



## Foundation Certificate in Sustainability & Environmental Management



**ISEP**

Institute of Sustainability &  
Environmental Professionals

## Syllabus Guide

# Astutis.

# Foundation Certificate in Sustainability & Environmental Management

The ISEP Foundation Certificate has been developed to provide a basic knowledge of environmental and sustainability principles to build upon. It covers a range of environmental, sustainability and governance principles with a focus on practical application.

## Course Summary

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Understand business, governance and environmental principles and their relationship with organisations, products and services
- Ensure compliance with major environmental policy and legislation
- Implement specific tools, techniques, systems and practices to improve sustainability performance
- Collect data, perform analysis, and evaluate information to provide sustainable solutions
- Implement change and transformation to improve sustainability

## Full Course Syllabus

### 1. Fundamentals of Sustainability

This topic covers the implications of global trends for the environment, society, the economy and organisations

- Global mega-trends driving the need to transform the world to sustainability
- The concept of sustainable development
- The UN's Sustainable Development Goals
- The five sustainable capitals and the dependencies between them
- The concept of environmental limits
- Economic activity that creates unintended environmental and social consequences, locally and globally
- Delivering sustainable outcomes by applying sustainability skills to overcome internal and external changes



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## 2. Fundamental Business and Governance Principles and Issues

Learn sustainable business/governance principles and their relationship with organisations, products and services

- The role of ethics in individual and organisational decision making
- The importance of accountability, equalities, inclusivity, integrity, stewardship, transparency, cultural context and engagement

## 3. Fundamental Environmental Issues and Principles

This topic covers environmental principles and their relationship with organisations, products and services

- Natural cycles, ecological systems, ecosystem services and environmental limits, and their impact on your organisation
- The impact of human interventions on natural ecological systems, habitats, species and individuals
- Pollution sources, pathways and receptors

## 4. Policy, Regulation and Legislation

Learn major policy and legislation and their implications for organisations, products and services

- Sustainability issues linked to policy
- The main types of law and the relationship between international, national and sub-national law
- Key policy instruments in place and how they are used to achieve sustainable change
- Key environmental principles that form the basis of policy
- Key environmental legislation
- The role of environmental regulators and penalties for non-compliance
- Stakeholders that influence environmental issues and policy development
- The benefits and opportunities organisations can achieve in moving beyond compliance



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## 5. Management and Assessment Tools

Learn the major tools, techniques, systems and practices used to improve sustainability performance

- Major environmental management tools, techniques, systems and practices, their advantages and disadvantages
- The concept of lifecycle thinking, its benefits and challenges
- The different roles people play in delivering sustainable outcomes
- The tools, techniques, systems and/or practices used by organisations to manage compliance and non-compliance

## 6. Innovative and Leading Practices

This topic covers the role of innovation and other leading practices in developing sustainable products and services and providing sustainable solutions

## 7. Analytical Thinking

Analytical Thinking covers collecting data, performing analysis, and evaluating information

- Identifying relevant sources of data and describing techniques used to collect, process, and store accurate data
- The importance of relevant and accurate data
- Analysing and interpreting data to draw appropriate conclusions and make practical recommendations that improve sustainability performance
- Methods to monitor a programme to improve sustainability performance

## 8. Problem Reframing and Resolution

This topic cover the benefits of research, planning and keeping up-to-date with innovations providing sustainable solutions

## 9. Effective Communication

Learn how to deliver effective communication and capture feedback

- The role effective communication plays in achieving sustainable outcomes
- Identifying a range of internal and external stakeholders
- Communication methods that provide information and capture feedback



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## 10. Relationship Development

This topic covers the benefits of collaboration and cooperation in responding to sustainability challenges, particularly when facing similar issues

## 11. Resilience, Risk and Continual Improvement

This covers the tools and techniques that can be used to identify opportunities and risks

## 12. Delivering Sustainable Solutions

Learn how to Identify and propose ways to improve performance

- Long-term vision for sustainability and improving sustainability performance
- Key project management techniques that can deliver sustainable outcomes
- Financial return on investment and wider benefits
- Contracting and procurement for improving sustainability performance

## 13. Leadership for Change

This covers the principles of change management transformation to improve sustainability

## Course Assessment

There is a 1-hour open-book online multiple-choice exam, which must be completed within 28 days of the start of the course.



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