Sustainability Practitioner Programme

Growing global challenges mean the end of ‘business as usual’. This intensive programme equips sustainability practitioners to lead transformative change in their organisations.

The residential programme brings together sustainability practitioners from a broad range of industries with a faculty of leading international and Australian experts from the corporate, academic and not-for-profit sectors.

Participants are exposed to the latest data on the global challenges facing us and bold business responses from around the world. They explore the strategic implications for their own business, and effective approaches to engage all levels of the organisation and take sustainability into the heart of business strategy.

This programme draws on over 25 years’ experience from the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and is presented in Australia in collaboration with EY.

Melbourne | 6-8 March 2017
The interactive learning model combines presentations, group discussions and individual reflection. It is designed to encourage participants to share their experience and challenges and co-create solutions with peers, while making the most of the experts in the room.

Delegates will hear from leading thinkers from business, academia and non-government organisations. The presentations and discussions are consolidated by faculty-led syndicate group sessions, in which delegates are able to explore the data and arguments presented, and translate it to their own organisations and their individual leadership journey. This personal approach is fundamental to the University of Cambridge learning style.

Indicative seminar outline:

**What is the emerging social and environmental context for business?**

- Understanding the global drivers of change:
  - Climate change, inequality, urbanisation, resource depletion, food security
- Pressures and expectations:
  - Civil society
  - Regulators
  - Investors

**Implications for business**

- How will these changes affect business?
- The role of business in addressing global issues
- Risks and opportunities
- Strategic and systems thinking

**Leading responses and strategies**

- Practical insights into bold sustainability strategies from around the world
- Integration of sustainability into core business strategy
- Creating shared value
- What are our options for innovation?

**Driving change**

- Developing the business case
- How do you influence change in an organisation/community?
- Engaging and communicating with different audiences: board, executive, internal champions, employees
- What does it mean for you personally and the work you do?
Sustainability Practitioner Programme

Faculty
The faculty leads delegates through the programme, working intensively in syndicate groups to embed the learning from the presentations. Our 2017 faculty includes:

Jeremy Baskin
Senior Fellow, Melbourne Business School. Jeremy teaches the Business & Sustainability course of the MBA program at MBS. He was formerly director of CISL Australia.

Mark Joiner
Board member, QBE Australia. Former roles include Executive Director Finance, National Australia Bank; Chairman, JB Were; and Member of the National Sustainability Council.

Deanna Kemp
Deputy Director, Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the University of Queensland. Deanna leads an international program of work engaging companies, peak industry organisations, governments and civil society groups across a range of engagement, conflict and development challenges. Deanna formerly held senior positions in the mining industry, including seven years with BHP Billiton.

Expert contributors
We bring in international and local experts for their in-depth knowledge of key topics. Our 2017 contributors include:

Sir Jonathon Porritt
Co-Founder and Director, Forum for the Future. A renowned figure in the world of corporate sustainability for 40 years.

Sam Mostyn
Non-executive director and sustainability advisor. Her current board roles include Mirvac, Citibank, CoverMore, Transurban and Virgin Australia.

Paul Gilding
Fellow of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, independent writer, corporate advisor and advocate for action on climate change and sustainability, former CEO of Greenpeace International.

Professor Will Steffen
Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, and a Senior Fellow at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden. Member of the Climate Council of Australia.

Kaitlin Tait
Kaitlin is co-founder of Spark* International and Global General Manager of Impact for YGAP, both of which support impact entrepreneurs.
The delegates
The seminar is designed for middle to senior managers in organisations from the private or public sector, to equip them with a high-level understanding of sustainability. This may include those in sustainability, corporate social responsibility, environmental management or community investment. A few places are also reserved for delegates from influential NGOs.
CISL carefully selects delegates to ensure appropriate seniority and diversity and to deliver a stimulating learning environment in which practitioners can share their knowledge and their questions.
The programme dinners will be held jointly with the senior executive delegates of the Prince of Wales’s Business & Sustainability Programme, to enable networking and an exchange of perspectives.

