

Introducing the Inaugural AIChE Sustainability Index

In the June 2007 issue of *CEP*, the Institute for Sustainability (IFS) published an article (pp. 38–42) introducing the AIChE Sustainability Index (SI), which assesses the sustainability of the chemical industry along factors specific to the industry. Here, IFS launches the inaugural analysis, which includes eleven chemical companies representing a diverse range of markets and products*.

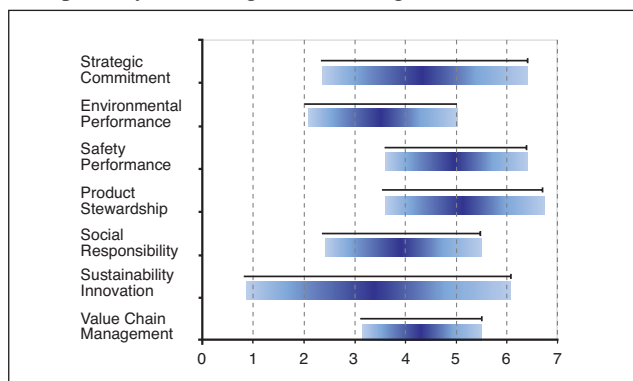
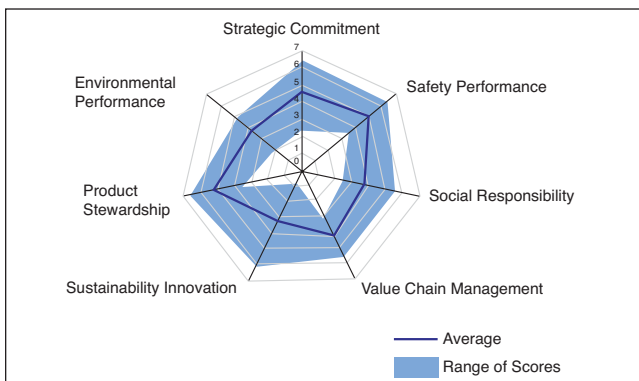
Ranges of scores from the analysis are shown both on a “spider web” (left) and on a bar chart. The maximum score of seven represents ideal best practice. Average for all companies reviewed (shown in dark blue) provide a starting benchmark for comparison, while the ranges indicate that significant variability exists in the perceived performance of the companies.

The variability is especially significant in strategic commitment and sustainability innovation. Larger companies and those with brands well known to consumers tend to receive

greater stakeholder pressure and hence committed themselves to broad and aggressive sustainability performance targets, which are also reflected in the breadth and depth of their public sustainability reports. Sustainability has also become an important innovation driver for companies engaged in specialty materials, industrial gases and nutrition.

Additional details and insights from AIChE SI will be presented in future issues of *CEP*. Topics to be covered include: comparing companies with annual revenues above and below \$10 billion; examining several chemical sub-sectors; and reviewing, in detail, the factor, strategic commitment to sustainability.

The AIChE SI provides practical benchmarks along a number of well-defined metrics. Individual companies can subscribe to the indexing service to learn how they compare their peers by contacting ifs@aiche.org.



*The following companies are included: Air Products, Akzo Nobel, Ashland, BASF, Celanese, Dow, DuPont, Eastman, Lyondell, Praxair, and Rohm&Haas.

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