

TRAINING LESSON 6 - Part 2 (plastic sector)

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| Title | Environmental-friendly practices at the workplace |
| Part of the training course referred to in this lesson | <input type="checkbox"/> Part 1 General information about sustainability and CE Part 2 Specific Information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wood sector <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plastic sector <input type="checkbox"/> Agrifood sector |
| EQF level | 3 level |
| Where the lesson was tested | // |
| General Learning objective(s) according to the Bloom Taxonomy https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/blooms-taxonomy/ | <input type="checkbox"/> Create Produce new or original work (design, assemble, construct, investigate, formulate) <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate Justify a stand or decision (appraise, argue, defend, critique, select, support) <input type="checkbox"/> Analyze Draw connections among ideas (differentiate, organize, relate, compare, distinguish, test, experiment) <input type="checkbox"/> Apply Use information in new situations (execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, operate) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Understand Explain ideas or concepts (classify, discuss, describe, identify, locate, translate) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remember Recall facts and basic concepts (define, duplicate, list, memorize, repeat) |
| Specific learning objective(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To understand the impact of new and old pathways creation and maintenance in the plastic sector, means of transport influence on nature. - To get to know eco-friendly practices benefits organisations. - To learn about the alternatives of using different materials and different methods of creating and maintaining an environmentally conscious workplace. |
| Cognitive, socioemotional and behavioural outcomes | <i>SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</i> Cognitive learning objectives |

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| <p>based on https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/unesco_education_for_sustainable_development_goals.pdf</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner understands the concepts of sustainable infrastructure and industrialization and society’s needs for a systemic approach to their development. • The learner understands the local, national and global challenges and conflicts in achieving sustainability in infrastructure and industrialization. • The learner knows the pitfalls of unsustainable industrialization and in contrast knows examples of resilient, inclusive, sustainable industrial development and the need for contingency planning. <p>Socio-emotional learning objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner is able to recognize and reflect on their own personal demands on the local infrastructure such as their carbon and water footprints and food miles. • The learner is able to argue for sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure in their local area. <p>Behavioural learning objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner is able to work with decision-makers to improve the uptake of sustainable infrastructure (including internet access). • The learner is able to identify opportunities in their own culture and nation for greener and more resilient approaches to infrastructure, understanding their overall benefits for societies, especially with regard to disaster risk reduction. <p>SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities</p> <p>Behavioural learning objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner is able to plan, implement and evaluate community-based sustainability projects. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Green skill(s) addressed</p> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Creative problem-solving</td> <td>X Management skills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X Forward-thinking</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Impact quantification</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring skills</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Life-cycle management</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Analytical skills</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Science skills</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Lean production</td> <td>X Waste management</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X Maintenance and repair skills</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental auditing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X Pollution prevention</td> <td>X Ecosystem management</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Eco-design</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> </tr> </table> | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative problem-solving | X Management skills | X Forward-thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Impact quantification | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Life-cycle management | <input type="checkbox"/> Analytical skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Science skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Lean production | X Waste management | X Maintenance and repair skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental auditing | X Pollution prevention | X Ecosystem management | <input type="checkbox"/> Eco-design | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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| X Maintenance and repair skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental auditing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| X Pollution prevention | X Ecosystem management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eco-design | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Duration</p> | <p>20min.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| <p>Structure and content of the lesson</p> | <p>The practical lesson “Environmental-friendly practices at the workplace (Means of transport and nature protection)” consist of three topics:</p> <p>Topic 1. Business concerns about plastic waste issues</p> <p>Topic 2. Eco-friendly practices benefits for organisations</p> <p>Topic 3. Recommendations for an environmentally conscious workplace</p> <p>Topic 1. Business concerns about plastic waste issues</p> <p>OECD prognosis that by 2060 the use of plastics could almost triple globally. Global plastics production doubled from 2000 to 2019 to reach 460 million tonnes. Plastics account for 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. (OECD Global plastics Outlook Database).</p> <p>Taofeeq D. Moshood, Gusman Nawanir and others (2022) emphasize that <i>“Plastic usage is increasing the number of <u>pollutants</u> in the environment. Plastic particles and other plastic-based pollutants are found in our environment and food chain, posing a threat to human health”</i> In the business sector questions about waste management and standards to reduce environmental imprints bring us to the biodegradable plastic idea. Also, pressure on business work not only to be efficient but also to be focused on sustainability.</p> <p>We can find green jobs and green working places that try to reduce our carbon footprint, to save energy. Many businesses compensate for their impact on the environment by offsetting their carbon emissions - this means paying for equivalent emissions saving somewhere else, with the goal of becoming carbon neutral. For example, by offering financial support to renewable energy projects, like installing wind farms. The aim of the game is less - less waste, less pollution, and less energy usage. Reducing its carbon footprint is not only the right thing for an organization to do, but by meeting any legal obligations that are required, they can avoid any legal costs or damage to their reputation.</p> <p>The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food Industry Asia (FIA) 2020 year released a survey that results show that consumers are concerned about plastic waste, but are not changing habits. Consumers’ focus on recycling is increasing. Businesses declare that they understand that their current efforts are not sufficient. A Large number of respondents emphasise that businesses on plastic waste need strengthening. The World Economic Forum writes that Carbon Majors found that just 100 energy companies are responsible for 70 % of global greenhouse gas emissions. While this highlights only one industry, many other industries contribute to the climate issue. The World Economic Forum emphasises corporate social responsibility that could help to solve environmental issues.</p> <p>Several big companies launched different initiatives that bring innovative solutions to practice, for example, Kellogg set a goal of 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging by the end of 2025 and McDonald’s</p> |
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announced that by 2025 all of its guest packaging will come from renewable, recycled, or certified sources.

