

# Sustainability Checklist for DeepTech Startups



## **Sustainability Checklist for DeepTech Startups**

### **Environmental**

- ☐ Develops technologies that minimize energy consumption and carbon emissions, both in the development and operational phases.
- ☐ Evaluates and mitigates any adverse environmental impacts caused by their technologies, such as electromagnetic pollution or space debris.
- ☐ Uses materials and resources sustainably, prioritizing recycling and reducing waste in all tech developments.
- ☐ Optimizes low-carbon transition, ethical supply chains, safer innovation, and accountable AI.
- ☐ Ensures energy used in quantum computing (if it is used) and other high-power operations is sourced from renewable sources.

### **Social**

- ☐ Ensures technology development is ethical, particularly in potentially controversial areas like artificial intelligence and genetic modification.
- ☐ Promotes diversity and inclusion within the workforce, particularly in high-skilled technical and leadership roles.
- ☐ Engages with local and global communities to assess the social impacts and benefits of advanced technologies.
- ☐ Provides education and training for employees and stakeholders about the potential impacts and benefits of emerging technologies.
- ☐ Ensures accessibility of products and services, aiming to bridge the digital divide.
- ☐ Maintains strict health and safety standards in all aspects of work, especially in high-risk environments like space operations or quantum labs.
- ☐ Implements policies that prevent any form of discrimination or bias in technologies, such as those used in recruitment or surveillance.

### **Organizational**

- ☐ Adopts robust governance frameworks that are flexible enough to adapt to the fast-evolving nature of deep technology sectors.
- ☐ Ensures full compliance with all relevant regulations and legal standards, especially those related to space, quantum technologies, and advanced computing.
- ☐ Engages a broad range of stakeholders, including ethicists and industry experts, in governance processes.

- ☐ Regularly reviews and updates policies to incorporate ethical considerations and public concerns into technological development.
- ☐ Upholds rigorous standards for intellectual property management while promoting open innovation when possible.
- ☐ Manages risks proactively and has risk management efforts, particularly those associated with technologies that could have significant unforeseen impacts.
- ☐ Provides clear and regular reporting on sustainability goals, progress, and challenges.

