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Environmental Sustainability Practice Building (ESPB)

Cisco 700-245

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QUESTION NO: 1

A partner is developing a sustainability offering that must create customer value while remaining viable as an ongoing business practice. Which two characteristics should the offering demonstrate? (Choose two.)

- A. It supports responsible environmental or social outcomes
- B. It is economically viable over time
- C. It relies on increased use of virgin materials
- D. It directs retired equipment to uncontrolled disposal channels
- E. It avoids measuring operational results to reduce administrative effort

ANSWER: A B

Explanation:

Sustainable business practices balance environmental and social considerations with durable economic value. An offering that improves resource efficiency and can be delivered, supported, and maintained over time is more likely to produce meaningful outcomes. An initiative that depends on unmanaged disposal or that cannot be sustained financially does not meet this balanced approach.

QUESTION NO: 2

A Sustainability Leader is preparing an internal plan to improve the organization's environmental performance. Which two activities are necessary to make the plan credible to business stakeholders? (Choose two.)

- A. Set measurable goals with defined ownership and timeframes
- B. Track and communicate progress using consistent metrics
- C. Use broad claims without identifying performance measures
- D. Limit sustainability decisions to the marketing function
- E. Avoid involving IT, procurement, and facilities stakeholders

ANSWER: A B

Explanation:

Credible sustainability planning requires measurable objectives and transparent progress tracking. The Sustainability Leader should work across the organization to establish relevant goals, metrics, accountability, and reporting. Treating sustainability as a marketing-only activity or excluding operational stakeholders weakens implementation and makes progress difficult to verify.

QUESTION NO: 3

What is a principle of circular economy?

- A. use more natural resources
- B. encourage customers to consume less
- C. discard products and materials after one year
- D. use the latest version of technology

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

encourage customers to consume less is correct because a circular economy seeks to reduce the total resource inputs and waste associated with meeting customer needs. It shifts economic activity away from a linear take-make-dispose model by supporting more efficient use of products and materials throughout their useful life. In practice, this includes choosing durable goods, using products for longer, maintaining and repairing them where appropriate, and enabling reuse, sharing, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling. These behaviors reduce demand for virgin raw materials and help avoid waste and pollution.

Consumption reduction in this context does not simply mean eliminating all consumption. Rather, it means consuming resources more thoughtfully and obtaining value with fewer new materials, less energy, and less discarded product. This directly supports the circular-economy goals of eliminating waste and pollution, circulating products and materials at their highest value, and regenerating nature. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation describes these core principles and explains how circular systems keep materials in use while reducing environmental pressure. Cisco's sustainability approach likewise emphasizes resource efficiency and circular practices as part of reducing environmental impact across technology lifecycles.

References: [Ellen MacArthur Foundation: Circular economy introduction](#); [Cisco: Environmental sustainability](#).

QUESTION NO: 4

Which three factors are driving the trend of Smart building growth in the coming years? (Choose three.)

- A. security concerns
- B. customer demands
- C. lack of bank funding for traditional buildings
- D. government-sponsored smart infrastructure projects
- E. pressure from the labor force
- F. increases in energy costs and consumption

ANSWER: B D F

Explanation:

Smart-building adoption is being accelerated by customer demands, government-sponsored smart infrastructure projects, and increases in energy costs and consumption. Customers increasingly expect workplaces and facilities to be efficient, comfortable, healthy, digitally connected, and responsive to occupants' needs. Connected building systems provide the data and automation needed to improve occupant experiences while supporting more efficient day-to-day operations.

Government-sponsored smart infrastructure projects also stimulate deployment by incorporating digital connectivity, energy management, and sustainability objectives into public-sector and urban-development investments. These initiatives can establish the infrastructure and policy environment that enables connected buildings to contribute to broader smart-city outcomes.

Increases in energy costs and consumption create a direct financial and environmental incentive to measure, manage, and optimize building energy use. Smart-building platforms integrate operational technology, sensors, networks, and analytics so that facilities teams can identify inefficiencies and automate controls. Cisco identifies smart buildings as a key component of connected communities and describes how secure connectivity and data can improve operational efficiency. The International Energy Agency likewise emphasizes that digital technologies can support more efficient energy use in buildings. See [Cisco Smart Connected Communities](#) and [IEA: Digitalisation and Energy](#).

QUESTION NO: 5

By which year does Cisco plan to achieve net zero for our global Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which covers its direct operations?

- A. 2025
- B. 2030
- C. 2035
- D. 2040

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

2030 is correct because Cisco's operational climate target is to reach net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions for global Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2030. Scope 1 covers emissions from sources Cisco owns or controls, such as fuel used in facilities or company-operated equipment. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions associated with purchased electricity, heating, cooling, or steam used in Cisco's operations. This target therefore addresses the emissions most directly connected to running Cisco offices, labs, data-center-related facilities, and other global operations.

Cisco's approach includes reducing energy demand through efficiency measures, increasing use of renewable electricity, and addressing the limited remaining operational emissions with appropriate measures consistent with its net-zero strategy. The 2030 operational target is also an important near-term milestone within Cisco's broader climate ambition, which extends to value-chain emissions and a longer-term net-zero objective across its full emissions footprint. Cisco distinguishes this operational Scope 1 and 2 milestone from its wider all-scopes goal, so the year sought specifically for global direct operations and purchased-energy emissions is 2030.

See Cisco's [Environmental Sustainability](#) page and its [ESG Hub](#) for its climate strategy and emissions targets.

QUESTION NO: 6

What is a benefit for partners to operate a more sustainable practice?

- A. allows competitors opportunities to participate in the customers' sustainability practices
- B. increases sales to customers because they will need to replace their equipment more often
- C. higher taxes to help the environment
- D. helps keep technology gear off the grey market

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

helps keep technology gear off the grey market is the correct benefit. A sustainable partner practice includes responsible lifecycle management: collecting returned equipment, securely handling it, and directing it to authorized reuse, refurbishment, resale, or recycling channels. This approach preserves the useful value of equipment while maintaining traceability and ensuring that assets are handled through approved processes. Keeping products in controlled channels is especially important for technology gear because organizations need confidence that equipment has been processed responsibly and that any associated data-bearing components receive appropriate treatment. It also supports circular-economy goals by extending product life where feasible and recovering materials when reuse is no longer appropriate.

Cisco describes its environmental sustainability approach as incorporating circular-economy principles, including product return, reuse, and recycling. Its takeback and reuse programs provide a practical route for customers and partners to return eligible equipment for responsible processing rather than allowing retired gear to move through uncontrolled channels. For partners, building these practices into their operations can therefore create a clear sustainability benefit while supporting trusted equipment-lifecycle outcomes. See Cisco's [Environmental Sustainability](#) overview and its [Product Recycling](#) program information.