

# Issues and Challenges with Environmental Accounting in Fossil Fuel Sector Companies

T. N. Kavitha<sup>1\*</sup> Dr. Sulaipher<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Asian School of Business, Trivandrum

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor

**Abstract –** The environmental issue has turned into a global worry in the most recent decades being the spotlight in various discussion both at national and universal dimensions. Environmental challenges are established in financial and social approaches, they happen at all dimensions from neighborhood to global, and arrangements requests activity by numerous players over significant lot of time. The modern unrest has acquired financial improvement practically the entirety of our circle of lives, more prominent flourishing, improved wellbeing, better and simple method for getting things done, without a doubt it is synonymous to monetary advancement. The utilization of natural resources is indispensable to financial advancement and it isn't without environmental results, for example, environmental and atmospheric pollution, oil spillage, and desertification, devastation of ozone layers, global warming and environmental change that is antagonistic to our reality. India as a creating nation in the mission for monetary headway keeps on misusing the natural resources thus there is connection between's the India's GDP and Natural resources consumption. Fossil fuel appropriations strain open spending plans and add to environmental change and neighborhood air pollution. In spite of broad understanding among specialists about the advantages of improving petroleum product endowments, rehashed universal duties to dispose of them, and valiant endeavors by certain nations to change them, they keep on persist. In this Article, we learned about the issues and challenges with environmental bookkeeping in Fossil Fuel Sector in subtleties.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Environmental accounting is an issue that has since the mid 1970s bit by bit taken the middle stage in global dialog. The development for environmental accounting and preservation of natural resources started in the propelled countries. In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was marked by most countries to think about strides to decrease global warming and whitewash atmosphere change. It ought to be noticed that environmental accounting and reporting awareness just started to highlight conspicuously in the plan of things in most developing countries in the times of the 1990s. This isn't astounding. Underdeveloped nations go up against progressively earnest issues of how to fulfill the prompt essential needs of the populace and are engrossed with the endeavor to produce quicker rate of economic growth. There are sure markers of condition accounting rehearses in organizations and business associations in developing countries, yet the act of condition accounting isn't not kidding enough, as there are no particular exercises in organizations or industrial facilities to apply it, nor is there arranging or research to uniquely target and characterize the buyers, open,

or proprietors' needs. Or maybe, the training is done in an ad libbed and irregular way. Accounting technology which is foreseen to stay aware of open requests and proffer answer for socio-economic and environmental challenges is advancing environmental accounting and reporting as all inclusive treatment for sustainable advancement. Due to global increase in economic activities and the growing challenges created by environmental exercises, the customary accounting framework is poorly prepared to give satisfactory data about the environmental exercises of associations. Conventional methodologies of cost accounting have turned out to be lacking since conventional accounting rehearses have overlooked imperative environmental expenses and exercises affecting outcomes on the earth. Corporate neglect and evasion of environmental costing leave hole in financial data reporting. There is no culmination and accuracy of reasonable view to clients of financial data, for example, investors, environmental administrative offices, environmentalists and potential financial investors. In the event that essential environmental issues and exercises are not uncovered, financial proclamation can't be said to uncover condition of a

„true and reasonable perspective on affairs“. Additionally, the test of expense and valuation for harm, exhaustion and corruption of the earth externalities is a basic issue which keeps on requesting consideration.

## II. ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

Environmental accounting is a creative manageability activity that has been characterized by **Steele and Powell, (2012)** as that part of accounting which has to do with the recognizable proof, portion and investigation, of material streams and their related cash streams by utilizing environmental accounting frameworks to give understanding in environmental effects and related financial impacts. As indicated by the United State Environmental Protection Agency (1995) "an imperative capacity of environmental accounting is to convey environmental expense to the consideration of corporate stakeholders who might be capable and persuaded to distinguish methods for lessening or evading those expenses while in the meantime improving environmental quality." Environmental or green accounting includes estimating the environmental execution of an association, including government bodies and producers in economic terms. It is a sort of money saving advantage investigation framework, which identifies with the monetary assessment of environmental expenses related with the improvement and operational exercises and the economic advantages of good environmental management.

