



About the Curriculum

Net Zero Academy currently features two courses: *What is Environmental Sustainability?* and *How You Can Practice Sustainability*. Together, these courses:

- Provide learners with an effective baseline knowledge around key sustainability topics.
- Engage learners during the learning process to think critically about the world around them and the impact they can have.
- Empower learners with real-life opportunities to integrate behaviors based on that knowledge.

All course content is sourced from authoritative entities, and the curriculum was developed alongside learning and development professionals, as well as sustainability professionals at universities across North America.

Below you will find a detailed outline of our two courses. You can expect every learner who completes the two courses to effectively demonstrate their knowledge on the included subjects.



COURSE ONE:

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY?

Module One: Humans as Part of Our Environment (Part One)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Define sustainability and common sustainability frameworks, such as the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, environmental, social, and governance (ESG), and the Triple Bottom Line.
2. Understand the Greenhouse Effect and the most common and problematic greenhouse gases.
3. Recognize the local and global effects of our planet's rising temperature.
4. Understand ecosystems and the biodiversity contained within our ecosystems.
5. Define how access to nature differs across locales, communities, and cultures.
6. Recognize unequal access to nature for marginalized communities.
7. Understand the water cycle and how water resources differ across regions.
8. Define historical food systems, and the costs and benefits of North America's current food systems.

Module Two: Humans as Part of Our Environment (Part Two)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Explore how waste is managed across North America, including landfills and incinerators.
2. Define a circular waste economy and how it differs from a linear waste economy.
3. Understand the process and benefits of composting.
4. Understand the infrastructure around our energy systems, including how electricity is generated and delivered through the grid.
5. Understand dominant heating and cooling systems in the U.S., as well as electrified and renewable alternatives.
6. Understand the technologies and fuels we use to cook our food, including their benefits and drawbacks.
7. Understand the current transportation infrastructure, including how current infrastructure impacts commute accessibility.
8. Understand global atmospheric connectivity and how local actions can have a global effect.

Module Three: Who Can Have an Impact?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the impact local, state, and federal governments can have on environmental sustainability.
2. Understand the impact companies and organizations can have on environmental sustainability.
3. Understand the impact nonprofits can have on environmental sustainability.
4. Understand the impact schools can have on environmental sustainability.
5. Understand the impact individuals like you can have on business, nonprofit, school, and government decisions.

COURSE TWO: HOW YOU CAN PRACTICE SUSTAINABILITY

Module One: Practicing Sustainability

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the environmental and social impact of what you eat and drink.
2. Recognize the environmental and social impact of your purchases.
3. Understand how to reduce your personal waste.
4. Recognize alternative modes of transportation and the positive benefits they offer.
5. Understand how your choice of personal vehicle can determine your environmental impact.
6. Recognize how to utilize more sustainable options for mass transit and long-distance travel.
7. Understand the next era of transportation options, including vehicle electrification.
8. Understand how to recycle effectively in your locale.
9. Understand the multitude of opportunities for composting.
10. Understand how to operate more efficiently with water and energy usage.

Module Two: Multiplying Your Impact

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand how you can reduce your reliance on unsustainable practices individually and with the partnership of your community.
2. Understand your part in your local community and how you can work together toward a more sustainable future.
3. Understand the health and wellness benefits of sustainability and strategies for coping with climate-related mental health concerns.
4. Recognize that social equity is necessary to enact sustainable change.
5. Understand how to navigate tough conversations about sustainability by effectively utilizing active listening.
6. Understand the positive impact of serving as an example.
7. Recognize career opportunities that make a positive impact.

Module Three: Looking Toward the Future

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand what actions you can take to increase social equity in our systems.
2. Recognize the many possibilities to further your sustainability education.
3. Understand the importance of spreading hope through climate positivity.