

Shape up for Sustainability

Introducing a foundation course in sustainable development for professionals from the Professional Practice for Sustainable Development project

Introducing sustainable development

“Development that perpetuates today’s inequalities is neither sustainable nor worth sustaining.”

UN Development Programme

Sustainable development recognises the need to:

- Work with and protect the natural systems on which life on Earth depends.
- Encourage economic development that is socially equitable – for people at home and overseas.

Why is sustainable development important to the professions?

“The drive for accountability is forcing many of the 5.5 million people in the UK who call themselves professionals and the professional associations who represent them to rethink their approach to sustainability.”

William Pope, Managing Director of The Casella Group Ltd

- Using economic criteria alone can be a direct or indirect cause of local, national and international conflicts.
- Governments are planning and legislating for sustainable development.
- Major projects are expected to take account of their environmental and social impacts as well as the economic benefits they might bring.
- More clients are including sustainable development criteria in development project briefs.
- In legal liability cases, members of professional associations might be found negligent if sustainable development issues were not taken into account when planning, implementing or managing a development.
- Members of professional bodies are seeking advice and training on sustainable development.

What are some of the obstacles?

- The topic is huge and definitions abound. Finding a starting point can be a real obstacle to getting engaged.
- The solutions require an unprecedented level of inter-professional learning and cooperation.
- Few professionals are aware of the tools available to help them become engaged in sustainable development.
- Sustainable development is still not a key feature of initial or professional training.

“Business is not in opposition to, but has a fundamental role in delivering sustainable development – to meet the needs of today’s world without depriving future generations of their means to do so.”

Lord Browne of Madingley, Group Chief Executive, BP

The PP4SD Foundation Course

PP4SD has developed a one-day course that helps professionals overcome these initial hurdles and embark on a process of integrating sustainable development into their professional lives.

Systems thinking and practice – the relationship between natural and other systems – is the key principle underpinning the course. It also introduces models of sustainability that can be used in a variety of organisational contexts.

Training and the trainers

The project team also runs “Train the Trainer” courses. Trainers are given permission to use and copy the training manual for use in their own training courses.

The 70-page, wire-bound manual includes:

- A handbook for the tutor including guidance on how to use the materials as part of a training programme.
- A sample programme.
- Materials for use in the programme with additional information to support the tutor.
- Case studies to illustrate how a selection of organisations and businesses are addressing the sustainability challenge.
- Copies of more than 60 slides.
- A CD-ROM containing the slides in PowerPoint format and the manual in pdf format.

The manual can be purchased separately or as part of a training package.

A list of trainers who have attended one of these courses and are available to run a Foundation Course can be obtained from IES.

The PP4SD project

The Professional Practice for Sustainable Development project, or PP4SD as it is best known, is inter-professional. Its main purpose is to facilitate inter-professional learning for sustainable development.

PP4SD is facilitated by:

- The Environment Agency
- The Institution of Environmental Sciences
- The Natural Step
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The following institutions have participated in PP4SD and the development of the course:

- Building Services and Research Information Association
- Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
- Chartered Institution of Wastes Management
- Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
- Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply
- Institute of Energy
- Institution of Chemical Engineers
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Environmental Sciences
- Institution of Mechanical Engineers
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Royal Town Planning Institute

PP4SD is part funded by the Government's Environmental Action Fund

Courses available

- A one-day foundation course, customised if necessary to a client's individual requirements, providing:
 - A starting point for professional training in sustainable development
 - A facilitated dialogue to explore the topic and the issues arising.
 - Simple tools for engaging in thinking about the issues and identifying sustainable solutions.
 - Case studies to investigate how others are responding to the sustainability challenge.
 - The opportunity to develop action plans.
- A one-and-a-half day course to assist trainers in the use of the manual and the facilitation of the one-day foundation course.

Information and booking

Further information about the project, Shape up for Sustainability courses and trainers is available from PP4SD at the Institution of Environmental Sciences or from the PP4SD website <http://www.pp4sd.org.uk>

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