

# Uncertain Supply Chain Management

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## Identification and ranking effective factors on establishment of green supply chain management in railway industry

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### ABSTRACT

Globalization, intensification of governmental and non-governmental organization's provisions and squeeze and the demand of clients about concerning environmental affairs have motivated many organizations to start considering Green Supply Chain management in order to facilitate environmental and economic functions. Administration of green supply chain management unifies the management of supply chain with environment requirements during the functioning of levels of supply chain. This paper aims to identify green supply change management's factors in order to facilitate implementation of green supply chain management in rail industry. Thus, the effective factors of green supply chain management establishment are extracted and the method of interactions between sub-scales is studied by DEMATEL technique. The result specifies that reduction of production loss sub-scale is the most effective factor on other agents. In addition, the effective elements peered out by fuzzy TOPSIS that the scale of loss management stands on the first ranking and improvement of production process and interior environment management scales stand on the second and the third level and other scales follow them.

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## 1. Introduction

According to previous standpoints, the aim of supply chain was improvement of functioning in order to improve firms' productivity and profitability, but enhancement of supply chain's environmental function and the importance of social charges and environmental destruction was disregarded (Handfield & Nichols, 2005). Recently, because of rapid industrialization of societies, there are intensive tendencies to environmental shortcomings (Zhu et al., 2008) and most governments start employing environmental preservation regulations. These days, we hear more about the terms like environment friendly Raw materials, reduction of fossil fuel consumption and recycling losses (Hajmohammad et al., 2013; Koplin et al., 2007). Therefore, the sequence of Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM) appeared (Imani & Ahmad, 2009). Therefore, implementation of GSCM among various industries especially in rail industry relies on its whole level of lifecycle. Hence, the main question of this research is to identify effective elements of implementation and establishment

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of GSCM in rail industry simultaneously with supply chain general approaches and concerning environmental dilemmas. The aim of implementation of this research is also to identify and to rank effective elements on implementation of Green Supply Chain in rail industry in Iran.

## 2. Green supply chain management

By increasing the verity of client's concerned expectations toward the patterns, organizations interested in increasing their flexibility in production lines and started improving and developing new products for customer's satisfaction, which has created the concept of Supply Chain (Lewis & Gretsakis, 2001). Supply Chain, is the entire activities associated with progress and exchange of goods from raw material level to deliver final consumer and the related information flow (Safarzadeh et al., 2011). Today, because of consumer's concern about environment and state environmental supporting organizations for optimum consumption of energy many producers have tried to supply energy efficient products (Jen Lin et al., 2011). Therefore, concerning the growing anxiety about environment, beside the industry development, in SCM process the environment pollution should be regarded (Rao & Holt, 2005). Supply Chain Management plays essential role in preventing human, time and financial source loss (Stevens, 2002; Shen, 2013). One of the implementation tools of green supply chain is associated with Green Supply Chain (Balo et al., 2012; Chandra & Fisher, 2003). Greening the Supply Chain is a new concept (Samson & Simpson, 2008). Therefore, it can be declared that the basis of GSCM is on unified management of environment and supply chain management for controlling environmental destructive effects in a lifecycle of production with information allotments and cooperation of all members of supply chain (Balon et al., 2012).

### 2.1. The Impressive elements for establishment of Green Supply Chain Management

Some effective elements for establishment of Green Supply Chain in organizations, shown in Table 1:

