

National Green Reporting System of Sri Lanka

Sustainable Approach towards Greening the Industries

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Environmental protection is an integral part of the development process and any breakdown in the environmental stability would have serious implications to the stability of long term development in the country. Food crisis, energy crisis, water scarcity, land degradation, natural resources and bio diversity losses are the multifaceted socio economic and environmental problems today everyone uncouncted. These challenges create many issues such as poverty, disease and impacts negatively which are extremely linked to Sustainable Development in the country.

Sustainability issues have been getting more and more attention in the recent past and the rapid globalization of the markets and increasing alignment of Sri Lankan corporate sector to the global markets, it is a great need to drive the private sector's contribution to sustainable development through corporate sustainability reporting in Sri Lanka. If we intend to endow our children and grandchildren with the same standard of living at least that we are experiencing today, we must preserve the foundation of that standard of living. Accordingly, continuous improvements of the production process and products by controlling pollutants, emissions and maximizing resources efficiency is a great need indeed. Therefore, self-evaluation of sustainability performance of any industry is essential need for continuous improvements of the production process and products. Also the manufacturing and services sector play a significant milestone of facilitate improvements of environmental and socio-economic status of the country in a sustainable manner.

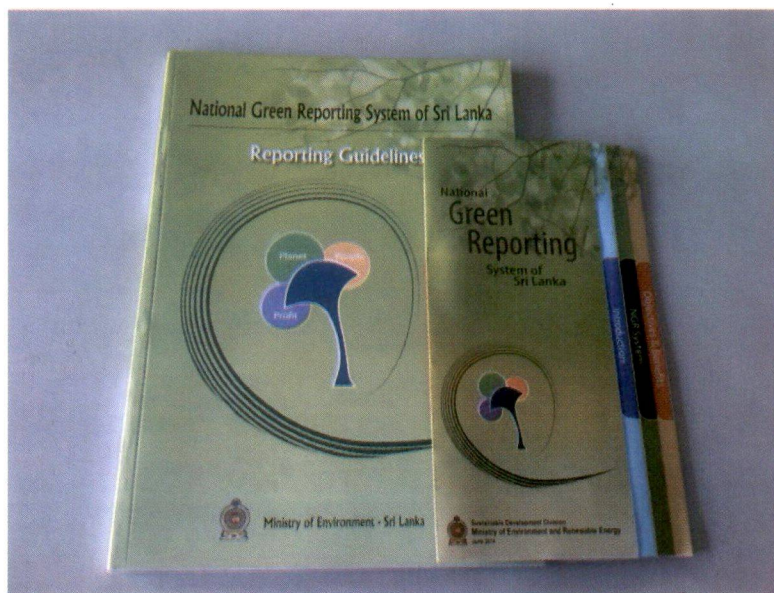
In this context, it is needed to search a solution of nationally appropriate frameworks to promote sustainable innovation in all socio-economic sectors to make the development sustainable of the country to meet sustainable development challenges of the country. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy developed the National Green Reporting System (NGRS) of Sri Lanka in collaboration with relevant stakeholders with a view to greening the economy through public private partnership. The NGRS promotes integration of environmental protection measures into socioeconomic development processes while encouraging self-monitoring and reporting of their sustainability performances.

Green Reporting System is a requirement set out under the Mission 09: "Greening the Industries" of Haritha (Green) Lanka Programme launched in 2009. Green reporting is an effective communication tool for transmission of information on the suatinability performances of the organization. It contents co-operate financial performance with environmental, social and governance behavior and provides an excellence approach for organizations to manage their impacts on Sustainable Development.



Picture: Launching ceremony of NGRS Guidelines in June 2011

The Guidelines for the National Green Reporting System in Sri Lanka was launched on 17th June 2011. The NGRS Guideline is available in the website of the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy (www.environmentmin.gov.lk). Presently, over 130 organizations expressed their interest to be associated with the NGRS. The reporting system requires manufacturing and services sector organizations to be accountable to both internal and external stakeholders on their organizational performance in achieving sustainable development and to report their sustainability performance voluntarily to the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy.



The National Green Reporting System of Sri Lanka has been developed based on G3 “Third generation” of the Global Reporting Initiative and NGRS Guidelines were subsequently adopted with necessary changes to localize the system in collaboration with the local stakeholder intuitions.

The Objectives of NGRS

- To facilitate the manufacturing and services sector to measure and report sustainability performance with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects.
- To recognize, appreciate and reward the manufacturing and service sectors based on their sustainability performance, which would also facilitate them to compete with the international and local markets.
- To enhance the capacity of the manufacturing and service sector to address the challenges of economic development within the framework of sustainable development of the country.
- To encourage sustainable business practices in support of Sustainable Development.

The Goal of NGRS is to enhance the capacity of the country to address the economic, social and environmental development challenges within the framework of sustainable development.

Framework of the NGRS:

The NGRS provides a framework for an organization to identify priorities and respond to sustainability challenges. It comprises of fifty (50) indicators encompassing twenty four (24) environmental, twenty (20) social and six (06) economic indicators. There are five (05) reporting Tiers/Levels for entities who are interested to be committed with the NGRS and the industry/company/entity could select one of those for reporting. The manufacturing and services sector organizations are supported to monitor and report their sustainability performance through fifty indicators mentioned above.

Tier 1	Industries accept Green Reporting System in principle by signing a declaration. No reporting requirement and could be in the Tier 1 only for a maximum period of 2 years.
Tier 2	Voluntary Reporting by Industries based on voluntary selection of a minimum of 10 indicators with at least one each from economic, environment and social indicators.
Tier 3	Mandatory Reporting by industries based on voluntary selection of a minimum of 10 indicators with at least one each from economic, environmental and social indicators and need to be measured, verified and assured by an external agency.
Tier 4	Mandatory Reporting by industries based on voluntary selection of a minimum of 20 indicators with at least one each from minimum of twenty indicators at least one from economic, three from environment and one from social indicators and need to be measured, verified and assured by an external agency.
Tier 5	Mandatory Reporting by industries, reporting in accordance with all parameters (50) list in reporting system and need to be measurable and verifiable by an external agency.

