The Society for Sustainability and Environmental Engineering

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Presents...

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Policy Plans and Projects

Do you want to make a difference but are not sure how? Sustainability assessment is an emerging tool to direct decision making towards sustainability and deliver better outcomes for business and the community as a whole. In this course you will learn about the use of sustainability assessment as a both a regulatory tool that goes beyond traditional environmental impact assessment and an internal planning tool to transform organisational decision making and subsequent operations.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Sustainability assessment is a tool that informs decision-making in terms of promoting sustainable outcomes.

Sustainability assessment can be applied in different circumstances for different purposes by different types of decision-makers.

- Government regulators to assist with their approvals process (particularly project proposals).
- Engineers and planners to provide a tool to assess a project in terms of sustainability outcomes
- Consultants involved in the environmental assessment/ management process.
- Government and Non-government organisations and any other party interested in sustainability practices across whole industry sectors.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The aim of the training is to introduce participants to current thinking and understanding of sustainability assessment concepts, processes and techniques. The course includes the following:

- Sustainability assessment principles, processes and issues
- Sustainability assessment as a tool for approval of new development proposals
- Sustainability assessment to inform planning and discussion making within an organisation
- A generic 7 step process framework for sustainability assessment of any proposals ranging from physical projects to plans and policy change
- Various tools and techniques that can be usefully applied in sustainability assessments
- How to develop a sustainability decision-making protocol appropriate to a particular context, by drawing on relevant strategies and standards.

FORMAT

Learning will occur through a mixture of presentations, case study examples, small group activities and discussions. Participants will have an opportunity to apply the sustainability assessment principles to a relevant Queensland scenario in an interactive small group exercise.

PRESENTER

Dr Vikki Uhlmann has spent the last decade focused on sustainability, her background includes:

- 2001 – 2004 Completed Doctorate in sustainable management of water and sanitation at UQ Advanced Water Management Centre
- 2006 – 2008 Focused on sustainable water management in developing countries
- 2008 – 2009 Led Brisbane chapter of Save the Mary River campaign, based on an assessment of un-sustainability of proposed Traveston Dam
- 2010 Co-authored paper: Baldwin, C. and Uhlmann, V (2010). Accountability in planning for sustainable water supplies in South East Queensland, Australian Planner, September 2010, v47:3, 191-202
- 2010 Development and delivery of training in Vocational Graduate Certificate in Sustainability Projects for SkillsTech Australia
- 2011 Development and delivery of training in MSAENV272B Participate in sustainable work practices, for SkillsTech Australia.
- 2011 - current Development of diploma level resources in sustainability for SkillsTech Australia.

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TOPICS COVERED: Sustainability Assessment - Policy Plans and Projects

Conducted over 2 days on 29 and 30 August at Engineers Australia Queensland Division, the Sustainability Assessment - Policy, Plans and Projects course will include the following topics.

Introduction to Advanced Sustainability for Professionals

- Setting the scene
- The evolution of the international sustainability agenda

What is Sustainability Assessment (SA)

- The sustainability concept and the implications for (SA)
- SA as a new generation of impact assessment
- Applications of SA, locally, nationally and internationally
- Relevance of SA to participants' professional lives

Sustainability Assessment as an Approvals Process

- Alternatives to environmental impact assessment based forms of SA
- A model for characterising the nature of SA in terms of decision questions and approach
- Case study examples of different approaches to SA in recent Australian and Canadian practice
- SA as a component of a broader strategic and sustainability framework

Integrating Sustainability Assessment in Decision-Making

- What is a 'decision making protocol' and how it can guide strategic and project level decision making processes
- How to establish and apply objectives, targets and criteria for SA decision making
- Work through a 7-step model that integrates SA with the development of a proposal
- The role of alternatives and options in effective SA practice
- Relationship between internal SA for a project and SA by regulators as an external approval process

The Queensland Experience with Sustainability Assessment

- David Hood will provide some background on AGIC which is a not for profit organisation formed to rate infrastructure in terms of sustainability. David will report on progress of the rating tools developed to date.

Integration, offsets and trade-offs in sustainability assessment

- The challenge of integration for effective SA
- The reality of trade-offs in SA and some principles to guide trade-off decisions
- The concept of environmental offsets as a means of delivering positive environmental outcomes from (development) proposals

Tools and techniques to assist sustainability decision making

- How to use various analytical techniques to assist sustainability decision making, their advantages and disadvantages and how they might apply to sustainability assessment

Selecting the preferred alternative in sustainability assessment – Applying Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)

- Understand the MCA as a decision-aiding tool
- How MCA can be applied to complex decisions
- What an MCA decision model might look like
- How MCA thinking can be applied to SA

Summary and conclusions

- Reiterate the 'take home messages' from the course
- Point participants to a list of useful sustainability assessment resources

Course Notes

All training course participants will be provided with a complete copy of the course materials which include hard copies of Power Point presentations, and a comprehensive list of useful SA resources incorporating the latest thinking, applications and guidance for effective sustainability assessment outcomes.

Registration Information

The Course is held over a two-day period from 8:30am to 5:00 pm on 29 and 30 August 2012

Fee
$ 902 (incl. GST) for SSEE and/or EA members
$ 1023 (incl. GST) for non-members.
$ 605 (incl. GST) Students (SSEE and EA members)

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SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT - Policy Plans and Projects

VENUE

Where:

Engineers Australia
Keays Room
447 Upper Edward Street
Brisbane

Date:

29 and 30 August 2012

Fee *
$ 902 (incl. GST) for SSEE and/or EA members
$ 1023 (incl. GST) for non-members.
$ 605 (incl. GST) Students (SSEE and EA members)

*Half price for those that attended Day 1 of the training in October 2011.

TO REGISTER

- Register on-line at:

  http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/queensland-division/events (Date 12 June)

OR

- Contact Engineers Australia Qld Division for alternative payment methods:

  Engineers Australia Qld Division for
  447 Upper Edward Street
  Brisbane QLD 4001
  Email: qld@engineersaustralia.org.au
  T: 07 3832 3749

Attendance at the course will achieve 15 hours of Type A CPD credit.

Book early as numbers are limited to 23.

For more information on the Society for Sustainability and Environmental Engineering see our website at: www.ssee.org.au

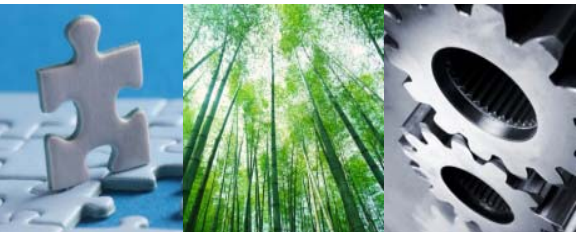
Joint SSEE to take advantage of the lower registration costs.

Annual membership costs to join the SSEE are provided below:

Engineers Australia Members (including GST)
General - $71.50
Student - FREE
Retired - $27.50

Non Engineers Australia Members (including GST)
General - $93.50
Student - FREE
Retired - $38.50

Download the membership application form.



Thank you to the College of Environmental Engineers for providing the funds and guidance for the development of this course.

SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
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