2016 delegates included:
- Sustainability Manager, Air New Zealand
- Senior Manager, Corporate Sustainability Reporting, ANZ
- Head of Environment, Health and Safety, Asahi Beverages
- Sustainability Manager APAC, Brambles
- Sustainability Manager, FujiXerox
- Group Sustainability Manager, GoodmanFielder
- Manager, Shared Value Projects, IAG
- Group Environmental Manager, McConnell Dowell Constructors
- Community Finance and Development, NAB
- National Sustainability Manager, Officeworks
- Director, Procurement Group Initiatives, Singtel
- Sustainability Manager, Wesfarmers

Delegate responses
The 2016 Australian cohort was delighted with the seminar. Comments included:
‘Best programme I’ve ever done (by far). The CISL Practitioner Programme was a unique opportunity to understand the principles of sustainability and how to apply them in a business sense. It also afforded the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals facing similar challenges in their organisations.’
Sustainability Manager, Probuild Constructions

‘The programme has given me the tools and knowledge to be bolder and more ambitious about making change in our business to create value through sustainability.’
Group Sustainability Manager, Goodman Fielder

‘I would absolutely recommend this course to anyone working in sustainability - the insights gained and the peer learning opportunities are fantastic.’
Senior Manager, Corporate Sustainability Reporting, ANZ

‘I was anticipating it to be a great programme, but expectations were met and then some. Aside from world class contributors and a fantastic cohort of peers to share, learn and explore with, I have come away with some great insights and some powerful tools and techniques around communication and driving change in business for more sustainable outcomes.’
Group Environmental Manager, McConnell Dowell

‘The course has provided me with the ability to have greater influence within my organisation, and learn valuable skills for communicating the value of sustainability and our business case.’
Corporate Responsibility Coordinator, Vector

‘This program fills a gap that currently exists in the conference/seminar space. It is a must-do for any sustainability practitioner struggling to get their voice heard within their organisation.’
Environment Professional, Sydney Trains
Outcomes for delegates
The programme is designed to provide delegates with:

- A strong network of sustainability practitioners to draw on
- Intrapreneurship skills
- A toolbox of practical approaches and frameworks
- Exposure to cutting-edge thinkers and business case studies
- The ability to articulate how sustainability is aligned with business strategy, value creation and innovation
- The understanding to position your organisation in the context of global trends
- Interaction with business leaders in the Prince of Wales’s Business & Sustainability Programme, hearing their viewpoints and experiences of sustainability
- Improved ability to influence others in your organisation – both executive leadership and those responsible for implementation
- A personal action plan shaped by feedback from faculty and peers.

Alumni programme

Alumni network
‘You have this enormous alumni network to connect with, share experiences with, call on the phone if you need help.’
Sarah Severn, Director of Mobilization for Sustainable Business and Innovation, Nike
Participants of the programme join a worldwide group of nearly 8,000 senior leaders and leading practitioners from across all sectors and regions, representing business, the public sector and civil society. Continued engagement with the alumni will include:

Seminar follow-up
Delegates will have an opportunity to reconnect by conference call during the first year following the seminar.

Alumni events
CfSL and its international Ambassadors organise educational and social events worldwide including keynote lectures and Gala Dinners. When you are unable to attend in person, join our private LinkedIn group and contribute to discussions and network online instead.

Latest insights
Regular updates on international sustainability developments intended to reinforce and update your knowledge. Alumni will also have the unique opportunity to be involved and contribute to innovative research such as Rewiring the Economy.

Business platforms
An opportunity for executives in a variety of sectors or functions to convene around key sustainability issues, identify solutions and advocate change.

Find out more about what it means to be part of the CfSL Network: http://www.cfsl.cam.ac.uk/network

Founding Corporate Members of the Australian programme
Timing
11:00 am Monday, 6 March – 5:00 pm Wednesday, 8 March 2017
The seminar is residential and attendance for the duration is required.

Venue
The Mansion Hotel at Werribee Park (see right) is a former seminary, adjacent to the famous Werribee Mansion built in the 1870s. Only half an hour from Melbourne airport or CBD, the venue feels completely secluded, set in 10 acres of beautiful gardens. The 4.5 star hotel combines Victorian grandeur with modern facilities including 17m indoor pool. All rooms are ensuite.

Pricing
We invite organisations to commit to sending one or more delegates each year for three years, thereby seeding the understanding built by the course throughout the organisation. Organisations making this commitment will become ‘Founding Corporate Members’ of the Programme in Australia.

Three years
Years one and two: $4,950; year three: $4,000

One year
$4,950
All accommodation and meals are included.

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Front cover: combined cohorts of the 2016 executive and practitioner seminars.