



Supply Chain Solutions for the Technology Sector

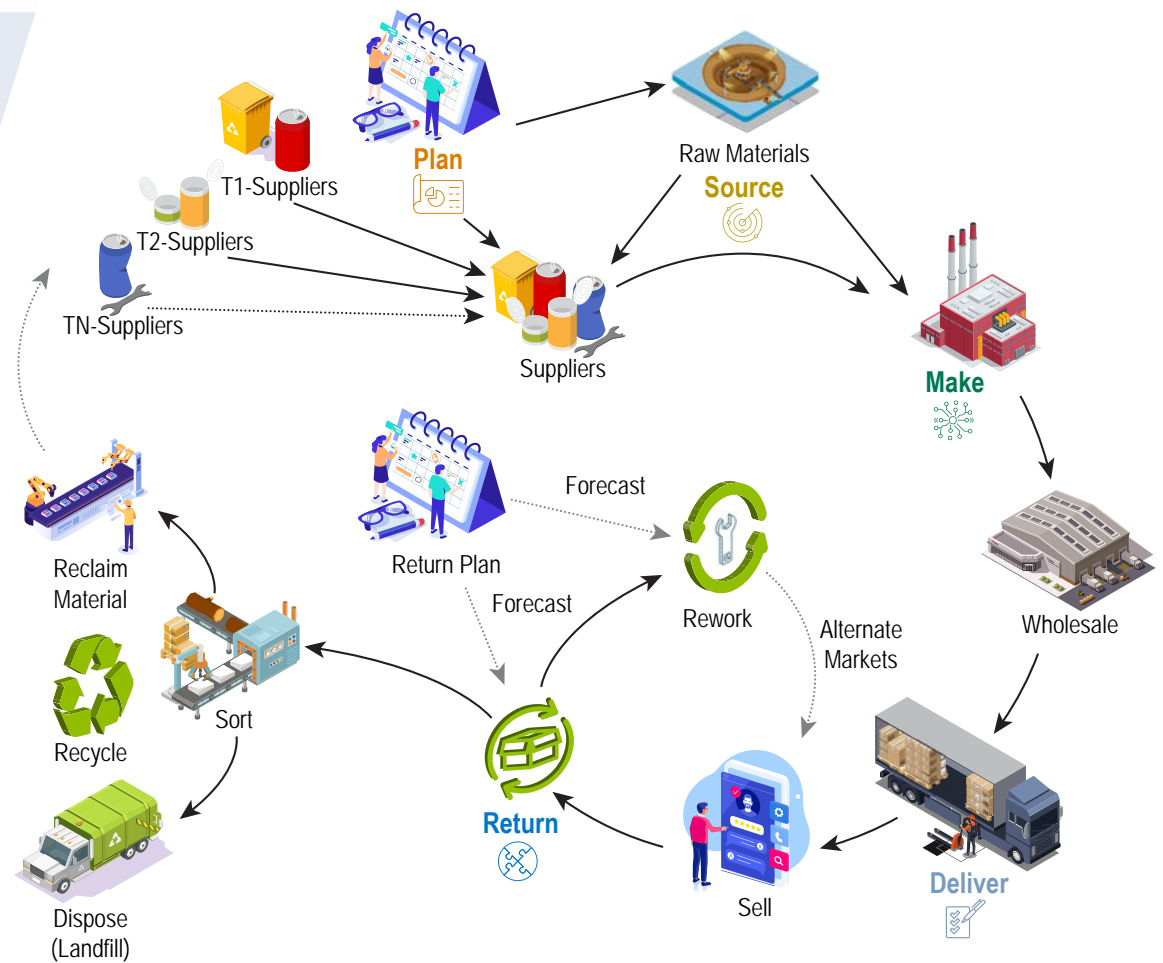
Product globalization

With the changes in the world, businesses are reimagining their supply chains. The speed to innovation and delivery into global markets is moving faster, and products are in a compressed lifecycle due to increased consumer demands.