**Table 1**  
Effective elements on Green Supply Chain establishment

Feature	References
1. Environmental Competence 2. Pollution Control 3. Environmental Management 4. Environmental Collaboration 5. Green Production	Akman & Piskin, 2013; Cousins et al., 2004
1. Interior Environmental Management 2.Green Supply Chain Management external methods 3.Investment Retrieval 4.Environmental Compatible Sketching	Zhu & Sarkis, 2004; Hillary, 2000
1. Packaging vicissitude or reconciliation 2. Green Marketing	Envirowise, 2001; Zhu & Sarkis, 2006
1. Green Purchase 2.Green Sketching 3. Product Resumption 4.Collabrating with suppliers and customers.	(Lin, 2013; Farahani, 2009)
1. Resumption Sketch 2.Loss Management	Envirowise, 2001; Shen & Yand Tam, 2002; Ofori et al., 2002
1. Environmental Compatible Designing 2.Green Production 3.Green Purchase	Zhu & Sarkis, 2006; Srivastava, 2007; Starkley, 2000; Lamming & Hampson, 1996
1. Green Production 2. Suppliers' demands 3. Supplier's Flexibility 4. Collaboration of Suppliers with Products' Designers 5.Clients' Demand Provision	Tseng et a, 2011; Zhu & Sarkis, 2006
1. Lifecycle Assessment 2. Loss Control	Srivastava, 2007; Envirowise, 2001; Starkley, 2000; Green et al., 1996
1. Senior Management Assert 2.Middle –level Management Assert 3.Product Quality Management 4.Environmental Evaluation Program 5.Certificate prehension 6. Environmental Protection Law Support	Morrow & Rondinelli, 2002; Ninlawan et al., 2010
1. Pollution Control 2. Environmental Management 3.Management Assert 4.Green Designing 5. Green Purchase 6.Clean Technology 7. Staff Training	Shen et al., 2013
1.Environmental Requirements Statements 2.Information Sharing 3.Collaboration	Theyel, 2002
1.Environmental Management 2.Supplier's Flexibility 3.Close Communication with Suppliers	Tseng, & Chui , 2013
1. Green Designing 2.Green Market 3. Interior Management 4.Resumption 4.Investment 5. Investment Return	Stevens, 2002; Eiadet et al. (2008)
1.Green Distribution Procedure 2.Green Product Distribution 3. Supply Chain Advanced Inspection	Bowen et al., 2001

In this article regarding to revising the literature and expert's interview, there are 10 main scales with 36 sub-scales for establishment of Green Supply Chain in Railway industry have identified and by Fuzzy screening through them there are seven main scales with 20 sub-scales specified.

There are many studies associated with Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM). Lin (2013), for instance, proposed a method for assessment of GSCM by considering three scales and eight sub-scales selected which employing DIMATEL technique and the communication of sub-scales were identified as Green Purchase, Green Designing, Resumption, Collaboration with Legislators and Stockholders according to the acquired results of DIMATEL.

Shen et al. (2013) investigated supplier's turnover in green supply chain by applying Fuzzy TOPSIS in auto industry. They identified pollution control, environmental management, management assessment, green designing, purchasing environmentally friendly materials, clean technology, and staff training as important criteria. Tseng and Chui (2013) identified tendencies towards stable environmental activities for improving supply chain in developed organizations in which the technique collective decisions in Fuzzy environment and for ranking options (Four Suppliers) 7 scales were detected. In acquired results, environmental management, supplier's flexibility and close communications of suppliers received the maximum weight compared with the other elements.

Zhu and Sarkis (2007) studied the barriers and effective motives in implementation of green supply chain in auto industry in China. Brorson et al. (2009) studied the impression of ISO14001 in three major GSCM activities in Swedish firms. Lee, et al. (2009) performed a survey for the evaluation of suppliers in GSCM to identify premier Green suppliers and collaboration with them in Green Supply Chain in LED producer companies in Taiwan with the DELFI method and Fuzzy analytical hierarchy process (AHP) in order to identify scales and options ranking studied.

Zhu et al. (2008) studied the communication and effects of two other elements in organization learning and senior management assessment on executive activities for attaining GSCM in productive firms in chain. They concluded that both elements had direct impact on organizations' turnover in field of GSCM. Securing and Muller (2008) studied the history of supply chain and Green Supply chain. Linton et al. (2007) illustrated the concepts and doctrines of stable and Green Supply Chain.

## 2. Methods

The current research concerning the functional approach and follows descriptive survey style . For gathering the information the library method and field study have been used in railway industry with sending questionnaires to experts and interviewing. The statistical community of this research is The Tehran Subway Operation Company and the statistic samples are the number of experts who are completely dominant to Green Supply Chain which they were 25 people to identification of elements and their number for ranking and identification about quality of communication through sub-scales were four people. The research's questions follow as:

1. What are the effective elements for establishment of Green Supply Chain Management in railway industry?
2. How much do these elements weight?
3. How is the efficiency and impressibility of scales and sub-scales on each other?
4. How is the ranking of elements?