As indicated by the **US EPA (1995)** Green Accounting or Environmental Accounting is characterized as: "Recognizing and estimating the expenses of environmental materials and exercises and utilizing this data for environmental management choices. This definition was created by global consensus of the gathering individuals, speaking to 30 countries. As indicated by them, Environmental accounting includes the recognizable proof, accumulation, investigation and the utilization of two kinds of data for basic leadership: 1. Physical data on the utilization, stream of vitality, water and materials (counting squanders) and 2. Monetary data on condition related costs, income and investment funds. In reality, environmental accounting ranges from a straightforward change of existing accounting frameworks to an increasingly coordinated environmental accounting practice that joins both the conventional, physical and monetary data frameworks.

**Alfieri (2018)** According to United States Environmental Protection Agency, environment, costs are those costs that have a direct financial impact on a company (internal costs); and costs to individuals, society and the environment for which the company is not accountable (external costs). Environmental costs have traditionally been thought of as being the finish of-pipe costs, for example, the

expenses related with tidying up destinations after generation, or waste-water treatment costs. Environmental management strategies that attention on these finish of-pipe expenses and advances can produce positive returns. For a minority of associations, the environmental expenses may likewise incorporate the environmental and social effects caused to different elements by the association's activities. These externalities are ordinarily alluded to as societal expenses for example costs forced on people, society and the earth for which the association isn't straightforwardly considered accountable. Most associations confine their consideration regarding private costs, which are costs that the substance is considered accountable and which thus sway the association's financial primary concern.

**Wildavsky (2014)** the relevance of environmental expenses on association's financial main concern can't be overemphasized as revealing and perceiving environmental expenses related with an item, procedure, framework, or office is essential for good management choices. Accomplishing such objectives as decreasing environmental costs, expanding incomes, and improving environmental execution requires focusing on current, future, and potential environmental expenses. Clearly, some consistency in how an association characterizes environmental expenses from period to period will empower increasingly important between period correlations. Beer and Friend, (2015) distinguished environmental expenses to fundamentally comprise of both inner and outer expenses. Interior expenses contain Conventional costs, Hidden costs, Contingent expenses, and Image and relationship costs while outer expenses incorporate Environmental Degradation Costs, Human Impact Costs, and Noise and Air pollution costs.

## III. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

There is no uncertainty that advancement improves lives and strengthens economy, yet at a cost. One of the incredible challenges of the twenty-first century is the manner by which to accomplish essential improvement without making changeless harm nature. Throughout the years social and environmental challenges have been are as yet consuming issues among countries globally. The earth is looked with various challenges emerging from human and mechanical exercises. A portion of these social and environmental challenges incorporate environmental pollution, sanitation, depletion of ozone layer, desertification, flooding, erosion, poverty, hedge consuming, deforestation, etc.

**Loew et al (2014)** in the 1960s the major environmental disasters prompted more consideration regarding the environmental effect of human action. Since the 1970s, environmentalists

have cautioned about the dangers to the earth. Strip digging gives ore to industry however devastates land. Synthetic substances pesticides and composts produce bigger sustenance crops however hurt the dirt and water, and may cause certain malignant growths. Oil slicks contaminate conduits and execute marine life. Gasses from power plant and production lines produce corrosive downpour dangerous, a type of pollution in which poisonous synthetic compounds in the air fall back to Earth as downpour, snow, or hail. Corrosive downpour has harmed timberlands, lakes, and farmlands.

**Parker (2015)** another social and environmental test is global warming. Global warming alludes to the ascent of Earth's surface temperature after some time. An ascent in Earth's temperature could achieve changes, for example, the accompanying: an ascent in ocean level, changes in climate designs, expanded desertification in certain regions, and an expansion in precipitation in others. Since atmospheres in certain zones could be colder, numerous researchers like to call the pattern "environmental change". Researchers concur that Earth's temperature has risen somewhat over the previous century. Numerous researchers believe that this warming originates from the gasses discharged into the atmosphere by human action, for example, the copying of fossil energizes. These "greenhouse" gases trap warmth in Earth's atmosphere. A few researchers, notwithstanding, and numerous strategy producers, contend that global warming is because of natural variance in Earth's atmosphere. The discussion over a settlement called Kyoto Protocol focuses to a focal test confronting world pioneers: Does economic advancement need to struggle with ensuring the earth? The bargain marked by 140 countries, with the significant special cases of the United States and Australia became effective in 2005. Its motivation is to bring down the emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases that add to global warming. Many developing countries wouldn't sign since they said they should exploit their resources so as to grow completely. The United States has not marked the Kyoto Protocol since it trusts the bargain could strain economic growth. Countries that have marked the arrangement, nonetheless, contended that the created countries must lead the path in moderating emissions.

