What is sustainable production?

Sustainable Production is the creation of goods and services using processes and systems that are:

- Non-polluting
- Conserving of energy and natural resources
- Economically viable
- Safe and healthful for workers, communities, and consumers
- Socially and creatively rewarding for all working people.

If production is sustainable, then the environment, employees, communities, and organizations—all benefit. These conditions can lead, always in the long term, and often in the short term, to more economically viable and productive enterprises.

10 Principles of Sustainable Production:

- Products and packaging are designed to be safe and ecologically sound throughout their life cycle.
- Services are organized to satisfy real human needs and promote equity and fairness.
- Wastes and ecologically incompatible byproducts are reduced, eliminated or recycled.
- Chemical substances or physical agents and conditions that present hazards to human health or the environment are eliminated.
- Energy and materials are conserved, and the forms of energy and materials used are most appropriate for the desired ends.
- Work places and technologies are designed to minimize or eliminate chemical, ergonomic and physical hazards.
- Work is organized to conserve and enhance the efficiency and creativity of employees.
- The security and well-being of all employees is a priority, as is the continuous development of their talents and capacities.
- The communities around workplaces are respected and enhanced economically, socially, culturally and physically.
- The long-term economic viability of the enterprise or institution is enhanced.

An Investment in Long-Term Growth

The conceptual spark of Sustainable Production lies in valuing longer term consequences and benefits over short term profits. By investing in well-designed safer products, resource efficient technologies and processes, and trained employees, organizations could thrive. With
today’s public rally behind fighting global warming and greening cities and towns, the benefits of sustainable production are even more apparent.