In this article for analyzing data two methods of Multi Attribute Decision Making "MADM" used: fuzzy TOPSIS technique for ranking the importance of elements and DEMATEL technique for determination of communication between sub scales and their collaboration and influence.

### 3.1 DEMATEL

DEMATEL technique performed by Gabus and Fontela (1971). DEMATEL technique is a decision making technique for utilizing experts' activities in field of extracting a system's elements and their systematic structuring and by usage of the Graphs thesis, hierarchical structure of current elements in system, including the communications counteract influence and dud effect and defines the acrimony of the numerical score and accepts the non-transmittal terms. The process of conducting DEMATEL technique follows as:

1. Modeling the Straight relevance Matrix
2. Modeling X Matrix: that each of its elements is the average of the elements in straight experts Matrix.
3. Normalizing the straight relevance Matrix:

$$M = \lambda * X \quad \lambda = \frac{1}{\max \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}} \quad (1)$$

4. Total Relation Matrix:

$$S = M \times (1 - M)^{-1} \quad (2)$$

5. Modeling the Casual Diagram

Aggregation of each line's elements (R) and aggregation of each column (J) so the horizontal vector (R+J) is the efficient in system and the vertical vector(R-J) is the effectiveness of each element.

### 2.2. Fuzzy TOPSIS

TOPSIS is one of the multi index decision making methods which raking "n" number of options regarding the scale m (Asgharpour, 2011). The basis of this method is to choose an option which has the least distance with the ideal desirable answer and the most distance with the undesirable ideal answer. The Fuzzy logic can be established among different decision making techniques. One of the techniques is technique for order performance by similarity to ideal solution (TOPSIS) by employing the Fuzzy logic changing it to Fuzzy TOPSIS and we use triangular numbers for our implementation as follows,

1. Modeling the decision making Matrix:

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1n} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ x_{m1} & x_{m2} & \dots & x_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

If three angular Fuzzy numbers have been used, the function of  $\tilde{x}_{ij} = (a_{ij}, b_{ij}, c_{ij})$  option ( $i=1,2,\dots,m$ ) related in  $j$  scale is ( $j=1,2,\dots,n$ ). If the decision making committee consists of  $k$  members and Fuzzy ranking on the  $k$  members  $\tilde{x}_{ijk} = (a_{ijk}, b_{ijk}, c_{ijk})$  (three angular Fuzzy numbers) for  $m$  equals to  $i=1,2,\dots,m$  and  $j=1,2,\dots,n$  regarding the combined Fuzzy ranking scales  $\tilde{x}_{ij} = (a_{ij}, b_{ij}, c_{ij})$  the options can be resulted:

$$a_{ij} = \text{Min}_k \{a_{ijk}\}, \quad b_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^k b_{ijk}}{k}, \quad c_{ij} = \text{Max}_k \{c_{ijk}\} \quad (4)$$

### 3. Determining the weight matrix criteria

$$\tilde{W} = [\tilde{w}_1, \tilde{w}_2, \dots, \tilde{w}_n] \quad (5)$$

If three angular Fuzzy numbers are used, each component  $w_j$  (components' weight) will be defined as  $\tilde{W}_j = [\tilde{w}_{j1}, \tilde{w}_{j2}, \tilde{w}_{j3}]$ . If the decision making committee consists of  $k$  members and the number  $k$  member's importance is  $\tilde{W}_j = (w_{jk1}, w_{jk2}, w_{jk3})$  (three angular Fuzzy number) for  $j=1,2,\dots,n$  ranking component Fuzzy  $\tilde{W}_j = (w_{j1}, w_{j2}, w_{j3})$  can be obtained from following formulation:

$$w_{j1} = \text{Min}_k\{w_{jk1}\} \quad w_{j2} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^k w_{jk2}}{k} \quad w_{j3} = \text{Max}_k\{w_{jk3}\} \quad (6)$$