Identifying and mitigating risks and creating value

Without a robust supply chain management program, your business can be exposed to financial, environmental, regulatory, and reputational risks. Developing a sustainable supply chain design with the end in mind will give your business a competitive advantage and allow you to stay ahead of environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) and corporate and social responsibility (CSR) requirements from stakeholders.



Making sustainability count

A leading supply chain management program includes a strategy for improving or providing assurance on supplier performance, risk management, program planning and resource allocation, supplier selection, and cost control.

How ERM can help

ERM has worked with many of the Global Fortune 100 companies delivering innovative solutions to help them understand and manage the sustainability challenges that the world is increasingly facing. ERM offers a wide range of services to help you through every stage of the supply chain lifecycle:



Supply Chain Lifecycle Services

- Chemicals Management
- Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS)
- Full Material Disclosure (FMD)
- Lifecycle Assessments (LCA)
- Management Systems and Compliance
- Regulatory Compliance and Auditing
- Scope 3 Assessments
- Social Performance
- Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
- Strategy Development
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Sustainable Procurement Programs
- Waste Compliance and Management

Through each phase of the supply chain, ERM can provide:



Plan

- Materials Selection and Toxicology
- Supplier Management



Source

- Responsible Sourcing
- Social and Human Rights Impact Assessment
- Supplier Assessment and Audit Programs



Make

- Asset Management Strategies
- EcoDesign Support
- Green Chemistry
- Product Labeling
- Product Safety



Deliver

- Carbon Offset Scoring/Neutral
- Safety Data Sheets
- Product Labeling
- Shipping Requirements



Return

- End of Life Program Development
- Extended Producer Responsibility Management
- Recycling Program
- Vendor Auditing

Project examples

At ERM, sustainability is our business. As the largest global pure play sustainability consultancy, we partner with the world's leading organizations, creating innovative solutions to sustainability challenges and unlocking commercial opportunities that meet the needs of today while preserving opportunity for future generations.



Supply Chain Lifecycle Services

Achieving Material Transparency in the Supply Chain

Summary: ERM has been supporting a major technology company's drive to use safer materials across their product line. By working closely with the client's suppliers in multiple geographies to build capacity, review declarations, and drive performance, ERM has helped the client obtain accurate and high-quality full material disclosures for their most complex electronic components. Given the complexities of their supply chain, the client requested ERM to support the data collection process and help evaluate the quality, completeness, and accuracy of supplier disclosures. ERM's team has helped drive achievement of the client's disclosure targets through improving supplier onboarding and tool utilization, mitigating supply chain risk, and reducing data collection time.

Benefits: ERM's efforts enable the client's toxicologists to conduct comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, ensuring the safety of the products for manufacturers, customers, and recyclers alike. This unique and ambitious program has ultimately enabled the client to ensure that manufacturing workers, customers, and recyclers can use and handle their products safely.



Supply Chain Lifecycle Services

Creating a Sustainable Supply Chain

Summary: ERM in India conducted training on sustainable supply chain management for leading Indian corporations. A team of ERM subject matter experts developed customized training content and used accelerated learning methodologies to deliver the workshops. The training modules encompassed the key components of the sustainable supply chain process: Review internal process and support in place and assign responsibilities to lead; Map the supply chain and identify highest risk areas; Establish sustainability criteria for selection, evaluation, and monitoring, applying relevant industry standards; Evaluate suppliers and engage to influence improvements; integrate results of evaluation into sourcing decisions using balanced scorecard and alignment of internal buying incentives; and ongoing monitoring, engaging, rewarding, reporting, and working responsibly toward sector-wide change.

Benefits: ERM's training series helped sensitize multi-disciplinary stakeholders on the business-critical aspects of integrating sustainability within the supply chain processes.