Topic 2. Eco-friendly practices benefits organizations

Every time a business decision is made, companies should study the impact of various such changes. How will this decision affect the company's finances, efficiency, and employee well-being?

Countries around the world are declaring a climate emergency, and companies are expected to take more responsibility for reducing their environmental impact. Every choice, whether made by an individual or a group, affects the environment. It is important to make changes at all levels to reduce negative practices and promote environmentally friendly alternatives.

Below mentioned several reasons why eco-friendly practices are useful for organizations:

- Socially responsible organization
- New clients with a new sustainable brand
- Spending less money on materials
- Legal protection
- Nature protection
- Improved working conditions
- Healthier working space
- Keeping top talent
- Encouraging volunteerism
- Sharing profit with the local community
- Awareness of employees and clients about consumption and eco-friendly practices

Believe it or not, creating a healthier work environment doesn't require as many changes to the way you do your work as you think. As defined by the World Health Organization, a healthy workplace is where workers and managers work together to use the process of continuous improvement to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of all workers and the eco-friendliness of the workplace. It is hard to ignore the benefits that organizations experience by investing in green practices. As of 2017, companies focused on green innovation enjoyed an annual growth rate of 15%, which makes a frequent commitment to sustainability and small changes to health in the workplace even worse.

Topic 3. Recommendations for an environmentally conscious workplace

Research has shown that most consumers support companies with a history of sustainability. Sustainability in business conception nowadays goes together with profit understanding. Consumers are eco-conscious and businesses accept their priorities and try to show their social responsibility and ecological friendliness. Socially responsible business conception together with ecological awareness and sustainable practices at the workplace educates not only

customers but also workers. Starting with small steps at the workplace to demonstrate eco solutions brings added value and recognition between workers and of course, outside the company. You shouldn't become green in one day but acceptance of SDG and integration in the work process will help to reach sustainable responsible business concepts. How to improve sustainability in the working place and make institutional changes could be discussed with a team and made into a strategy. It is important to involve all workers in sustainable changes. Collect good practices and ideas, search for important aspects only for your business and start to implement together with your colleagues a new, sustainable and responsible business.




Responsibility for sustainability implementation begins with actions and clear descriptions of how work should be implemented in the work process. Rethinking and adapting sustainable ideas from home, school and other businesses allow finding your own way to become greener. Considering support mechanisms to start using bicycles, to save raw resources, office supplies, materials, etc.

Recommendations on how to proceed with sustainability in each organisation are different, however main common business tips are provided below.

Some tips below could be easily adapted in each organisation:

- Policy to reduce printed paperwork
- Encourage them to use public transportation or bike riding to work, suggest financial support for employees who come with a bicycle to work, and financially encourage them to buy bicycles.
- Suggest preparing lunch at home and bringing it to work or stimulate to buy local products from local farmers. Products should be eco-packed or delivered directly to your office. Buy metal or reusable cutlery. Use drinking straws made from eco-friendly material.
- Use eco-friendly cleaning products
- Purchase a reusable water bottle or a water purifier for the office that can filter tap water.
- Create an office green team and give them the freedom to create environmentally friendly practices
- Turn off the lights, computers, and telephones when they are not needed
- To explain that all devices are taking energy and if they are not in use should be off.
- Re-organize heating and cooling energy consumption
- Eat less meat or try to reduce the amount
- Working from home reduce travel impact on environment
- Place plants around the office, that workplace, and reduce stress and anxiety for your workforce.
- Discuss possibilities how to reuse, share things between colleagues.

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| <p>References</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taofeeq D. Moshood, Gusman Nawanir, Fatimah Mahmud, Fazeeda Mohamad, Mohd Hanafiah Ahmad, Airin AbdulGhani, Sustainability of biodegradable plastics: New problem or solution to solve the global plastic pollution?, Current Research in Green and Sustainable Chemistry, Volume 5, 2022, 100273, ISSN 2666-0865, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crgsc.2022.100273. (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666086522000157) 2. OECD (2022) Plastic pollution is growing relentlessly as waste management and recycling fall short, says OECD https://www.oecd.org/environment/plastic-pollution-is-growing-relentlessly-as-waste-management-and-recycling-fall-short.htm 3. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food Industry Asia (FIA) 2020 https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/report-consumers-and-business-concerned-about-plastic-waste-expect |
| <p>Interactive questions for R3</p> | <p>Businesses understand that their current efforts are not sufficient.</p> <p>A. True (correct) B. False</p> <p>An increased economic activity also often comes with the positive impacts of human settlements.</p> <p>A. True B. False (correct)</p> |
| <p>Keywords</p> | <p>Sustainability, Eco-friendliness, Plastic, Pollution</p> |
| <p>Questions for reflection</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could you list eco-friendly practices' benefits for organizations? 2. Are you environmentally conscious at your workplace? |
| <p>Additional resources</p> | <p>Rise (2019) Environmentally conscious workplace https://risepeople.com/blog/environmentally-conscious-workplace/</p> <p>Plastic soup foundation https://www.plasticsoupfoundation.org</p> |

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| <p>Icons & related info for the hints of the PowerPoint presentation</p> | <p> This hint is used to indicate that there's a link to other websites with additional information.</p> <p> This is used within the PPT to indicate that something important is written/ to invite the reader to pay attention to essential information.</p> <p> It indicates a question for reflection</p> |
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