



# TRAINING COURSE ON HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Manchester, UK, 14th -18th September 2015



Manchester Metropolitan University's brand new Birley Building

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## /// BACKGROUND

The implementation of sustainability elements in higher education is a fast growing area, one characterised by a great degree of complexity, and which requires coordinated approaches in order to succeed. Educating the academic community about the importance of promoting, conserving and protecting the environmental resources within an institution on the one hand, and about the role played by sustainability in the curriculum and in research on the other, represent two top priorities for any modern university.

Unfortunately, even though there is a perceived need to implement sustainable development at higher education institutions, there is a paucity of training schemes specifically targeted the academic community, and which may build the capacity needed among university staff, in order to put sustainability principles into practice. This training course is a contribution towards addressing this need.

## /// THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COURSE

The interplay of campus greening, curriculum innovation and research on sustainability, is closely linked with the ability of universities to pursue a whole-institution approach towards sustainable development. Therefore, this training course aims to foster capacity among university staff involved with campus operations, curriculum innovation and research, to implement sustainable development in their institutions in an integrated manner.

The training course will assist representatives of higher education institutions to avail clarity on the importance, need and usefulness of holistic approaches to sustainable development, and motivate the participants to find possible ways to guide their institutions in pursuing sustainability paths in the future. It is organized by the School of Science and the Environment, in cooperation with MMU's Business School.

## /// METHODOLOGY AND LANGUAGE

The methodology practiced in the course consists of presentations, stimulating discussions, simulations, field visits and the opportunity to develop or refine sustainability plans for the institutions attending it. The course will be conducted in English.

## /// WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The course is devised for **academic staff** (e.g. lecturers, senior lecturers, professors) as well as **environment officers, sustainability coordinators** and **other staff** working on matters related to sustainable development, at higher education institutions. These groups seldom interact, so the course will break a barrier and provide an opportunity for more mutual understanding. In order to ensure maximum interaction, the attendance is limited to **25 participants** only.



## /// WHAT WILL DELEGATES GAIN?

- More knowledge and understanding of the connections between sustainability and campus operation, curriculum, research and projects
- Become familiar with the possible strategies which may help universities to implement sustainable development at the institutional level
- Acquaint themselves with the tools which may be used towards strengthening sustainability at the institutional level
- Experience how curriculum innovation and sustainability research may help to **better establish** an institution, and make it **more competitive** in this rapidly-growing field

The venue of the course, Manchester Metropolitan University, is one of the greenest university in the United Kingdom, offering participants a unique opportunity to see how sustainability can be holistically implemented at higher education institutions. The nature of the course, and its structure, means that a unique opportunity for institutional development on the one hand and for **personal career development** on the other, will be provided.

## /// CONTENTS

The course is structured around modules tackling the following issues:

- Implementing sustainability strategies: institutional approaches to sustainable development at institutions of higher education
- Campus Greening: integrating sustainability at university operations
- Sustainability in the curriculum
- Fostering research on sustainable development: acquiring and running projects
- Publishing opportunities in sustainable development
- Institutional support and development: one to one advice on how to foster sustainable development plans at participant institutions

As part of the didactic concept, participants attending the training course will be able to **prepare or refine** their **institutional sustainability plans**. The course team will be able to provide advice, as appropriate. The plans prepared –or further developed- by each organization, will be presented in plenary for discussion, and may be subsequently implemented at the participants’ home organisations.

## /// COORDINATION

The course is coordinated by Professor Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt, FRSA, FRGS, FSB), Chair of Environment and Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Professor of Environment and Climate Change Management at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany). He is editor of the series “Environmental Education, Communication and Sustainability (Peter Lang Scientific Publishers) which he started in 1998 and has published 34 volumes to date, as well as the newly-launched “World Sustainability Series” (Springer, Berlin). Prof. Leal is also the Editor-in-Chief of the “International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education” (founded in 2000), and has in excess of 300 publications to his credit. He will be supported by an international team of speakers and resources persons, hence offering participants access to state-of-the-art information and know-how on sustainability in higher education.



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## **/// OUTLINE PROGRAMME**

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

All day: arrival  
Evening: informal get together

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Module 1- Implementing sustainability strategies; institutional approaches to sustainability in higher education institutions

Module 2- Engaging students in sustainable development efforts and activities

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Module 3- Campus Greening (Part 1): implementing sustainability in university's operations (e.g. water use, carbon management, travel, energy efficiency, waste prevention and management, etc)

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Module 4- Campus Greening (Part 2): implementing sustainability in university's operations (e.g. water use, carbon management, travel, energy efficiency, waste prevention and management, etc)

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Module 5- Sustainability in the curriculum

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Module 6- Development and discussion of individual sustainability development plans for each participant universities (participants will be able to design, discuss and present their ideas and plans for fostering sustainability in their organisations)



### /// CERTIFICATION

The successful completion of the course (40 hours) entitles participants to a **Course Certificate**, issued by Manchester Metropolitan University, which can be used in continuing and professional development (CPD). The information, knowledge and know-how obtained by participants from the course, will place them in a better position to implement sustainability components in their home institutions, and to be able **to take a central role** in this process.

### /// COURSE FEES

Course fees are £ 1.400 (including VAT). They **include** course materials, lunches and refreshments during the five days, and a final group dinner. They **exclude** travel and accommodation. Since this is self-funded event, the organisers are unfortunately unable to provide any financial assistance to participants, and cannot waive the fees.

### /// VENUE OF THE COURSE

The course and will be held in Manchester, UK. Manchester is the second largest city in England, and is easily reached from Europe's main airports. The full address is:

Manchester Metropolitan University  
Business School  
All Saint's Campus, Oxford Road  
Manchester M15 6BH  
UK

There are various hotels within a 10-minutes walk from the University Campus. Further details on the time-table and programme will be sent to registered delegates.

### /// REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The organisers need to make sure potential delegates are fully able to take advantage of the course. Therefore, a **selection procedure** will be used, bearing in mind the need for a balanced representation of organisations, countries and levels of operation. Potential participants should contact the course team to **express an interest** to attend the course, at: [beids@beids.de](mailto:beids@beids.de).

A **registration form** will be sent to those persons regarded as the most likely to benefit from the course, who should register as soon as they are accepted. The deadline for registrations is the **30<sup>th</sup> May 2015** (due to the limited numbers of place, it is warmly recommended that interested participants enroll as soon as possible).

### /// CONTACT

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