

Aims and objectives

On successful completion of this subject, the student should be able to:

- Evaluate the drivers and barriers to the implementation of corporate and community sustainability.
- Research and analyse the role of stakeholders in the establishment of community or corporate sustainability.
- Analyse sustainability strategies and action plans for corporate or community groups.
- Develop a sustainability strategy and action plan in a corporate or a community context

Teaching methods

3 on campus full day workshops, 10 online tutorials.

Assessment

Analysis of a sustainability initiative, contribution to structured online dialogue, sustainability strategy report, action plan and oral presentation.

Content

This unit explores sustainability within the global context: “think global, act local”. The initial focus will be on the various economic, environmental and social factors and institutions which influence global sustainability. We will explore the business case for sustainability, the relevance of corporate governance and accountability frameworks such as triple bottom line. The role of stakeholders and other interested parties will also be explored. There will be an opportunity to examine case-studies of community and corporate sustainability which may include: community development and capacity building, sustainable purchasing and transport, waste minimisation, water and energy saving as well as social impacts.

Topics

- The global context for sustainability – ‘think global, act local’
- Corporate sustainability
- Stakeholders, shareholders and other interested parties
- Taking a strategic approach
- Community based sustainability initiatives
- Corporate sustainability initiatives and drivers
- Sustainability strategies
- Sustainability in practice
- Global citizenship – future trends

Lecturer – Jose Ramos

Originally from California of Mexican and Native American ancestry, Jose M. Ramos has worked broadly across a number of areas to bring greater foresight and innovation capacity into communities, organisations and the world.

Through an action learning approach he helps to facilitate critical enquiry and action into questions of sustainability, governance, and cultural transformation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature from the University of California at Irvine, and a Master of Science in Strategic Foresight from Swinburne University of Technology. Jose has conducted research and published widely in the areas of sustainable futures, cultural change, and social alternatives, as well as co-producing various

community oriented documentaries and media productions. Professional areas include linking action research and futures enquiry, the empowerment of community in the face of 21st century challenges, the use of media in the communication of long term foresight, and facilitating participatory processes to create sustainability oriented innovations, projects and social enterprise. He is currently undertaking a doctorate focused on the exploration of Alternative Futures of Globalisation.

Recommended background reading

Belo, W. (2008), *Destroying African Agriculture* Foreign Policy in Focus <http://www.fpif.org/fpiftxt/5271>

Capdevila, G. (2008) *Disgraceful Distinctions* in World Economic Forum, Inter Press Service News Agency <http://ipsnews.net/interna.asp?idnews=31914>

Capdevila, G. (2007) *Global Compact with Business 'Lacks Teeth'* NGO's in World Economic Forum, Inter Press Service News Agency <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=38453>

Comments from previous students:

“Course content and lecture notes were well set out and the links to further information was very useful”

“Guest speakers were superb quality and good at getting their message across”

“I've really enjoyed the subject and have lots of ideas of applying the knowledge”

“Discussions with other students from different career backgrounds – info discussed really interesting”