**Baricz, R., &Róth (2016)** "Environmental accounting" is more than accounting for environmental advantages and expenses. It is accounting for any expenses and advantages that arise from changes to a firm's products or processes, where the change additionally includes a change in environmental effects. Improved accounting for non-environmental expenses and advantages, for example, input prices, consumer request, and so on can prompt changes in basic leadership that have environmental results. A fruitful environmental accounting framework ought to have a technique for accounting for full environmental expenses and

ought to integrate environmental expenses into capital planning, cost designation, process/product structure and other forward-looking choices. Most corporate information and choice frameworks don't currently support such proactive and prospective basic leadership. This is the thing that environmental accounting sets to accomplish. Environmental accounting (EA) is seen by corporate managers and environmental supporters alike as a necessary supplement to improve environmental basic leadership inside the private sector. Whether the objective is pollution prevention or some broader thought of "corporate maintainability," there is a widespread conviction that sound environmental accounting will help firms recognize and actualize financially desirable environmental advancements.

**Epstein (2016)** Moreover, environmental regulation is developing toward open strategies that rely to an a lot greater degree on the accumulation and reporting of environmental information. A growing literature records problematic accounting practices with the possibility to predisposition environmental basic leadership. Frequent targets for criticism are the portion of environmental expenses to general overhead records, the failure to represent future contingent liabilities, and the inability to gauge the effect of environmental decisions on corporate image and customer and provider connections. From a public strategy point of view, poor environmental bookkeeping implies that the private area is probably going to "miss" investment, procurement, and procedure and product structure openings that have money related and environmental benefits. It is generally trusted that improved environmental bookkeeping works on, working related to the private area's very own profit thought processes, will make critical environmental benefits. This point of view has thus roused a developing writing on budgetary and bookkeeping philosophies to improve bookkeeping rehearses. These are a portion of the social and environmental difficulties environmental bookkeeping came to address.

#### **IV. ACCOUNTING IN FOSSIL FUELS INDUSTRY**

**McKibben (2012)** expressed that the possibility of fossil-fuel divestment depends on what has been known as the "startling new math." Global climate specialists and governments have acknowledged the logical accord that an expansion in global temperature must be held underneath two degrees celsius. To accomplish this, researchers gauge that we should deliver close to 565 gigatonnes (Gt) of carbon dioxide. Current realized fuel holds, if consumed, would speak to 2795 Gt of carbon dioxide. This second number is significantly greater than the first. On the off chance that our planet is to endure, a large portion of our present fuel saves need to remain in the ground. Obviously, something needs to change. Regardless of

promises from governments around the globe to cut greenhouse gas emissions, most countries have reliably neglected to meet their objectives.

**The Fossil Free Indexes (2014)** expressed that expecting that fossil-fuel organizations will intentionally move toward this path, leaving their stores immaculate, is unjustified and guileless. Partnerships do what investors demand, and in that lies the way to divestment crusades went for fossil-fuel organizations. Advocates urge concerned financial specialists to pull back their investments from coal, oil and gas organizations, beginning with a rundown of the 200 organizations with the biggest stores, and then divert their investments to ventures that help a solid climate future. This pressure will give boost to fossil-fuel organizations to change to the production of progressively sustainable types of energy; it enables them to become some portion of the arrangement, fabricating the solid future that we as a whole need.

