

Living & Working for a Sustainable Future

Module: Air Quality, Me & My Work

Learner Study Guide

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Analyze the causes and effects of the natural and built environment on indoor and outdoor air quality.

Learning Activities

To complete this unit, students should:

- ✓ Complete the activities outlined in step 1: Looking Back
- ✓ Complete the activities outlined in step 2: Looking Within
- ✓ Complete the activities outlined in step 3: Looking Forward
- ✓ Submit the required assessment components to your facilitator



Looking Back: INFORMATION & EXPERIENCE

NSCC's mission, vision and strategic plan are fundamentally aligned with the principles of sustainability. The College is committed to taking a leadership role in the journey toward sustainability for the benefit of all Nova Scotians. NSCC programs help learners to be able to apply sustainable practices that support economic, social, cultural and environmental stewardship.

This module relates to the causes and effects of the natural and built environment on indoor and outdoor air quality. Air is fundamental to human life but it is something that we often take for granted. Think about what you know about air quality already. No doubt you can recall personal experiences relating to indoor and outdoor air quality.

Internet Research Activity: An Online Scavenger Hunt

Take action using the Internet to discover answers to the questions listed on the next page. See them as items on an Internet Scavenger Hunt. Be sure to keep track of your references and sources of the information. It is important to know where the information is coming from to ensure it is a credible source.

Question one:

Provide definitions for the following terms:

- a) Indoor air quality
- b) Outdoor air quality
- c) Natural environment
- d) Built Environment

Question two:

How does the natural environment impact outdoor air quality?

Question three:

How does the natural environment impact indoor air quality?

Question four:

How does the built environment impact outdoor air quality?

Question five:

How does the built environment impact indoor air quality?

	Looking Within: REFLECT & SHARE
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So far you have been doing a lot of investigative work. This is important.

Take the time to REFLECT on what you have read, discovered and learned.

What does all this mean to YOU?

Record your reflection in some form.

Learning takes on deeper meaning when it is shared. Taking the time to share your reflections with someone else allows you to experience someone else's perspective. Take the time to SHARE your reflections with someone else.

How were your responses similar? How were your responses different?

Take Action to research and find another reading or resource relating to indoor and outdoor air quality that you really like - a reading that connects with YOU.

Compile the complete reference information for the reading / resource. Write a single paragraph explanation of why you have selected the reading / resource and how it connects with you. To receive credit for this module, you will be required to submit your recommended related reading / resource component to your facilitator.

Share the reading / resource you have selected with someone else and discuss your collective responses. How were your responses similar? How were your responses different?

Take advantage of opportunities to engage in further dialogue with your co-learners and your facilitator about what you have been reading and discovering in the course to date.



Looking Forward: Consider possible ACTION

In considering possible action we are asking you to complete some important detective work. The first part of your detective work has to do with the indoor air quality and the second part has to do with outdoor air quality.

Learning Detective Work Part 1: Indoor Air Quality

Take action to find out more about the air in your home, work or learning environment. Find out more about how the air comes in, what happens to the air / how it is handled and where it goes. Find out what you can about the implications of our activities and the built environment on indoor air quality. You will be required to submit a reflection component on this activity.

Learning Detective Work Part 2: Outdoor Air Quality

This detective work will have you taking action to research air quality from different perspectives. You will compare a community close to where you live to another community in another country and find out what you can about air quality measures in the comparison areas. To make the comparison more relevant try to choose two communities with a similar connection such as climate, population, or geography.

What are you able to find out about air quality in each of these areas?

What sources of information are available?

What are the contributors to the air quality in each of these areas?

Think about these general activities and action avenues relating to air quality. You will be required to submit a reflection component on this activity.

- **In addition to what you submit to your facilitator, you are also encouraged to participate in formal and informal dialogue opportunities with co-learners. Discuss the following question: How did this module impact YOU?**

Assessment



In order to receive credit for this module, you are required to submit to your facilitator your recommended related reading / resource artifact as well as a single page learning reflection. This reflection must include the components outlined below and fit on one single letter size page with a minimum 10 point type font.

- **Module Name:**
- **Learner Name:**
- **How did this module INFORM?** Based on your module readings, reflections and collaboration with others, provide a one paragraph summary of how the content from this module has informed you relating to the importance of sustainability action. What is the single most important thing you learned from this module?
- **How did this module INFLUENCE?** Knowledge is one thing, but learning takes on deeper meaning when it is reflected upon and shared. Throughout this module you have been encouraged to discuss, reflect, share and collaborate with other learners in your journey through the content and activities. Provide one paragraph of reflection evidence indicating how others helped to evolve your attitudes and /or how you have helped to change the attitudes of others.
- **How did this module INSPIRE?** Knowledge and attitudes are important but actions and behaviours are where change often most noticeably happens. Really think about the things you can do (and are already doing). Sum up the personal action steps you are currently completing and/or plan on taking based on this module.
- **Your learning is documented in many forms. Your submitted reflection pieces and the different pieces of evidence from the learning activities you completed are all important artifacts of your learning – they are representations of what and how you have learned.**
- **Your lifelong learning and action to help create a more sustainable future continues on from here...**