Introduction to Sustainability Concepts
Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This self-paced, 15-hour online course is designed to equip students with a strong foundational knowledge of sustainability and the balance between environmental, social, and economic systems. The materials provide students with a thorough introduction to sustainability topics such as ecosystems, energy and water challenges, life-cycle analysis, new technology, and climate change science. The course incorporates hands-on activities, online modules, discussion forums, and dynamic instruction methods.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Define sustainability and describe the environmental, economic, and social aspects of the triple bottom line.
2. Describe the profound impact humans have had on the ecosphere, and explain the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
3. Differentiate between renewable and nonrenewable energy sources, and identify the key components of the green economy.
4. Understand the role of the U.S. and European industrial revolutions on the human ecological footprint and the ways in which developing nations are following suit.
5. Identify the multiple contributors to human's ecological footprint, including agriculture, energy, food, poverty, and the built environment.
6. Describe the global inequities of sustainability decision making, and the intersection of sustainability with global health issues.
7. Understand the economic factors of sustainability and the role of government in providing public goods and market incentives for the expansion of sustainability initiatives.
8. Identify new trends in technology (and their relation to the emerging green economy) such as renewable energy, new agriculture, transportation innovations, and green building design and practice.
9. Define the role of consumers, businesses, and media in promoting sustainability.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
The 15 hours of directed instruction is accessed online through any internet connection. The course consists of ten sequential units which contain all of the instructional resources participants will need to complete the course. These include a variety of instructional formats, such as video, animations, presentations, guided activities, and readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Participants are expected to complete all ten units and 15 hours of directed instruction, which include the following components:

1. Pre- and Post-Self Assessments
2. Guided Activities
3. Unit Readings
4. Discussion Groups (optional)

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