**British Medical Association (2014)** Members of the British Medical Association as of late casted a ballot to "exchange their investments from energy organizations whose essential business depends upon fossil fuels to those giving renewable energy sources. "They are the primary wellbeing association to do so. Some financial specialists may expect that divestment could negatively influence their portfolios. Despite what might be expected, many driving economists anticipate an up and coming "carbon bubble," in view of falsely swelled values of fossil-fuel-organization stocks. This "bubble" emerges from the consideration of the considerable number of stores that organizations hold, without thinking about that these stores can never be scorched. This will leave organizations with trillions in stranded resources. Indeed, even now, thinks about find that stripped portfolios give comparable or preferable returns over their conventional partners.

**Madaleno et al. (2014)** dissect the connection between the profits for carbon, power and fossil fuel price (coal, oil and natural gas), concentrating on the effects of emissions exchanging by means of a VECM for both German and French markets. Results demonstrate that the impact of carbon relies upon the energy mix of the nation under examination yet that it isn't the main factor. The creators express that less carbon compulsion happens in the European energy trade and developments in carbon are not unequivocally reflected in power prices. They likewise proof that market control influences the right exchange of prices, consequently restricting cost increases

## V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

**Tallinn, (2014)** Energy discussion and transmission are bound with the environmental impact. A common pipe gas from the combustion of fossil fuels contains water vapor ( $HO_2$ ), carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ), sulfur

dioxide ( $SO_2$ ), nitrogen dioxides ( $NOX$ ) and little measures of different issues. The measures of issues in pipe gas are relying upon the sort of fuel, on combustion innovation and on boilers' heaps. Today the pulverized firing (PF) innovation is the most generally utilized combustion innovation for strong fuels. This combustion innovation isn't sufficiently spotless. Be that as it may, there are a few new clean combustion innovations, for example, the atmospheric fluidized-bed combustion (AFBC), the pressurized fluidized-bed combustion (PFBC) and others. On the event of new combustion advances the pipe gas will comprise for the most part of water vapor and carbon dioxide.

**White and Kathleen (2014)** Fossil fuels are complicatedly woven into the texture of our regular daily existences in both evident and unpretentious ways. From the high temp water and power we use to the garments we wear, the asylum we trust, the vehicles we work and the majority of the shopper goods we appreciate, fossil fuels are building squares of present day society and life as we probably am aware it. The far reaching utilization of these resources immensely improved living conditions over the globe, and the productive and important lives that we are familiar with today would be just incomprehensible without them. The utilization of fossil fuel has given mind blowing benefits to humankind. It has made conceivable the development of expansive scale, dependable and moderate long-distance transportation, which prompted better and progressively reasonable sustenance by enabling access to crisp nourishment all year regardless of where one lived, while moving nourishment production in the most productive and effective areas. Prior to lamp fuel, substantial oil and natural gas, property holders utilized low quality biomass fuels like kindling and peat greenery, filling houses with sediment and risky particulate issue, just as carbon monoxide and toxic chemicals.

**Hag and Patricia (2016)** Vast amounts of fossil fuel were at long last bridled amid the Industrial Revolution to control the economy, which would change the course of history and improve the personal satisfaction for masses of individuals. The fast and supported economic growth experienced amid this time would not have been conceivable without coal.<sup>8</sup> This abundant and dependable fuel source empowered expansive utilization of advances that were being created or improved, including the steam motor which had become reduced and efficient.<sup>9</sup> As steamships and steam-controlled railways turned out to be as often as possible utilized, they depended on coal to fuel their boilers.

**History of the Oil and Gas Industry (2016)** Fossil fuels have reformed our energy supply and incomprehensibly improved expectations for everyday comforts for individuals over the globe. Pointers like future, populace and gross economic

product per capita (pay) expanded drastically after fossil fuels turned into the fundamental wellspring of energy.<sup>14</sup> For instance, future was 20 to 25 years for the greater part of human history; nonetheless, from 1750 to 2009, global life expectancy dramatically increased, from 26 years to 69 years. Furthermore, global populace expanded from 760 million to 6.8 billion amid this time span, and normal salaries expanded from \$640 to \$7,300. Rising wages have appeared to improve different pointers of human prosperity including hunger, newborn child mortality, training, economic freedom and child labor.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

