

20 Years of Performance Measurement in Sustainable Supply Chain Management – What has been achieved?

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Abstract

Purpose

This paper systematically reviews the academic literature on sustainability performance measurement for sustainable supply chain management published over the past 20 years, revealing the developments and current state of instruments, concepts and systems to measure and manage such performance.

Design/Method/Approach

A systematic literature review spanning two decades of publications in peer-reviewed academic journals. The resulting 149 papers were evaluated according to a frequency analysis, bibliometrical evaluation and a qualitative discussion.

Findings

The research shows the development of the field over 20 years, which has witnessed a steep rise in related publications only in the last five years, indicating a surprisingly late interest in the topic. Social performance measures also entered the discussion very late whereas in previous years economic and environmental measurement dominated the field almost exclusively.

Practical Implications

The findings underline the importance of performance measurement, and it reveals measurement and management tools according to their development over time.

Scientific Implications

We identify research gaps and discuss future directions for research. The analysis shows how the research area develops from a topic dealt with by a small group of interested researchers into a broader research field acknowledged in the scientific community.

Originality/Value

This is the first literature review on sustainability performance measurement for sustainable supply chain management summarizing the development over the timespan of 20 years.

Key Words

Performance measurement, supply chain management, sustainability management, management tools, indicators

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