



# Introduction to Sustainability Module

*Community and University  
Sustainability Partnership  
CUSP*

**Module Owner**  
Prof Frances Fahy

**Module Coordinator**  
Dr Gesche  
Kindermann

ECTS: 5

NFQ Level: 8

Teaching Period: Semester  
1 & 2

Module is taught twice in  
the academic year to  
facilitate inclusion in as  
many courses as possible

Sustainability is one of the core values of NUI Galway and we adopt a **Learn -Live -Lead** approach to sustainability.

The aim with **LEARN** is to embed learning about sustainability into all aspects of university practice, learning and research so that our campus community gain the necessary knowledge and skills to demonstrate sustainable thinking and decision making in the wider world; the aim with **LIVE** is to implement the principles of sustainability through campus operations so that our communities understand the importance of sustainable living in all aspects of their lives and value their connection to the physical environment, ecosystems and biodiversity, the focus of **LEAD** is developing the campus as a role model for sustainability and fostering partnerships between community and university so that we all work together to addressing sustainability challenges. By adopting a Learn-Live Lead approach, NUI Galway aims to scale sustainability successes beyond the campus walls, acting as a leader on sustainability locally, nationally and globally.

From a **LEARN** perspective, NUI Galway recognises the importance of increasing sustainability knowledge among all campus users. To facilitate this, we aim to integrate sustainability across all education programmes of the university. With this in mind, we have developed an *'Introduction to Sustainability'* module available for inclusion in programmes across the university.





### *Module Overview*

The module is future oriented and explores the concept of sustainability in the face of global change. It encompasses a wide range of theory and practice, including social, economic and environmental issues, and links international examples to local context and relevance. The module will challenge students to critically reflect on sustainability and current approaches to sustainability.

### *Learning Outcomes:*

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

- ◆ Define and explain key aspects of sustainability
- ◆ Critically assess existing evidence in relation to how sustainability can best be promoted, in particular in the face of global change and uncertainty
- ◆ Evaluate approaches employed to lead on environmental issues and the impacts they have
- ◆ Apply and appraise sustainable approaches that are used to help reduce environmental pressures and promote sustainability
- ◆ Recommend appropriate practices to create a sustainable environment

### *Content:*

The module introduces students to the concept of sustainability and a broad range of relevant topics relating to all aspects of sustainability, including environmental, social and economic sustainability, and how these relate to each other. It utilises the expertise of staff from across the university who teach on this module and introduce students to relevant topics and research.

Topics covered include the following:

- ◆ Introduction to Sustainability
- ◆ Climate Change and the Anthropocene
- ◆ History of Globalisation
- ◆ Biodiversity and Sustainability
- ◆ The Built Environment and Sustainability
- ◆ Economic & Organisational Sustainability
- ◆ Circular Economy
- ◆ Personal & Environmental Resilience
- ◆ Sustainable Consumption
- ◆ Healthy Sustainable Futures
- ◆ Sustainability and Global Perspectives
- ◆ Building a Sustainable Society

### **Assessment:**

This module is assessed through continuous assessment. This includes online participation, quizzes, and assignments.

Email:

[gesche.kindermann@nuigalway.ie](mailto:gesche.kindermann@nuigalway.ie)