### 4. Scale up Fuzzy decision matrix

$$\tilde{r}_{ij} = \left( \frac{a_{ij}}{C_j^*}, \frac{b_{ij}}{C_j^*}, \frac{c_{ij}}{C_j^*} \right), \quad \tilde{r}_{ij} = \left( \frac{a_j^-}{c_{ij}}, \frac{a_j^-}{b_{ij}}, \frac{a_j^-}{a_{ij}} \right), C_j^* = \max_i c_{ij}, \quad a_j^- = \min_i a_{ij} \quad (7)$$

So the Scaled-up FUZZY decision Matrix ( $\tilde{R}$ ) results in following formulation:

$$\tilde{R} = [\tilde{r}_{ij}]_{m \times n} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m ; \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (8)$$

### 5. Determination of the weighted Fuzzy decision Matrix

$$\tilde{v}_{ij} = \tilde{r}_{ij} \cdot \tilde{w}_j \rightarrow \tilde{V} = [\tilde{v}_{ij}]_{m \times n} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m ; \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (9)$$

$$\tilde{v}_{ij} = \tilde{r}_{ij} \cdot \tilde{w}_j = \left( \frac{a_{ij}}{C_j^*}, \frac{b_{ij}}{C_j^*}, \frac{c_{ij}}{C_j^*} \right) \cdot (w_{j1}, w_{j2}, w_{j3}) = \left( \frac{a_{ij}}{C_j^*} \cdot w_{j1}, \frac{b_{ij}}{C_j^*} \cdot w_{j2}, \frac{c_{ij}}{C_j^*} \cdot w_{j3} \right) \quad (10)$$

$$\tilde{v}_{ij} = \tilde{r}_{ij} \cdot \tilde{w}_j = \left( \frac{a_j^-}{c_{ij}}, \frac{a_j^-}{b_{ij}}, \frac{a_j^-}{a_{ij}} \right) \cdot (w_{j1}, w_{j2}, w_{j3}) = \left( \frac{a_j^-}{c_{ij}} \cdot w_{j1}, \frac{a_j^-}{b_{ij}} \cdot w_{j2}, \frac{a_j^-}{a_{ij}} \cdot w_{j3} \right) \quad (11)$$

### 6. Fuzzy Positive Ideal Solution (FPIS, $A^*$ ) and Fuzzy Negative Ideal Solution (FNIS, $A^-$ ):

$$A^* = \{\tilde{v}_1^*, \tilde{v}_2^*, \dots, \tilde{v}_n^*\} \quad A^- = \{\tilde{v}_1^-, \tilde{v}_2^-, \dots, \tilde{v}_n^-\} \quad (12)$$

$$\tilde{v}_i^* = \text{Max}_i\{\tilde{v}_{ij1}\} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m, j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (13)$$

$$\tilde{v}_i^- = \text{Min}_i\{\tilde{v}_{ij1}\} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m, j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (14)$$

### 7. Computation of distance from Ideal solution and Negative Ideal Solution:

$$S_i^* = \sum_{j=1}^n d(\tilde{v}_{ij}, \tilde{v}_j^*) \quad , i = 1, 2, \dots, m \quad (15)$$

$$S_i^- = \sum_{j=1}^n d(\tilde{v}_{ij}, \tilde{v}_j^-), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \quad (16)$$

$$d_v(\tilde{M}_1, \tilde{M}_2) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}[(a_1 - a_2)^2 + (b_1 - b_2)^2 + (c_1 - c_2)^2]} \quad (17)$$

### 8. Similarity Index Computation:

$$CC_i = \frac{S_i^-}{S_i^* + S_i^-} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \quad (18)$$

#### 4. Result

As mentioned before, 10 main scales with 36 sub scales for establishment of Green Chain Supply have been identified. Then with screening and weighting Fuzzy and decimal (Table 2), finally 20 sub-scales determined which classified in 7 major group (the main criteria) (Table 3). At last, according the results mentioned in Table 3, the sub-scales with had the heavier weights selected.

