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Environmental Sustainability Practice-Building



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Question: 1

Which deal has set the European Union on track to become the first carbon-neutral continent by 2050?

- A. Sustainability Practices Pack
- B. World Sustainability Deal
- C. European Circular Economy Deal
- D. European Green Deal

Answer: D

Explanation:

The European Green Deal is a comprehensive policy initiative launched by the European Commission in December 2019, with the objective of making the European Union (EU) the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. It serves as the roadmap for transforming the EU's economy and society to become more sustainable by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, decoupling economic growth from resource use, and ensuring a just transition for all citizens. The deal's ambitious goals are aligned with the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise.

Key components of the European Green Deal include:

Climate Action: The EU aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This is considered a significant step toward reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

Clean Energy Transition: The Deal encourages the adoption of renewable energy, improvement in energy efficiency, and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Circular Economy: The European Green Deal promotes the concept of a circular economy, where resources are reused, recycled, and waste is minimized.

Biodiversity Conservation: It also emphasizes the importance of biodiversity, aiming to restore degraded ecosystems, reduce pollution, and enhance the sustainable management of natural resources.

Sustainable Agriculture and Food: Through initiatives like the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU is striving to ensure a more sustainable food system by reducing the environmental and climate impact of agriculture.

The European Green Deal is supported by legislative packages such as the "Fit for 55" proposals, which include laws and regulations that guide EU member states in achieving their climate goals. These laws touch upon sectors like energy, transportation, industry, and agriculture.

Environmental Sustainability References:

European Commission. (2019). The European Green Deal. Retrieved from: <https://ec.europa.eu/greendeal>

European Environment Agency. (2020). The European Green Deal: Success Factors and Challenges.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (2020). The Role of the European Green Deal in Climate Action.

Question: 2

What is a principle of circular economy?

- A. use more natural resources
- B. encourage customers to consume less
- C. discard products and materials after one year
- D. use the latest version of technology

Answer: B

Explanation:

A principle of the circular economy is to encourage customers to consume less by promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable consumption patterns. The circular economy model seeks to minimize the use of raw materials and reduce waste by designing products to last longer, promoting reuse, recycling, and sharing, and encouraging more responsible consumption habits. It opposes the linear economy, where products are made, used, and discarded.

Key principles of the circular economy include:

Design out waste and pollution: Products are designed in a way that they can be reused, repaired, or recycled, thus reducing waste generation.

Keep products and materials in use: This involves extending the life cycle of products by encouraging repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling.

Regenerate natural systems: The circular economy aims to create positive environmental benefits, such as restoring biodiversity and reducing pollution through better resource management.

By encouraging consumers to use fewer resources, adopt durable products, and consider repair and recycling options, the circular economy promotes a sustainable future. This practice is essential to reduce the environmental impact associated with resource extraction and waste generation.

Environmental Sustainability References:

Ellen MacArthur Foundation. (2017). What is the Circular Economy?

European Commission. (2020). A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2019). Circular Economy for Sustainable Development.

Question: 3

What are two ways partners and customers can reduce their environmental footprint? (Choose two.)

- A. use plastic water bottles and plastic bags more often
- B. store old equipment and take it to the landfill once a reasonable amount has been collected
- C. set sustainability goals and post them on the organization's website
- D. consider an internal training on a linear economy
- E. move to a hybrid work environment using Cisco Webex

Answer: C, E

Explanation:

Partners and customers can reduce their environmental footprint by adopting the following two methods:

Set sustainability goals and post them on the organization's website (C): Establishing clear sustainability goals allows organizations to align their operations with environmental objectives, such as reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy efficiency, or minimizing waste. Publicly posting these goals on the website increases transparency and accountability, encouraging stakeholders to track progress. Setting measurable targets ensures that companies are actively working towards reducing their ecological footprint and contributing to global sustainability efforts.

Move to a hybrid work environment using Cisco Webex (E): Transitioning to a hybrid work environment, which combines remote and in-office work, can significantly reduce an organization's carbon footprint by minimizing employee commuting and office energy consumption. Tools like Cisco Webex facilitate virtual collaboration, enabling organizations to maintain productivity while reducing the need for travel, thereby cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions and supporting a more sustainable work model.

Environmental Sustainability References:

Cisco. (2021). Cisco Webex and Hybrid Work: Reducing Your Carbon Footprint with Collaboration Technology.

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). (2020). Setting Corporate Sustainability Goals.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). (2021). The Role of Hybrid Work in Sustainable Development.

Question: 4

Which percentage of a commercial building's energy costs are lighting and HVAC responsible for, according to the US Department of Energy?

- A. 139%
- B. 50%
- C. 57%
- D. 75%

Answer: C

Explanation:

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, lighting and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems are responsible for approximately 57% of a commercial building's total energy costs. These two systems are the primary energy consumers in commercial buildings due to their continuous operation in maintaining comfort and lighting in large spaces. HVAC systems, in particular, consume substantial energy for heating, cooling, and air distribution, while lighting systems are significant because of the large number of fixtures and extensive operating hours.

Energy efficiency measures, such as switching to LED lighting, implementing occupancy-based controls, and upgrading HVAC systems to more energy-efficient models, are common strategies to reduce energy consumption and lower operating costs in commercial buildings.

Environmental Sustainability References:

U.S. Department of Energy. (2021). Energy Efficiency Trends in Commercial Buildings.

Energy Star. (2020). Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey.

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). (2020). Reducing Energy Use in Commercial Buildings.

Question: 5

Which type of leader collaborates across the organization on technology needs and advises business leaders on technical solutions?

- A. IT Leader
- B. Sustainability Leader
- C. Business Leader
- D. Procurement Leader

Answer: A

Explanation:

An IT Leader is the type of leader who collaborates across the organization on technology needs and advises business leaders on technical solutions. IT leaders play a critical role in managing the organization's technology infrastructure, ensuring that it supports business goals while also driving digital transformation. They work closely with various departments to understand their technology requirements and recommend solutions that improve operational efficiency, enhance security, and support sustainability initiatives, such as reducing the company's carbon footprint by adopting energyefficient technologies or implementing smart building systems.

Environmental Sustainability References:

Gartner. (2021). IT Leadership in the Age of Digital Transformation.

Cisco. (2022). The Role of IT in Sustainability and Digital Transformation.

McKinsey & Company. (2021). The Evolving Role of IT Leaders in Sustainable Business Strategies.

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