

# Sustainable Wineries: Essential Checklists



**“76% of wine buyers are choosing eco-certified wine” \***

Sustainable practices in winemaking attract eco-conscious consumers, improve brand reputation, and create long-term business resilience.

It’s more than a trend—it’s an opportunity to meet growing customer demand and set your winery apart. Embracing sustainability invests in the future of your vineyard, local community, and the environment, ensuring success for generations to come.

## Helpful Checklists for Assessing Sustainability

This guide features four checklists tailored to the unique sustainability challenges of winemaking. The items listed are not exhaustive, but rather a baseline any sustainable winery should consider.

Bridge Sustainability is a business consultancy, specializing in building sustainable wineries and vineyards.

Source: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/17/10910>



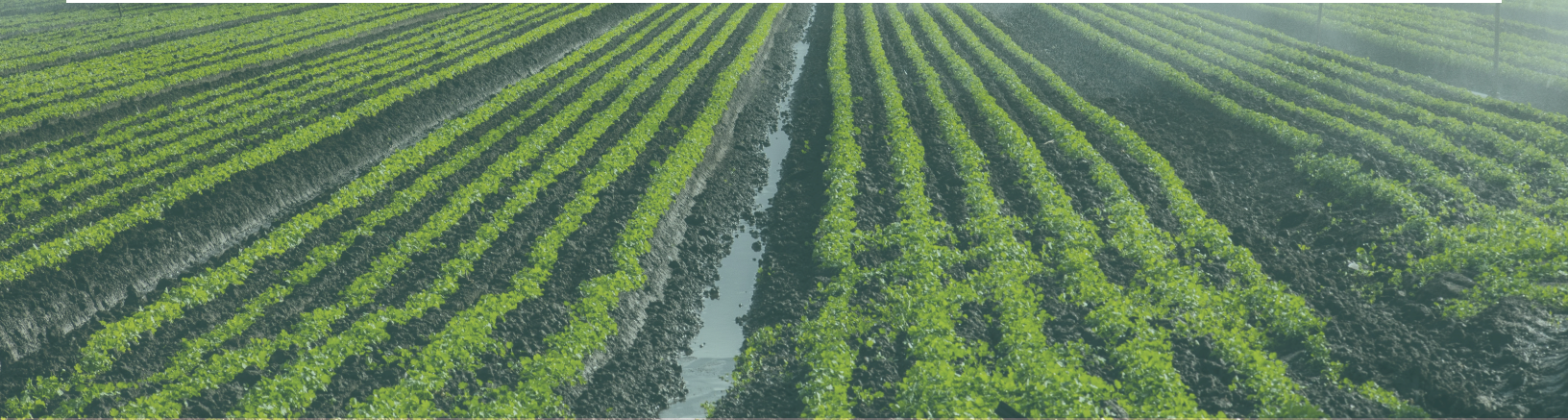
# Energy Management Checklist



- All production equipment, including crushers, presses, pumps, and HVAC systems, are regularly inspected and maintained for optimal energy efficiency.
- Energy-efficient lighting (e.g., LED) is installed in production areas, tasting rooms, cellars, and offices, with automated controls.
- Renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, or geothermal are utilized where possible to offset grid energy use.
- Temperature control systems in fermentation, barrel aging, and storage areas are optimized for energy conservation without compromising wine quality.
- An energy monitoring system tracks usage and identifies opportunities for improvement across different winery operations.
- Annual energy audit is conducted on site.



# Water Management Checklist



- A water management plan is established, outlining conservation goals and protocols for efficient water use.
- Drip irrigation is utilized and systems are regularly monitored to reduce water waste
- Moisture sensors are implemented.
- Rainwater harvesting systems are installed to capture and reuse water for irrigation and landscaping needs.
- Grey water from winemaking processes is treated and reused where possible, minimizing discharge into local water systems.
- Automatic sensors and low-flow fixtures are used.




## Waste Management Checklist

- A waste reduction plan is in place that prioritizes minimizing waste at all stages of production, from vineyard to bottling.
- Organic waste, such as grape pomace, is composted and reused in vineyard management or sold as by-products.
- Recycling programs are implemented for glass, cardboard, plastics, and other packaging materials used in production and sales.
- Sustainable packaging options, like lightweight bottles and recyclable closures, are implemented.



# Sustainable Agriculture Practices Checklist

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- Vineyard management includes practices that promote soil health, such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, and organic fertilizers.
  - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques are used to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides, including natural predators and biological controls.
  - Habitat enhancement and conservation measures are implemented to protect local biodiversity, including maintaining wildlife corridors and native plant species.
  - Certification options such as organic, biodynamic, or sustainable, are pursued and used to guide agricultural practices.
  - Measures to minimize soil erosion are implemented.



# Take the Next Step with Us

We've helped over 30 tourism attractions and businesses in 2024 enhance their sustainability practices. With expertise in sustainability, communications, and law, we offer tailored solutions to meet your unique business challenges.

## Our Key Services:

- Certification Guidance
- Sustainability Assessment & Strategy Development
- Communications, Content Development & Storytelling

## Here's what our clients have to say about us:

"Working with Bridge Sustainability has been a game-changer for us. Their strategic insights and practical solutions have helped us achieve our sustainability goals and stand out in the industry."

- **Miranda Halladay, Elephant Island Winery, Narmata, BC**

"Bridge has been punctual, professional and innovative in our interactions. Their coaching has been top notch and they provided our business with a variety of strategies to implement sustainable practices in our business. I highly recommend their services."

- **Andy Olson, A Taste Of Victoria Food Tours, BC**

"Bridge's expertise in sustainability planning, strategy, and green communications significantly enhanced the sustainability efforts of our member organizations. Alexis and Anna played a pivotal role in empowering our clients for future growth through their dedication and expertise." - **Mike Overend, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association**