Plan

Collaborative Planning for Materials Extraction

Summary: Piedmont Lithium Limited is focused on developing its 100%-owned Piedmont Lithium Project in the historic Tin-Spodumene Belt in the King's Mountain district of North Carolina. ERM was contracted to deliver a mining study as part of a Preliminary Economic Assessment for a spodumene mine and concentrator with a target production of approximately 160,000–180,000 tonnes of 6% Li₂O concentrate per annum. The initial scope of work included a trade-off study between mining within or outside drainage channels, pit optimizations, production schedule, capital and operating cost estimates, simple pit design, evaluation of potential waste rock dump locations, and a cut-off grade estimate. ERM and Piedmont Lithium have worked collaboratively since 2015 to advance the development of the Piedmont Lithium Project from the concept stage to further development stages.

Benefits: ERM's work provided timely and accurate data entry to safeguard exploration planning, and strategies were monitored and adapted as new data became available. ERM helped to develop a database in accordance with industry best standards that was instrumental in delivering a maiden mineral resource, and has maintained the database on behalf of the client since 2018.



Source

Reducing Risk through Responsible Sourcing

Summary: ERM worked with a confidential mining client to help develop a responsible sourcing program that aims to embed the recommendations of the OECD's "Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas." As part of the program's development, ERM gathered relevant data and contextual information relating to supplier operations. We liaised with the client's suppliers to enhance their understanding of the client's expectations and developed a risk dashboard that helped identify higher-risk suppliers. High-risk suppliers are subject to a high-level comprehensive evaluation, which assesses their management of EHS issues; human rights and labor practices; community engagement; transportation and security concerns; and exposure to transportation, security, bribery, and anti-money laundering risks.

Benefits: ERM supported the client in piloting the program at a number of high-risk suppliers in Africa in 2017. Based on the pilot results, the program has been refined and expanded to other suppliers, commodities, and regions.



Make

Regulatory Compliance in Manufacturing

Summary: The technology client faced many new and emerging hazardous material regulations in the European Union and China, coupled with changing customer requirements. They needed ERM's expertise to work with their supply companies to comply with global regulations, the client's corporate standards, and customer requirements; and confirm their compliance through submittal of accurate material declaration data.

Benefits: ERM supports collection of data in support of Full Material Disclosure (FMD), as well as conflict mineral support to remove conflict minerals from the supply chain. ERM provides training and support to the client's full network of over 200 suppliers to confirm that they know and understand the client's requirements and have the resources to create compatible material declarations. The client relies on this partnership so they can focus on other aspects of their business and sees ERM as an integral part of their compliance program and a trusted partner.

40+
countries &
territories

5500+
employees

Served 50%
of Global Fortune 500
in past 3 years

50
year history

160+
offices

20,000+
projects
each year



Deliver

Transparent Labeling for Order Fulfillment

Summary: An online retailer selected ERM to support its efforts to enable sustainable shopping through a consumer-facing product eco-labeling program. The client had recently launched a program in which products were designated sustainable on its website if the products held one of a select set of environmental certifications. ERM was tasked with creating educational content for third-party brands and the company's own brands. ERM created a series of informational documents across ten product categories that included clear and simple, yet impactful, suggestions for enhancing product sustainability, engaging suppliers and contractors on sustainability, and pursuing product-level certifications. The content focused on the environmental and social issues most material for a given product type and was crafted such that audiences with a range of sustainability expertise (from expert to novice) could understand and leverage the information.

Benefits: As a result of the program, the client has materials that will guide more sustainable product design and grow the number of products available to consumers that have sustainable attributes and certifications, the ultimate goal being to increase purchases of more sustainable products and decrease the overall environmental impact of consumption.



Return

E-Waste Audit Recycling and Remediation

Summary: ERM was selected by a global technology company to implement a global audit program of 100+ e-waste recyclers in 23 countries. ERM developed a standardized global audit protocol and reporting framework, deployed 40 trained auditors globally, and implemented a corrective action program for timely follow-up and resolution of identified issues.

Benefits: As a result of the program, audit reporting time has been reduced by 30%, freeing up the client to focus on other strategic initiatives, and corrective actions are being closed at a consistent rate. Through reliable and consistent on-time service and delivery, the client is able to better inform business stakeholders making key decisions about recycling partners as they work to establish a circular economy framework.

Contact: Alison Drury, Senior Partner  

Ed Struzik, Partner  

www.erm.com

