

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Major Sustainability Milestones

In this chapter, we explored the origins of sustainability as a concept, from its philosophical underpinnings to the rise of international organisations dedicated to improving our social, economic, and environmental conditions.

1. Modern sustainability has its roots in philosophical thinking that explores the relationship between people and nature. This thinking has evolved over time and in different parts of the world, and shapes sustainability discussions today.
2. The 20th century saw sustainability enter global discussions, with the creation of sustainability-oriented laws, literature, and entire multilateral institutions – all of which are predicated on a deeper understanding of humanity’s impact on the natural world.
3. The 21st century has seen the push for sustainable development accelerate. From reporting initiatives to the Sustainable Development Goals and a multitude of “green” products and services, the public, private, and civil society sectors are attempting to address the sustainability challenge.