

Environmental Awareness

INTRODUCTION

The need for businesses to address environmental issues has never been greater. Tendering requirements, changing needs of lenders and investors and increasing environmental legislation are forcing businesses to address their environmental performance.

Many large companies use environmental management systems to minimise their environmental impacts and are increasingly asking their suppliers to do so as a key component of tendering and supply procedures.

The finance sector and insurers recognise the benefits of good environmental management. Businesses that can demonstrate their environmental awareness will achieve higher levels of efficiency and may have access to more favourable borrowing and insurance rates.

Environmental legislation affects every business. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health has designed its Environmental Awareness course to provide an appreciation of significant environmental impacts.

KEY CONCEPTS

The overall aim for students undertaking this training programme is that they should acquire an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the key concepts involved in environmental awareness.

The objectives of the programme are that, following satisfactory completion of the training and assessment, the student will be able to:

- (i) identify, define and explain relevant environmental issues;
- (ii) identify, define and explain the environmental aspects and effects of organisations;
- (iii) understand simple measures that can be implemented to reduce the environmental effects of organisations;
- (iv) understand the business and community benefits of environmental management;
- (v) understand the principles and importance of environmental legislation and the authorities responsible for its enforcement.

introduction

syllabus



SYLLABUS

The main areas covered by the syllabus are listed below.

- A. Environmental issues.
- B. Pollution.
- C. Business and the environment.
- D. Energy and water.
- E. Waste management.
- F. Transport.
- G. Environmental law.
- H. Environmental management.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The expected outcome is that the student will be able to understand the primary local and global environmental impacts and identify environmental issues in their day-to-day life.

The student will be able to explain the following terms and basic causes and consequences of:

- resource depletion
- climate control
- ozone layer depletion
- loss of biodiversity
- acid rain.

B. POLLUTION

The expected outcome is that the student will be able to:

- (i) describe the main causes of air, water and noise pollution;
- (ii) state and demonstrate an understanding of the impact of pollution on humans, animals, plants and property.

C. BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The expected outcome is that the student will be able to link their job to a range of environmental issues. The student should be able to recognise and demonstrate the environmental effects of organisations, such as:

- (i) inputs to an organisation, such as energy, water, goods and raw materials;
- (ii) the operations conducted by an organisation, such as transportation and purchasing, and the site;
- (iii) outputs such as the products and services of the organisation as well as waste and pollution.

D. ENERGY AND WATER

Gas, electricity and water are vital to the operation of even the smallest business. The expected outcome is that the student will be able to:

- (i) understand the procedure for conducting a simple review of energy and water consumption;
- (ii) identify simple measures for reducing energy and water consumption at work.

E. WASTE MANAGEMENT

The purpose is to be able to identify waste as a resource. The expected outcome is that the student will be able to:

- (i) understand the environmental effects of waste disposal;
 - (ii) explain why waste should be viewed as raw materials that are not being used efficiently;
 - (iii) understand the procedure for conducting a simple waste audit;
 - (iv) give examples of waste minimisation using the 'reduce – re-use – recycle' hierarchy;
 - (v) explain the benefits of waste minimisation to the environment and the organisation.
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F. TRANSPORT

The expected outcome is that the student will be able to identify the role of the motor vehicle in operating a business and the potential to minimise its environmental impact. The student should be able to:

- (i) explain how and why people, goods and materials move around;
- (ii) identify the environmental impacts of the above in terms of air and noise pollution and resource depletion;
- (iii) suggest alternative ways to travel to work and organise the transport needs of an organisation.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The expected outcome is that the student should gain a basic understanding of the principles and importance of environmental law. The student should be able to:

- (i) describe the role of the main environmental regulators in the UK;
- (ii) understand the consequences of infringing environmental laws;
- (iii) suggest ways to ensure that an organisation complies with environmental laws.

H. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The student should understand the reasons for the business to adopt environmental management measures. The expected outcome is that the student will be able to:

- (i) give examples of the benefits to an organisation of adopting environmental management measures;
- (ii) understand the procedure for conducting a simple environmental review;
- (iii) have a basic understanding of what an environmental management system is and the stages involved in its implementation;
- (iv) have a basic understanding of what an environmental policy is within the context of an environmental management system;
- (v) be aware of the two accredited environmental management systems: EMAS and ISO 14001.

Students who wish to continue their studies in this subject area should consider undertaking the Environmental Management Certificate.



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