processes

The Registered Auditors don't just "check" information – they help you improve it. Their work and resulting suggestions for continuous improvement, often leads to better data collection, clearer governance, and more efficient systems. You gain a stronger basis for decision-making and risk management.

(c) Access to financing and growth opportunities

Banks and investors increasingly request sustainability data before granting loans or funding. Verified information by a registered auditor enhances your credibility, making it easier to access green financing and investment capital. It's not just compliance – it's a gateway to better financing and growth.

(d) Protection against greenwashing

External validation by an independent expert demonstrates that your sustainability claims are real, substantiated, and not marketing slogans. It protects your reputation and ensures your communication with stakeholders remains honest and credible.

Practical Support Along Your Sustainability Journey

A registered auditor as trusted business advisor can assist you at every stage – always respecting independence rules in doing this, whilst addressing your specific needs.

- **Assessment – “Where are we now?”** Mapping your current sustainability position, identifying what information is already available, and comparing it with sector peers.
- **Strategy – “Where do we want to go?”** Helping you define a clear ESG strategy that matches your business model, risks, and opportunities – including realistic goals and performance indicators.
- **Implementation – “How do we get there?”** Supporting the design of reliable processes, internal controls, and data systems. Even simple tools (such as Excel dashboards for SMEs) can make sustainability management easier. The Registered Auditor also helps you design controls and systems that make your data reliable – from spreadsheets to IT platforms.
- **Reporting & assurance – “How do we communicate?”** Helping you prepare clear, consistent reports and providing independent assurance where needed – giving stakeholders confidence that your information is trustworthy. As indicated before, this is not about compliance, but rather to embrace this shift and leverage it to create added value for your organisation. Depending on your needs, the Registered Auditors can provide different levels of independent verification – from focused agreed-upon procedures to limited and reasonable assurance – always tailored to your business.



A Relationship Built on Trust and Integrity

The Registered Auditor's assurance work is guided by strict ethical rules and independent public oversight. This guarantees objectivity, confidentiality, and integrity in every engagement.

Whether you are legally required to report on sustainability or choose to do so voluntarily, a Registered Auditor can turn this obligation or wish into an opportunity – helping you build a resilient, transparent, and future-proof business.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Sustainability isn't just a trend – it's shaping the future of every business. Start building yours with confidence. A registered auditor can guide you through each step – from strategy to results – so you can focus on what you do best: growing your business. Sustainability is a journey – one that strengthens your business, your reputation, and your long-term success.

A Registered Auditor can be your trusted business partner on this path: combining deep technical expertise with practical, hands-on business understanding.

Find a registered auditor near you: [Registre public \(ibr-ire.be\)](https://www.ibr-ire.be/registre-public).

[Read the entire information guide here.](#)





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