We help our clients bring sustainability risks and opportunities into the mainstream of their business strategy and reassure their key stakeholders that they are addressing the right environmental, social and governance topics that could impact their business.

Get more value from your materiality assessment

Materiality assessments should inform more than your sustainability report. Done well, materiality plays a critical role in risk mitigation and provides an effective and rigorous methodology to identify and assess the potential impacts of emerging issues on your business. Materiality helps you:

- Integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities into the commercial strategy
- Respond to interest and pressure from stakeholders, including customers and investors.
- Meet demand for greater transparency on material ESG risks.
- Maximize return on investment by focusing on the most strategic and impactful issues, including those that mitigate risk, reduce cost, improve market differentiation and enhance brand value.
- Meet the requirements of standards and indices, including GRI, SASB, CDP and DJSI, and make a meaningful connection between your priorities and the global agenda of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Anthesis approach

We have carried out materiality assessments for over 40 organizations worldwide, from some of the world’s largest corporations to companies taking their first steps in sustainability. Our approach has four key features:

Tailored to your needs

Every organization faces different pressures and opportunities. We develop an evidence base, method and engagement process tailored to your needs and the decisions you want to inform.

Balancing opinion with evidence

While soliciting opinions of your key stakeholders is critical, we find ways to bring a measure of objectivity – whether that is through footprinting data, risk assessment results or other evidence-based research - to your exercise to ensure you are focusing in on what matters most.

Using the power of data visualization

We use interactive dashboards to enable easy and effective analysis of materiality survey outcomes with our clients, who in turn use these dashboards to present outcomes to their leadership teams in a professional and engaging way.

Aligning with existing processes

We collaborate with your enterprise risk and strategic planning teams to align with their processes, to identify opportunities, and to ensure sustainability risk makes it into the company’s mainstream management process.
Visualizing materiality assessments with interactive dashboards

Figure 1: Interactive dashboards help stakeholders and colleagues engage in the evidence and results of materiality assessment. The dashboards allows clients to filter results by region, business unit, stakeholder group, topic type, or any other number of factors.
The drivers for materiality assessments are growing.

Do you understand changing stakeholder expectations of how you identify, assess, manage and report on the increasingly significant ESG risks facing your business?

Do you know what ESG risks your company should be managing and mitigating in the short and medium term? And does your Leadership Team / Board share this understanding?

Can you point to examples where you’ve used the outcomes of a materiality assessment to inform a strategic initiative within your business?

A typical assessment process

There is no single prescribed approach to materiality assessment. Some companies devote significant resources engaging hundreds of stakeholders and commissioning new research. Others simply review existing research in a desk-based assessment. Your process should balance meeting the expectations of stakeholders with your organisation’s priorities and will probably include some or all of the below steps.

About Anthesis

Anthesis is the sustainability activator. We seek to make a significant contribution to a world which is more resilient and productive. We do this by working with cities, companies, and other organisations to drive sustainable performance. We develop financially driven sustainability strategies, underpinned by technical expertise and delivered by innovative collaborative teams across the world.

The company brings together 500 experts operating in 40 countries around the world and has offices in Andorra, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Middle East, the Philippines, Spain, Sweden, the UK, and the US.

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<tr>
<th>Prior Planning</th>
<th>Data &amp; Research</th>
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<th>Analysis &amp; Validation</th>
<th>Reporting &amp; Integration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Confirm the approach, timeline and deliverables</td>
<td>Review your prior materiality assessments</td>
<td>Design the survey and interview guides</td>
<td>Create interactive dashboards to analyze and present the results</td>
<td>Summarize the assessments approach and outcome for reporting</td>
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<td>Agree to the evidence to generate or review - research, surveys, etc.</td>
<td>Refine and validate a list of relevant topics through peer review, sector standards, etc.</td>
<td>Conduct interviews or focus groups with key stakeholders</td>
<td>Apply thresholds to determines risks and opportunities</td>
<td>Provide guidance on how it should inform financial and ESG reporting</td>
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<td>Discuss ERM criteria, sustainability guidelines, standards and indices</td>
<td>Conduct a science-based review of evidence</td>
<td>Administer an online survey for other stakeholders</td>
<td>Map priority topics areas to UN SDGs</td>
<td>Support implementation of practises to close key gaps</td>
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