**Manage Sustainability in an Organisation**

To develop the knowledge, skills and techniques to be able to identify sustainability issues within an organisation and to put in place suitable management systems for legal compliance and corporate responsibility purposes.

**Indicative Content**

**1. Understand the issues relating to sustainability of an organisation**

Principles of sustainable development

• Concepts of sustainable development (Brundtland Report, Agenda 21)

• Corporate social responsibility and role of stakeholders

• Development of ideas around sustainable development

• Global and local issues

• Relationship to organisations

• Global organisations and interest – UN Earth summits etc.

Current issues

• Current focus of sustainability agenda

• Agenda 21 issues

• Examples of issues: climate change, fair trade, community issues, carbon footprints, carbon trading

• How issues relate to and affect organisations

• Codes of practice

Specific businesses

• Business activities and implications for sustainability

• Benefits to stakeholders

• Areas of relevance for specific businesses – global and local issues affecting and affected by business activities

• Examples of areas: carbon footprint, waste and water usage, use of natural resources, pollution, fair trade, organic farming, community issues, child labour issues

• An understanding of environmental legislation – national and international

• Act Local, Think Global idea

• Related costs e.g. taxation, cost of water use, cost of waste; importance to business of sustainability in relation to cost, social attitudes, compliance with law

**2. Be able to apply legislation, regulations and guidance on sustainability to organisations**

Legislation, regulations and guidance

• UK, European and/or international legislation (relevant to learner context)

• Areas of legislation and guidance e.g. carbon use, pollution, water use

• Planning issues

• Source of guidance and regulation – industry bodies, local authorities, government, organisations (e.g. soil association, climate change bodies)

• Influence of pressure groups, social attitudes, moral issues

• Environmental management standards

• Impact of legislation, guidance and regulation on business

• Corporate social responsibility

Relevance and application

• Relevance of legislation to specific businesses – industry, national, international regulation affecting businesses

• Impacts in terms of operations and costs

**3. Be able to ‘audit’ the sustainability of an organisation**

Research

• Carrying out a sustainability ‘audit’ for an organisation to identify areas of relevance

• Ensuring compliance with legislation, regulation, codes of practice etc.

• How sustainability can be improved – actions and policies to improve sustainability of business activities o Example areas: water, waste, supply of materials and goods, use of natural resources, sales policies, transport, management of land and facilities, fair trade issues

Reporting

• Report formats

• Making recommendations and indicating benefits

• Considering costs to the organisation

**4. Understand how to establish environmental management systems for organisations**

Environmental management standards

• Appropriate standards e.g.ISO14000/14001

• Importance of standards

• Impact of standards

• Health and safety issues

Application of standards

• Buy-in from senior management and stakeholders

• Practical implications of applying standards

• Relevance to specific operations

Environmental management systems

• Systems design and implementation

• Reporting mechanisms to stakeholders