**Table 3**  
Screening and weighting Fuzzy and decimal

Name of	Scale	Sub_Scale	Fuzzy Normalized	Decimal Normalized	Normalized
C <sub>1</sub>	Interior Environmental Management	S <sub>1</sub>	0.0401571	0.0391694	0.039663
		S <sub>2</sub>	0.0395564	0.0387986	0.039178
		S <sub>3</sub>	0.0381238	0.0373154	0.03772
		S <sub>4</sub>	0.0221812	0.0226859	0.022434
		S <sub>5</sub>	0.033549	0.0328659	0.033207
C <sub>2</sub>	Designing Improvement	S <sub>6</sub>	0.0159889	0.0174274	0.016708
		S <sub>7</sub>	0.0203327	0.0212364	0.020785
		S <sub>8</sub>	0.0249538	0.0250624	0.025008
C <sub>3</sub>	Production Process Improvement	S <sub>9</sub>	0.0269871	0.0268489	0.026918
		S <sub>10</sub>	0.0260629	0.0261073	0.026085
		S <sub>11</sub>	0.0318392	0.0313153	0.031577
		S <sub>12</sub>	0.0154806	0.0166689	0.016075
		S <sub>13</sub>	0.0304529	0.0302029	0.030328
		S <sub>14</sub>	0.0319778	0.0313827	0.03168
		S <sub>15</sub>	0.022597	0.227365	0.022667
C <sub>4</sub>	Non Production resource management	S <sub>16</sub>	0.034658	0.0339614	0.03431
		S <sub>17</sub>	0.033549	0.0328491	0.033199
C <sub>5</sub>	Loss Management	S <sub>18</sub>	0.0348429	0.0342985	0.034571
		S <sub>19</sub>	0.038586	0.0376862	0.038136
C <sub>6</sub>	Education and culture building	S <sub>20</sub>	0.0374769	0.0365739	0.037025
		S <sub>21</sub>	0.0279113	0.0276411	0.027776
		S <sub>22</sub>	0.0271719	0.0272534	0.027213
		S <sub>23</sub>	0.0121996	0.0136183	0.012909
		S <sub>24</sub>	0.0170518	0.0181689	0.01761
C <sub>7</sub>	Environmental external management	S <sub>25</sub>	0.0228281	0.0234443	0.023136
		S <sub>26</sub>	0.038586	0.0376862	0.038136
		S <sub>27</sub>	0.0324861	0.0320738	0.03228
		S <sub>28</sub>	0.0371534	0.0362031	0.036678
C <sub>8</sub>	Final production turnover improvement	S <sub>29</sub>	0.0319778	0.0313153	0.031647
		S <sub>30</sub>	0.0288817	0.0287366	0.028809
		S <sub>31</sub>	0.030268	0.0298321	0.03005
C <sub>9</sub>	Logistic	S <sub>32</sub>	0.0207486	0.0212364	0.020993
		S <sub>33</sub>	0.0169131	0.0181858	0.017549
		S <sub>34</sub>	0.0155268	0.017006	0.016266
C <sub>10</sub>	External impressions	S <sub>35</sub>	0.0254621	0.0257365	0.025599
		S <sub>36</sub>	0.0154806	0.0166689	0.016075

**Table 3**  
Descending order of sub-scales by Normalized weight

Sub_Scale	Name of Sub_Scale	Normalized Weight	Rank
Senior and Middle Management Assert	S <sub>1</sub>	0.039663	1
Obtaining environmental management certificates	S <sub>2</sub>	0.039178	2
Loss Decrease	S <sub>19</sub>	0.038136	3
Obtaining ISO1400 Certificate by Suppliers	S <sub>26</sub>	0.038136	4
Environmental policies and politics	S <sub>3</sub>	0.03772	5
Waste management System	S <sub>10</sub>	0.037025	6
Compliance the environmental guidelines by suppliers	S <sub>28</sub>	0.036678	7
Modifying consumption patterns	S <sub>18</sub>	0.034571	8
Optimizing energy consumption	S <sub>16</sub>	0.03431	9
Implementation of environmental audits	S <sub>5</sub>	0.033207	10
Management and control of harmful plants	S <sub>17</sub>	0.033199	11
Selecting and evaluation of suppliers' performance	S <sub>27</sub>	0.03228	12
Reduce production waste	S <sub>14</sub>	0.03168	13
Cooperation and exchange of views with stockholders	S <sub>29</sub>	0.031647	14
Reduce emissions by internal processes	S <sub>11</sub>	0.031577	15
Reverse logistics system	S <sub>13</sub>	0.030328	16
Adopting of clean technology equipment	S <sub>31</sub>	0.03005	17
Emission reduction due to final production	S <sub>30</sub>	0.028809	18
Participation of all employees	S <sub>21</sub>	0.027776	19
Increasing knowledge and awareness	S <sub>22</sub>	0.027213	20

Next, by implementation of DMATEL technique the amount of R+J, R-J and R, J are computed shown in Table 4.

