

Abstracts

**Environmental Best Practices In the Manufacturing Industry in Lebanon
and Their Contribution to Sustainability**

Toufic Mezher and Mazen Namani

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
Engineering Management Program
850 Third Avenue
18th Floor
New York, NY 10022
E-MAIL: MEZHER@AUB.EDU.LB

ABSTRACT

A large proportion of environmental damage such as air and water pollution, ozone depletion and global warming has been linked with industrial development and its related activities. Some firms are taking the lead in adopting environmentally friendly practices into their policies and processes, rather than wait for government regulation and restrictions to force such practices on them. These "best practices", which contribute to sustainability, are examples of proven cost-effective technologies and techniques that have improved environmental performance. By studying the best practices of other organizations, a company can not only accelerate its own progress, but also spare the environment more of the same damage. A questionnaire was presented during an interview with executives at various firms. These were chosen based on recent performance and reputation in environmental protection. The interviews and questionnaires provided an accurate picture of the manufacturing inputs, processes, and outputs. In addition, they defined the environmental management practices and beliefs of the firms, illustrated the transition to best practices in each firm, stating agents of success, methods used, linkages with other sectors, obstacles encountered, and lessons learned. Finally, the paper proposes a framework for other firms to benefit from the collected best practices. This can be done by building a knowledge base system, which is accessible through Internet, of all the knowledge gained from the case studies.