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# Ultimate Business Sustainability & Stewardship Checklist

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## 1. Land & Site Stewardship

- Preserve existing green space and natural features — **build up, not out**
- Create **native habitat zones**: wildflower patches, pollinator gardens, prairie areas, urban forest pockets
- Use landscaping to **manage stormwater naturally** (rain gardens, bioswales)
- Reduce impervious surfaces; consider **permeable paving** or green roofs

## 2. Water & Resource Management

- Install **rainwater catchment systems** for irrigation
- Use **gray water recycling** where feasible
- Build **efficient irrigation systems** and select drought-tolerant plants
- Compost organic waste to enrich soil and reduce water needs

## 3. Passive Energy & Building Design

- Incorporate **passive heating and cooling**: proper orientation, shading, ventilation, thermal mass
- Use **natural daylighting** to reduce electric lighting needs
- Design for **natural airflow** and insulation to reduce energy use
- Combine passive systems with renewable energy (solar, small wind, etc.) for maximum efficiency

## 4. Green Construction & Materials

- Choose **eco-friendly, recycled, or low-carbon materials** for construction and renovations
- Incorporate **on-site food production**: gardens, greenhouses, rooftop farms
- Consider modular or adaptable designs that **reduce future waste**

## 5. Energy & Waste Efficiency

- Upgrade to **LED lighting, energy-efficient appliances, and smart thermostats**
- Explore renewable energy sources: solar, wind, geothermal
- Reduce single-use plastics, compost organic waste, repair/reuse materials
- Track energy and waste metrics to **measure impact and savings**

## 6. Sourcing, Hiring & Local Economy

- Buy from **local suppliers and artisans**
- Hire locally to **strengthen community resilience**
- Grow or produce key inputs on-site where feasible

## 7. Community Engagement & Leadership

- Organize volunteer or stewardship days — tree planting, habitat restoration, litter removal
- Offer **educational workshops** for employees, customers, and the public
- Empower employees to **lead green initiatives**

## 8. Share, Celebrate & Inspire

- Showcase your efforts — website, social media, in-store displays
- Invite community participation in projects
- Track and report measurable results — energy saved, water captured, habitat created

## 9. Partner for Maximum Impact

- Collaborate with **Rooted Futures Foundation** to access native planting programs, habitat creation initiatives, and community volunteer opportunities

 **Pro Tip:** Investments in passive energy, rainwater capture, gray water reuse, native landscaping, and energy upgrades **may cost more upfront but pay for themselves over time** — in savings, reduced maintenance, and community goodwill.