**Table 4**

The summary of calculation for (R+J), (R-J), (R), (J)

Priority order	Name of Sub Scale	R-J	Priority order	Name of Sub Scale	R+J
1	C5	1.459	1	C13	6.307
2	C1	1.415	2	C2	6.134
3	C19	1.009	3	C15	5.931
4	C10	0.943	4	C6	5.870
5	C20	0.916	5	C10	5.728
6	C4	0.644	6	C5	5.716
7	C7	0.34	7	C3	5.675
8	C17	0.311	8	C7	5.490
9	C14	0.247	9	C16	5.437
10	C8	-0.05	10	C18	5.214
11	C11	-0.24	11	C8	5.170
12	C9	-0.3	12	C12	5.132
13	C16	-0.45	13	C4	5.078
14	C6	-0.46	14	C17	5.049
15	C12	-0.51	15	C9	4.843
16	C18	-0.59	16	C19	4.822
17	C2	-0.62	17	C20	4.664
18	C15	-0.7	18	C11	4.657
19	C13	-1.21	19	C1	4.456
20	C3	-2.14	20	C14	4.446

**Table 5**

Linguistic variables to rank the options

importance	Very poor	poor	Average poor	Akin	Average good	Good	Very good
Fuzzy Number	(0,0,1)	(0,1,3)	(1,3,5)	(3,5,7)	(5,7,9)	(7,9,10)	(9,10,10)

**Table 6**

Green Supply Chain Scales' Ranking

Options	contraction	Distance from Positive ideal	Distance from Negative ideal	Similarity Index	Ranking
Loss Management	A <sub>4</sub>	11.670	12.121	0.547	1
Product Process improvement	A <sub>2</sub>	11.461	12.264	0.517	2
Interior environmental Management	A <sub>1</sub>	12.185	11.518	0.509	3
Non-Production resource management	A <sub>3</sub>	10.590	12.775	0.486	4
Environmental external management	A <sub>6</sub>	18.640	9.433	0.484	5
Final production turnover improvement	A <sub>7</sub>	11.911	11.194	0.429	6
Education and culture building	A <sub>5</sub>	13.429	10.081	0.336	7

## 5. Conclusion

Studying the literature of the research and interviewing experts, 10 scales with 36 sub-scales identified and by screening them, 7 main scales and 20 sub-scales were selected. The results of our investigation have illustrated that the reduction of production loss had the strongest impact on other sub-scales. In addition, obtaining environmental management certificates and reduction of interior product process' pollution as the other sub-scale have maintained the minority interaction with other elements. Regarding the influence of the elements, Loss reduction element has been the most influential elements among the others and the reduction of interior process' pollution sub-scale stands on the second place. Other sub-scales stand respectively on following places from the influential point of view. The obtained results from the Fuzzy TOPSIS technique illustrates that the loss management stands on first place. Therefore, the organization for implying Green Supply Chain Management should invest more on loss management element. The improvement of production process and interior environmental management stand on the second and the third place. The other

subscales stand on other rankings. Therefore, regarding the obtained results, it is suggested that the organizations start establishing and codifying a systematic and regular plan for proper implementation of waste system for industrial waste disposal which is harmful for environment. In addition, it is expected from the company, due to the importance of the improvement of production process' element, to choose the raw material, which is not harmful for environment and to replace the substances, which are environmentally friendly. In addition, controlling the pollutants in production process plays a vital role in achieving environmental targets in Supply Chain. It is advised to the company to apply the new technologies for reduction of pollutants in inter organizational process. It's also recommended the clean technologies for optimizing the energy consuming inside the organization applied in order to prevent the resource loss.

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