Resulting from because of global increment in economic exercises and the developing difficulties produced by corporate environmental exercises, the traditional bookkeeping framework is has become lacking to give sufficient data about the environmental exercises of associations; consequently, the requirement for Environmental Accounting of Fossil Fuels. The importance of environmental accounting of Fossil Fuels in the 21st Century can't be overemphasized. It furnishes management and stakeholders with exact and solid environmental data and environmental budgetary evaluations whereupon educated decisions identifying with social and environmental issues are made towards settling social and environmental challenges. In request to guarantee the sustainability of energy supply and in this manner of the nation's sustainable economic development, the government needs to increase further the implementation of renewable energy and energy proficiency programs. Fossil fuels are a flexible and essential energy source, and our capacity to lead cheerful, solid and productive lives is to a great extent subject to these wares and the effective transportation and distribution of them to all. Fossil fuels are usually viewed as a fuel source for transportation and power production (which will be examined further in this paper); nonetheless, they are likewise utilized in more subtle approaches to deliver products utilized in homes, businesses and industry. These products incorporate plastics, synthetic fibers, chemicals, steel, road and development materials, and more.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Steele, A. P., & Powell, J. R. (2012). Environmental Accounting: Applications for Local Authorities to Quantify Internal and External Costs of Alternative Waste Management Strategies. Environmental Management Accounting Network Europe, Fifth Annual Conference, Gloucestershire Business School, 11/12 February
2. United States Environmental Protection Agency (1995). An Introduction to Environmental Accounting as a Business Management Tool: Key Concepts and Terms, EPA 742-R-95 001 June.
3. Alfieri, A. (2018). Environmental Protection Expenditures: The Experience of Developing Countries. Paper presented at 5th Annual Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting. Fontevraud, France, 25-29 May.
4. Wildavsky, A. (2014). Accounting for the Environment. Accounting, Organizations and Society, 19(4/5), pp. 461-481.
5. Beer, P., & Friend, F. (2015). Environmental Accounting: A Management Tool For Enhancing Corporate Environmental and Economic Performance. Retrieved October 5th, 2006, from [www.elsevier.com/locate/ecocon](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecocon)
6. Loew, T., Ankele, K., Braun, S., & Clausen, J. (2014). Significance of the CSR debate for sustainability and the requirements companies. Institute for Ecological Economy Research gmbH, Berlin
7. Parker, L. D. (2005). Social and environmental accountability research a view from the commentary box. Accounting. Auditing and Accountability Journal, 18(6), pp. 842-860.
8. Baricz, R., & Róth, J. (2016): Könyvviteltan (Accounting). Aula, Budapest.
9. Epstein, M. (2016). Measuring Corporate Environmental Performance (Montvale, N. J. Institute of Management Accountants).
10. McKibben B. (2012). Global warming's terrifying new math. New York (NY): Rolling Stone; 2012
11. The world's top 200 public companies; Port Washington (NY): The Fossil Free Indexes; 2014.
12. Annual Representative Meeting agenda (ARM). London (UK): British Medical Association; 2014
13. Madaleno, M., Pinho, C., Ribeiro, C. (2014), Commodity price interaction: CO<sub>2</sub> allowances, fuel sources and electricity. The Interrelationship Between Financial and Energy Markets, Lecture Notes in Energy, 54, pp. 185-213.
14. Ots, A. Oil Shale Fuel Combustion. – Tallinn, 2014.

15. White, Kathleen H. (2014). Fossil Fuels: The Moral Case. Texas Public Policy Foundation, June 2014.
16. Crone, Patricia (2016). Pre-Industrial Societies, Anatomy of the Pre-Modern World. London: Oneworld Publications, 2003. Google Books. Web. 6 Jan. 2016.
17. History of the Oil and Gas Industry. (2005-2006). Retrieved from The Library of Congress Business Reference Services on January 6, 2016 from <http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/BERA/issue5/history.html>

---

#### Corresponding Author

**T. N. Kavitha\***

Assistant Professor, Asian School of Business, Trivandrum

[tn.kavitha@gmail.com](mailto:tn.kavitha@gmail.com)