

### Module P3: Sustainable Development

Stage	1						
Semester	1						
Module Title	Sustainable Development						
Module Number/Reference	P 3 - SD						
Module Status (Mandatory/Elective)	Mandatory						
Module ECTS credit	5						
Module NFQ level (only if applicable)	9						
Pre-requisite Module Titles	N/A						
Co-requisite Module Titles	N/A						
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No						
List of Module Teaching Personnel	Anthony Flynn						
Contact Hours				Non-contact Hours			Total Effort (Hours)
Lecture	Practical	Tutorial	Seminar	Assignment	Placement	Independent work	
18		18				64	100
Allocation of Marks (Within the Module)							
	Continuous Assessment	Project	Practical	Final Examination	Total is always 100%		
Percentage contribution	50%			50%	100%		

### Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module learners will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the literature and policy pertaining to sustainability.
2. Recognise and display an array of research skills in the assessment of the three pillars of sustainability - economic, social and environmental.
3. Competently express an awareness of the challenges and issues procurement and supply managers are currently facing.
4. Critically examine the responsibility industry and public sector has towards sustainable measures and analyse its commitment from a local, national and global prospective.
5. Develop and expand the discussion on sustainable development from a multidisciplinary approach to include ethical, technological, legal and political aspects.
6. Recognise and appreciate the scope of change required to move towards a more sustainable future and in doing so be in a position to promote this change.

7. Demonstrate advanced understanding of the strategic current trends and critical issues impacting upon sustainable development.

### **Module Objectives**

This module focuses on the subject of sustainability and sustainable development and provides the learner with theoretical and practical considerations involved in critically evaluating the current policies and practices within industry, thus assisting industry in adopting more sustainable practices.

### **Module Curriculum**

This module explores the subject of sustainability from an International, European and local perspective and its application to the sustainable debate.

#### Tutor led sessions:

- Sustainability: why is it so important? An examination of the many elements surrounding sustainability - carbon footprint, corporate social responsibility, educating for sustainability.
- Sustainability origins: the evolution of sustainable development The three pillars of sustainability – Economic, Environment and Social.
- International/European/Irish sustainability: the relevant policies and the supporting documentation – the Brundtland Report, UN Conference in Rio, the Kyoto Protocol, Earth Summit, Agenda 21, Johannesburg, EU directives, NDP.
- Sustainability and the human element, what motivates humans, companies to embrace sustainability, legacy, economic gain, altruistic.
- Indicators for sustainability: types of indicator models, measuring for sustainability, challenges, functions and features of indicators.
- The future of sustainability – what does it hold? Past and present success and failure examples. Holistic, strategic, ongoing process.
- Case studies throughout – cutting edge, thought provoking and topical.

## Teaching Plan

Week 1	Introduction: The sustainability debate. What is sustainability? – achievable/measurable/attainable / governance structures in organisations
Week 2	Origins and evolution of the sustainability concept. Economic, Social and Environmental factors– the triple bottom line , corporate social responsibility
Week 3	International sustainability: agreements, policies, legislation and their effectiveness (Rio, Johannesburg, Agenda 21)
Week 4	Case Study: Measures for sustainability
Week 5	European sustainability: Adopted international polices – EU directives and regulations
Week 6	Irish sustainability: polices and targets: implementation and effectiveness
Week 7	Humans and sustainability: influences and motivations for sustainability Case Study: Awareness of consumers in the sustainable debate
Week 8	Assignment Week
Week 9	Mitigating impacts of development – tools and techniques – use of procurement as a measure to enhance sustainable practices
Week 10	Mitigating impacts of development – sustainability indicators
Week 11	Mitigating against unsustainable practices – use of procurement to drive minority group participation in sustainable practices
Week 12	Trends - successes and failures in the motivation for sustainability, past present and future
Week 13	Review and examination preparation

## Reading lists and other learning materials

### Recommended

Williams, F (2013) Corporate Social Responsibility : The role of business in sustainable development (global institutions) , Routledge

The module will be supported through a case based learning approach utilising current and relevant cases from the ECCH (European Case Clearing House) and others. It is felt that a single text book will form foundational level approaches but that the case approach will develop masters level critical thinking skills.

## Additional

Bell, S. & Morse, S., 2008. Sustainability Indicators: Measuring the Immeasurable<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Earthscan.

Dresner, S. 2002. *The Principles of Sustainability*. Earthscan Ltd

Epstein, M.J., 2008. *Making Sustainability Work: Best Practices in Managing and Measuring Social, Environmental and Economic Impacts*. Greenleaf Publishing

Pawlowski, A., 2011. *Sustainable Development as a Civilizational Revolution – A Multidisciplinary Approach to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. CRC Press

## Websites

[www.iisd.org/sd/](http://www.iisd.org/sd/)

[www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org](http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org)

## Module Learning Environment

A base classroom is used for teaching purposes for the delivery of Sustainable Development Policy and Planning. Participants also have access to online teaching resources and Moodle.

The learners will also participate in field trips to organisations working in the area sustainable development. International case studies on the subject area of sustainable development policy and planning will be used to support the learner's knowledge enhancement of this key management issue.

## Module Teaching and Learning Strategy

This module is delivered through a series of formal and participative lectures, class discussion and guest seminars thus providing an opportunity for learners to acquire knowledge and understanding of the course material. Participants debate and critique many concepts during each session. Learners are advised on how to undertake an academic study and will be directed during the completion of their coursework.

## Module Assessment Strategy

Element Number	Weighting	Type	Description
1	40%	Written Assignment	Academic Report
2	10%	Presentation	Formal presentation on their report
3	50%	Examination	Closed Book Exam

Assessment Strategy			
Module Learning Outcome	Element 1	Element 2	Element 3
1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the literature and policy pertaining to sustainability.	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. Recognise and display an array of research skills in the assessment of the three pillars of sustainability -	Yes	Yes	N/A

economic, social and environmental.			
3. Competently express an awareness of the challenges and issues industry is currently facing.	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Critically examine the responsibility the industry has towards sustainable measures and analyse its commitment from a local, national and global prospective.	Yes	Yes	Yes
5. Develop and expand the discussion on sustainable development from a multidisciplinary approach to include ethical, technological, legal and political aspects.	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. Recognise and appreciate the scope of change required to move towards a more sustainable future and in doing so be in a position to promote this change.	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. Demonstrate advanced understanding of the strategic current trends and critical issues impacting upon sustainable development.	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Sample Examination Marking Criteria

Outstanding work which is both illuminating and insightful. Language is fluent and authoritative demonstrating a comprehensive knowledge, and convincing command of the subject matter. Accurate and concise application of theory and additional sources of work where appropriate. Exceptionally clear and well articulated examples provided to support learners answer. Excellent structure.	80%+
Evidence of a very good understanding of theory and sound application to a particular business scenario when required. Competent critical analysis with the ability to develop a clear and compelling argument. Well developed examples where required to help illustrate learners work.	70- 79 %
Good understanding of the underlying concepts and a good attempt at applying theory to business scenario when required. Good logic and structure to answer. Examples provided to illustrate answer.	60- 69%
Evidence of some reading from lectures, handouts, recommended texts though often descriptive in nature. Reasonable use of most major points though missing some key elements of theory. Confused or unclear in parts. Examples provided where required but	55 – 59%

underdeveloped.	
Some relevant material but inadequate or incomplete treatment of same. Minimal or missing examples.	50 – 54%
Not of passing standard though shows signs of some engagement with the material.	45 – 49%
Serious lack of relevance; signs of lack of involvement with course material; serious confusion.	<45%