The benefits of NGRS:

Reporting on sustainability performance of any organization is an important way for the manufacturing and service sector, the society as well as the government for collaborative decision making towards sustainable development in the long run of the country.

Benefits for the manufacturing and services sector:

- Improving Operational Performance of the Company through cost saving for materials and resources.
- Improving Stakeholder Relationships by demonstrating performance
- Improving Investor Relationships
- Identifying New Markets and Business Opportunities for the Company products
- Improving Public Value of Organization by implementing voluntary practices and Demonstrate to public
- Maximizing Resources Efficiency of the Company and compare organization performance on time.
- Minimizing Environmental Pollution with respect to laws , norms, codes, tolerance limit/ performance states
- Identifying the risks facing on organization help assess the impacts risks can have on companywide performance and process

Benefits for the Society:

- Enhance dialogue between the organization and society helping to win-win solution
- Improve relationship with the community

Benefits for the Government:

- Availability of information and data prudent for decision making
- Integration of environmental aspects into socioeconomic development process
- Ensured environmentally sustained healthy and clean environment

NGRS is to make every effort to develop low carbon economies, and move to national and global economies which are sustainable, equitable and assist in environmental rehabilitation based on our cultural, social and economic knowledge occupation practices. Strengthening the capacity of organizations in manufacturing and services sector to quantify and report on their sustainability performance also the goal of this system.



Pictures: Training Programme on NGRS held for the Government Officers and the NGRS entities

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the implementation of the National Green Reporting System (NGRS) of Sri Lanka in 2012. Implementation of the NGRS provides enormous benefits to the manufacturing and service sector that involved in this system and provides required data and inputs to the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy and other relevant stakeholders to take policy decisions towards achieving the sustainable development in the country. Accordingly, effective directions and decisions were taken at the National Green Reporting Coordinating Committee for taking policy decisions to implement the NGRS successfully. National Green Reporting Coordinating Committee provide positive direction for implementation of NGRS in Sri Lanka efficiency and effectively. This committee compromise with public and private sector organizations for effective implementation of the country.



Pictures: NGRS 1st and 2nd Green Reporters Forum

Further, the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies in Sri Lanka by joining with the Group of Friends of Paragraph 47 is emphasized the outcome “The Future We Want” of the Rio+20 conference held in June, 2012.

National Green Reporting System of Sri Lanka creates a forum for multi-stakeholders that have different mandates in the human development process in order to discuss, debate and develop their own strategies in line with a shared vision and take responsibility to implement these strategies within the framework of sustainable and equitable development. The government should take the lead to make this forum more effective and dynamic, and facilitate the stakeholders to address the challenges and difficulties by improving mutual understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities in order to build the trust among each other.

Effective monitoring and evaluation of the progress of NGRS by a dedicated and dynamic coordinating mechanism will enable the policymakers and implementers to identify the right mix of interventions necessary, from time to time to bring all the industries and services sector gradually at the highest level in this reporting system and even beyond. This in turn will build the capacities of these organizations to face various external economic, social and environmental shocks.

National Green Reporting System requires ‘Promotion of best practices of Sustainable Production and Consumption along the supply chain’. This requires the larger industries to assist small and

medium scale industries (SMEs) to make their processes sustainable. This system provides the holistic picture of the industry or company profile in terms of resources consumption (raw materials, water, and electricity etc.) and production (carbon content, water footprint etc.). Measuring and reporting sustainability performances with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects of the manufacturing and services sector for the continual contribution to sustainable development in the country is the main task of this National Green Reporting System of Sri Lanka. As well as it is a system for recognize, appreciate and reward industries on their sustainability performance in annually. Green Reporters forum 2014 was held to be recognized, appreciated and rewarded industries on their sustainability performance by tier wise under the National Green Reporting System of Sri Lanka and it also a platform to come up with good innovative ideas from company or industries after this deliberation to ensure the sustainable Development in the country.



Pictures: Awards ceremony and Launching of Database and Web portal on NGRS at Green Reporters Forum 2014

For the effective implementation of the NGRS, development and launch of a database and web portal is an importance milestone for the manufacturing & services sector and the all stakeholders to provide transparency and necessary information into the decision making process at Green Reporters Forum 2014 which will be held on 18th December 2014 at Waters Edge. Green Reporters have a good opportunity to access to the database through the web which could be used for entering data and other relevant information in future.

To Join with NGRS:

Manufacturing and Services sector organizations who bear the Environmental Protection License and are voluntarily interested to involve for sustainable development of the country in the National Green Reporting System in Sri Lanka are welcome to be associated with NGRS which is signed a declaration by accepting the system in heart with the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy. All secretariat facility and information on NGRS will be provided by the Sustainable Development Division of the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy.



Deserted sand

**Endless silk sand extend
Dusty dull sand full storms
Off the Casuals sink some deep
Part of the world has gone Desert
Half of the world in fear of it**

**Dessert.... Dessert.... we ate at the end meal
What taste and juicy – what cool and shaky**

**But Desert.... Desert.... we see some around
What ruff and dry and die ...dry
Desert.....oooohoo... oooo....ohoo Iyehooo.....**

**No shelter nor tree - No water nor green
No shrubs nor heal - No sense of feel
Mirage of water can be seen
Full of illusions not all at true
We repent and defend
From deserting the world**

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Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy**