

INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (ENVI3000)

Module: Sustainability Application & Action

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Synthesize action steps relating to the importance of sustainability.

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 application of sustainability in an individual's personal and professional realms of influence. There are all kinds of good ideas relating to how we can help to create a more sustainable world together, but all of the ideas take effort and action in order to really make them happen. Sustainability and revitalization

are inextricably linked to personal action - the decisions we all make to help create a more sustainable, revitalized world that helps to leave the world better than we found it. This involves our personal choices in our personal lives, but also the choices we make at work and through work with the collective power of the businesses and organizations with which we are directly and indirectly involved.

The first learning activity usually has to do with figuring out the definitions of some of the words and terminology relating to that field. Take some time to reflect on what sustainability means to you. Think about the framework for sustainability at the international, federal, provincial, municipal and personal levels. It is important to understand what the related terms mean as a foundation for taking that understanding further. Think about what sustainability means to you and how your understanding has changed over time.

This module will allow you the opportunity to bring together your learning relating to sustainability by developing a personal plan of action for creating a more sustainable world. You will not only create the plan, but you will also start to implement your personal plan and take steps to reflect on the implementation of plan of action.

Have you ever completed an environmental impact / eco footprint calculator...If you have, think about what the calculator told you and what you learned from the experience. As you prepare to put together your own sustainability action plan, it will be helpful to complete (or revisit completing) an "eco-footprint" or "environmental impact" activity - there are many names for these types of learning activities. If you have completed one of these types of activities already, you may want to complete the same one again to see if anything has changed. Or, if you would rather complete a totally new calculator activity to see what insight that yields you definitely have that option too. Whatever option you choose, you still are required to submit the reflection for this activity outlined below to your facilitator.

Take the time to research online to find a personal environmental impact / eco-footprint calculator learning activity that you like. You are required to complete the learning activity and then reflect on it. You will be required to submit to your instructor a one page reflection on completing your selected personal environmental impact learning activity.

- *Name:*
- *Title of personal environmental impact / eco footprint learning activity:*

- *Online Location / URL of personal environmental impact learning activity:*
- *One paragraph to describe the personal environmental impact learning activity (What did it involve?):*
- *One paragraph to reflect on completing the personal environmental impact learning activity (What did it mean to you?):*

If you are having a challenging time finding a related personal environmental impact learning activity that you like, you may want to try the EcoAction Teams EcoAction Calculator. This is a Canadian resource - EcoAction Teams is a community-based program of Earth Day Canada. Established in 2003 as a pilot program, in 2007, the online calculator were upgraded to account for differences in how energy, waste and water are produced and used in each province and territory across Canada. Now in Phase 1 of a cross-country roll-out, Earth Day Canada is partnering with individual municipalities and other partners to deliver environmental strategies and savings via the EcoAction Teams program. This particular resource allows you to preview the resource without logging on, or you can sign up as a member to be able to view your savings report and checklist, or to participate as a team. Search online to see if you can find the organization. If you are having a hard time try the URL: <http://calculator.ecoactionteams.ca/welcome.aspx>

There is also a neat online calculator available through the International Earth Day Network - you have the option of completing the calculator without providing your email address but you will have to indicate where you are and for now the closest physical "location" on the map is Calgary, Alberta, Canada but we have planted seeds about having Nova Scotia added to this map as well! Search online to see if you can find the organization. If you are having a hard time try the URL: <http://www.earthday.net/footprint/flash.html>

There are many different options available for calculating your ecological footprint. Another possible resource is through the Global Footprint Network. In 2003, Global Footprint Network was established to enable a sustainable future where all people have the opportunity to live satisfying lives within the means of one planet. An essential step in creating a one-planet future is measuring human impact on the Earth so we can make more informed choices. The work of the Global Footprint Network aims to accelerate the use of the Ecological Footprint — a resource accounting tool that measures how much nature we have, how much we use, and who uses what. The Ecological Footprint is a data-driven metric that tells us how close we are to the goal of sustainable living. Check out the resources online and try some of their learning opportunities available through the Global Footprint Network. Search online to see if you can find the organization. If you are having a hard time try the URL: <http://www.footprintnetwork.org>

There are all kinds of personal environmental impact related learning activities available online. Find one you like, complete it, document the learning and reflect on the process using the questions outlined above. You are required to submit this one page learning artifact to your course facilitator.

	Looking Within: REFLECT & SHARE
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Take a look at this optional recommended resource from UNESCO.
See where this resource leads you in terms of your learning...

Optional Resource Review:

"YouthXchange: towards sustainable lifestyles; training kit on responsible consumption, the guide"

UNESCO, 2008

88 pages

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001587/158700e.pdf>

There are all kinds of amazing resources relating to sustainability. You have the choice of reviewing and submitting a one page reflection on the optional resource above, or finding another resource relating to sustainability and reviewing that resource that connects with YOU. If you are reviewing another resource, be sure to compile the complete reference information for the reading / resource that connects with YOU. For both reflection options, be sure to address the following questions in your reflection:

Think about why you have selected the reading / resource and how it connects with you. 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? Write about that in your reflection.

You are required to submit a single page reading / resource review / recommendation to your facilitator responding to the questions outlined below.

Your Name:

Title of reading / resource:


Complete reference information for reading / resource including online location / URL if applicable:

*One paragraph to describe the reading / resource (**What did it mean to you?**):*

*One paragraph to describe why you selected this reading / resource (**How does it connect to you?**):*

*One paragraph to describe the reaction of someone else to this same resource - how were your responses similar and how were they different (**How does it connect with someone else?**):*

Take advantage of opportunities to engage in further dialogue with your co-learners and your facilitator about these activities and resources.

	Looking Forward: APPLICATION & ACTION
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The Earth Charter is centrally concerned with the transition to sustainable ways of living and sustainable human development. It provides a framework to guide the transition to a sustainable future by providing a vision of hope and a call to action.

Take action to REVIEW "The Earth Charter" - This is available online at:

<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/pages/Read-the-Charter.html>

If you have previously read this document, be sure to take the time to review it again. You will notice that sometimes the same content can strike you at different times in different ways...

Also, be sure to take the time to review "**The Earth Charter - Action Guidelines**" - also available online at:

<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/pages/Action-Guidelines.html>

Consider the scope of Earth Charter Initiative projects and activities.

Think about these general activities and action avenues.

One important action avenue is endorsement of the Earth Charter.

Endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals or organizations signifies a commitment to the spirit and aims of the document. It is an indication that they intend to utilize the Earth Charter in ways that are appropriate given their situation. Endorsement also means a commitment to work for the implementation of the values and principles of the Earth Charter and a readiness to cooperate with others in this endeavor.

"We, the undersigned, endorse the Earth Charter. We embrace the spirit and aims of the document. We pledge to join the global partnership for a just, sustainable, and peaceful world and to work for the realization of the values and principles of the Earth Charter."

(Source: <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/>)

Have you already endorsed the Earth Charter?

If you have already endorsed the Earth Charter when did you do so and why?

If you have not already endorsed the Earth Charter would you consider doing so?

This module allows you the opportunity to bring together your learning relating to sustainability by developing a personal plan of action for creating a more sustainable world.

Go back to each of the reflection components you submitted for each of the modules for this course. Think about what it might look like to pull together these "inspire" action steps into a personal action plan outlining what you are doing and will do in creating a more sustainable world.

To complete this module you are required to complete and submit an action plan. However, you have a choice in how you do this - the way that makes the most sense for you. You have the choice of integrating and submitting a personal action plan outlining key action(s) you will be taking and how you will be completing the plan. However, you also have the option to focusing your action plan on an issue, priority and/or opportunity within the NSCC organization or within your own communities. There are a diversity of ways that we can build on the strength of existing sustainability activities happening at NSCC and within communities and encouraging new approaches and ideas is an important part of how this change will happen.

Consider the action steps you envision taking (or are already taking) relating to sustainability action. Once you have created your plan and made it real by having it in written format, next you will also start to implement your personal plan and take steps to reflect on the implementation of plan of action for creating a more sustainable world. To receive credit for this module, you are required to submit this component to your facilitator.

Assessment



In order to receive credit for this module, you are required to submit to your facilitator your recommended related reading / resource 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?** What is the single most important thing you learned from this course?
- **How did this module INFLUENCE?** Review the personal action steps you are currently completing and/or plan on taking. Provide a one paragraph summary of how completing this module will influence yourself and others.
- **How did this module INSPIRE?** Pull together your learning and action steps to compile a concise personal plan that sums up the things you are currently doing and/or plan on doing in order to apply sustainable practices that support economic, social, cultural and environmental stewardship.
- **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?**
- **Your lifelong learning and action to help create a sustainable world continues on from here...**