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2329 - WHO IS INVOLVED? – INTEGRATING CORPORATE FUNCTIONS INTO SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

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B3 Floor - Room 3B 23

Companies are nowadays broadly required to contribute to sustainable development. However, since companies are divided into specialised departments or functional units, it is hardly possible to determine "the" engagement of a company. Instead, the contribution of the different functional units can vary. Thus, it is reasonable to analyse sustainability management not only on a corporate level but also to focus on the departmental level. Based on management literature on functional units as well as on approaches explaining environmental or sustainability-oriented behaviour in organisational and consumer contexts, this paper aims at developing a conceptual framework for the involvement of functional units in sustainability management. It assembles three constituent parts of involvement: being affected, promoting and engaging. Adapting a concept from consumer research, these constituent parts can furthermore be allocated to a cognitive-affective component and a behavioural component. Building on this model the paper provides propositions as initiation for further research that can also form a basis for addressing practical implications. Understanding the involvement of functional units can be considered as important to develop recommendations on how to increase their engagement and, thus, the contribution of the whole company to sustainable development.

Keywords : sustainability; involvement; functional unit