

Center for Sustainable Business

# ROSI: How to Ensure Sustainability Initiatives Drive Enterprise-Wide Value Creation

Tensie Whelan, Distinguished
Professor of Practice, Founding
Director, NYU Stern Center for
Sustainable Business



# The Opportunity (s)

## Sustainability is Good Management

- Manages operational, market, regulatory, reputational risk
- Creates innovation and growth opportunities
- Identifies operational inefficiencies
- Creates sales and marketing and customer loyalty benefits
- Improves supplier relations and resiliency
- Supports stakeholder relations and license to operate benefits
- Creates employee productivity and retention benefits

# For Example: Decarbonization Value Creation

#### Drives:

- energy costs savings
- avoidance of energy pricing volatility
- avoidance of carbon fees
- avoidance of regulatory and market risk
- potential increased market share/premiums/customer loyalty
- more resilient supply chain partners
- lower cost of capital

# Cardinal Health<sup>™</sup> Reduced GHG Emissions by Optimizing **Pharmaceutical Delivery Schedules**

Cardinal Health<sup>TM</sup> collaborated with NYU Stern CSB to find operational efficiency and emissions reduction benefits through early optimization of their pharmaceutical delivery schedules

#### **Financial Value Creation**

Optimizing the number of last mile deliveries can yield \$254K in average annual savings by way of decreased fuel costs, operational efficiency, and reduced emissions

#### **Additional Benefits**

- GHG emissions reduction
- Improved operational efficiency



# EILEEN FISHER Finds Financial Cost Savings by Shifting Away from Air Transportation



NYU Stern CSB collaborated with Eileen Fisher to monetize shifting its transportation mix away from air and towards sea and trucking transports resulting in financial cost savings and societal benefit





#### Transportation Cost Savings

In 2019, the company spent ~\$1.6 million less in transportation costs than in 2015

#### Societal Benefit

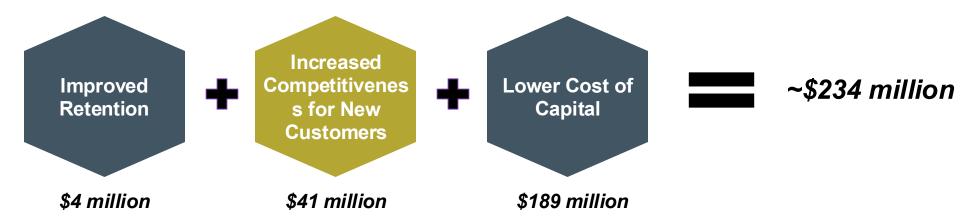
From 2015 to 2019, the company achieved a cumulative societal benefit of ~\$150,000\* due to the reduction in its GHG emissions

\*Note: Using \$50 per MT CO<sub>2</sub>e as the social cost of carbon

# Capital Power's Pursuit of Early Decarbonization

- Capital Power, a Canadian electricity generator with annual revenues of ~\$1bn, evaluated the business case for an early exit from coal-generated electricity and into renewable energy (primarily wind & solar)
- Upon applying the ROSI framework, 3 primary benefits were identified:
  - Improved retention and lower turnover due to sustainability commitments
  - Increased competitiveness for new customers interested in renewable energy
  - Lower cost of capital for sustainability initiatives





The cumulative net benefits from 2021-2030 are equivalent to ~\$234 million

# **Energy Efficiency at Utility Company Creates Intangible Financial Benefits** (Utility Does Not Pay for Energy)

- A utility company evaluated the business case for investments in energy efficiency projects at several facilities
- Upon applying the ROSI framework, four benefits from these investments were identified.
- On an annual basis, the total net benefit is ~\$2.1 million; the cumulative NPV benefit over 10 years is \$12.8 million



Employee Relations

Stakeholder Engagement

Customer & societal benefits

Reduced utility & operational costs and financing costs Greatest value achieved from increases in employee productivity

**\$2.06** *million* 



# For Example: Circularity

#### Drives:

- operational efficiency (reduced input and waste disposal costs)
- new product sales, increased market share, premiums, loyalty
- reduced supply chain risk through closing the loop
- reduced exposure to tariffs
- ability to make sustainability claims
- earned media benefits

# Advocate Health Boosted Operational Efficiency by Using Reprocessed Devices

Advocate Health Care collaborated with NYU Stern CSB to find operational efficiency and risk management by utilizing reprocessed medical devices

#### **Financial Value Creation**

- 10-year Net Present Value assessed at \$20.3M
  - Total present value of benefits were \$20.8M with program costs of \$0.5M
  - Average annual benefit of \$3.5M

#### **Additional Benefits**

- GHG emissions reduction
- Waste reduction
- Improved operational efficiency



# **Benefits of Circularity In Automotive**

# Incorporating benefits of sustainability strategies into decisionmaking requires a systems thinking approach

AUTOMOBILE

MATERIALS

OW PERSON

SHREDDER

### Examples of Practices

 Recovering & recycling materials from end of life (EOL) vehicles - to maximize the benefit reusable material needs to be incorporated in the car design

REUSABLE

REUSABLE

#### Results

- 2.5% of treated EOL material was recovered and reused and 10% was sold to recyclers in Europe
- Savings achieved from reduced virgin materials, process savings and lower disposal costs and in incremental revenues generated from sales

**Total EBIT savings of \$100 million**