

Concept Note

7th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) 2025

Theme: “Sustainability Education for Green Jobs”

1. Introduction & Context

The 7th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) 2025 builds upon the momentum of previous ICSE conferences, recognizing the urgent need for transformative action to address the global climate crisis and promote sustainable development. This year's theme, “Sustainability Education for Green Jobs,” highlights the crucial connection between education, environmental stewardship, and the emerging green economy. As the world grapples with climate change, shifts towards a circular economy, and the need for a just transition, there is a critical demand for a skilled workforce equipped with the necessary knowledge, competencies, and values to thrive in green jobs and contribute to a sustainable future.

Building on the success of ICSE 2023's focus on "Educating for Climate Action and Sustainability" and ICSE 2024's theme "Greening Education for a Sustainable Future," ICSE 2025 will delve deeper into the practical aspects of integrating sustainability into education and workforce development. The conference will address the specific skills, knowledge, and competencies required for the growing green jobs sector.

ICSE is more than an event; it is a movement that brings together educators, policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, and youth to innovate and collaborate on sustainability education. It provides:

- A platform to share best practices and success stories in sustainability education.
- Opportunities to align educational frameworks with national and international sustainability agendas.
- A space for fostering interdisciplinary research and partnerships to address sustainability challenges.

ICSE 2025 will explore how education can equip individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy. This focus aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the **Paris Agreement's** emphasis on capacity building, and **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4's** commitment to lifelong learning opportunities. Additionally, by incorporating **SDG 8**, ICSE 2025 will contribute to promoting full and productive employment and ensuring economic growth through sustainability-driven job markets.

This year's theme is strongly aligned with both global and national agendas:

- **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4):** SDG 4 emphasizes inclusive and equitable quality education while promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. ICSE 2025 will specifically explore how education can be reoriented to prepare learners for green jobs and contribute to sustainable development.
- **Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8):** SDG 8 highlights the need for full and productive employment alongside sustainable economic growth. This aligns with the conference's focus on equipping learners with green skills to thrive in the emerging job market. By fostering dialogue and partnerships, ICSE 2025 will act as a catalyst for embedding sustainability into education systems and creating pathways for green jobs that support both environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** NEP 2020 promotes skill-based learning, multidisciplinary education, and the integration of vocational training into mainstream

curricula. ICSE 2025 will explore how NEP 2020 can be effectively leveraged to advance green skills development and build capacity for green jobs.

- **STEM Education:** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills are essential for developing innovative solutions for sustainability and advancing green technologies. ICSE 2025 will highlight the importance of integrating sustainability principles into STEM education and preparing students for green jobs that require advanced technical competencies.

2. Rationale: Why Sustainability Education for Green Jobs?

The world is undergoing a significant economic transformation driven by climate change mitigation efforts, technological advancements, and evolving workforce demands. As economies transition towards sustainability, green jobs are becoming central to achieving both environmental and economic resilience. However, there is a critical gap in skills and education necessary to support this transition.

The theme "**Sustainability Education for Green Jobs**" underscores the need to align education with emerging employment opportunities in renewable energy, energy efficiency, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, the circular economy, and other green sectors. To capitalize on this opportunity, we must proactively address gaps in existing education and training systems. This includes:

- **Bridging the Skills Gap:** Equipping learners with technical skills, problem-solving abilities, and critical thinking required for green jobs.
- **Integrating Sustainability into Curricula:** Embedding environmental awareness and sustainable practices across all disciplines and levels of education.
- **Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Encouraging students and young professionals to develop innovative green solutions and start businesses contributing to the circular economy.
- **Promoting Lifelong Learning:** Providing continuous professional development and upskilling opportunities for the existing workforce to adapt to the evolving green jobs market.
- **Ensuring Equity and Inclusion:** Making green jobs accessible to all, especially marginalized communities, to foster a just and equitable transition to a green economy.

3. Objectives

The 7th ICSE 2025 aims to:

- **Showcase Best Practices:** Present successful models for integrating sustainability into education and training programs, with a specific focus on green skills development.
- **Enhance Employability:** Provide insights into the green job market, career pathways, and opportunities for skills development.
- **Facilitate Collaboration:** Create a platform for educators, policymakers, employers, and young professionals to develop effective solutions for green skills training.
- **Foster Youth Leadership:** Empower youth to become agents of change and advocates for sustainable development, contributing to a circular economy and social well-being.

4. Conference Themes & Focus Areas

The conference will explore key themes, including but not limited to:

- **Defining Green Jobs & Skills:** Examining the evolving landscape of green jobs across various sectors, identifying required competencies, and addressing the skills gap.

- Integrating Sustainability into STEM Education: Showcasing successful models for incorporating sustainability concepts and problem-solving into STEM curricula.
- Vocational Training for Green Jobs: Investigating how vocational training and technical education can be reoriented to equip students with green skills.
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation: Encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset among youth and fostering the development of innovative green businesses.
- Lifelong Learning & Upskilling: Exploring the role of continuous professional development in preparing the existing workforce for green jobs.
- Policy Frameworks & Partnerships: Discussing policy mechanisms, financial incentives, and public-private partnerships to support the growth of green jobs.
- Equity & Inclusion: Promoting equal opportunities in green jobs for marginalized and vulnerable communities to ensure social justice.
- Role of Technology: Examining how technology can drive green education and employment through digital literacy and sustainability-driven innovations.

5. Participants

The 7th ICSE 2025 will convene a diverse group of stakeholders, including:

- Educators, teachers, and curriculum developers from schools and higher education institutions. Representatives from vocational training providers and skill development organizations.
- Policymakers from Ministries of Education, Environment, and Labor.
- Industry leaders and employers from various green sectors.
- Young professionals and students interested in green jobs and entrepreneurship.
- Researchers and academics working on sustainability education and green skills.
- Representatives from national and international environmental organizations.

6. Format

The conference will feature:

- **Plenary Sessions:** Keynote addresses by distinguished dignitaries and experts.
- **Thematic Panel Discussions:** Focused sessions on specific topics related to sustainability education and green jobs. Some of the sessions would be conducted in **work shop mode**.
- **Sustainability SAMVAD Sessions:** Interactive discussions facilitating between intellectuals.
- **Exhibits:** Showcasing innovative projects, research, and best practices in sustainability education and green skills development.

7. Expected Outcomes

ICSE 2025 aims to:

- Generate a deeper understanding of the skills and competencies required for green jobs.
- Highlight effective models for integrating sustainability into education and training programs.
- Provide a roadmap for aligning education with the needs of the green economy.
- Foster partnerships among educators, policymakers, and industry leaders.
- Empower youth as leaders and innovators in the green sector.
- Develop recommendations for collaborative projects, campaigns, and policies for advancing green jobs.

8. Conclusion

The 7th ICSE 2025 will serve as a vital platform for advancing the integration of sustainability into education and developing a skilled workforce for the green economy. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration, the conference will contribute to building a more sustainable and prosperous future in alignment with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

ICSE 2025 will equip educators and policymakers with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively prepare learners for green jobs, driving sustainable change and supporting the global transition towards a low-carbon, resilient economy in alignment with **India's NEP 2020**.