



Executive Education Re-imagined

SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION IN THE GCC

Your Path to Becoming a
Sustainability Leader



Program Commences
Sept 24, 2025

About the program

Sustainability for Middle Eastern Key Sectors is a cutting-edge executive education programme designed to equip organisations across the region with the knowledge and tools to meet the regions implementation of new sustainability initiatives . These new regional mandates requires a shift in mindset, processes, and expertise across multiple sectors..

This course will provide a comprehensive understanding of essential sustainability concepts and metrics, **key industry-specific regulations in the GCC**, decarbonisation strategies, national energy strategies, green business models, government initiatives, carbon markets, and the related opportunities and challenges associated with the transition. Successful key industry-specific **case studies** from other regions will be examined.

The objective of the GCC is to achieve continuous economic growth while significantly reducing harmful emissions. This decoupling of GDP growth from CO₂e emissions growth has been particularly successful in the European Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

Your Faculty



Dr Harald Freissmuth
Global Sustainability Expert at G6T Group

Harald Freissmuth is one of the world's leading authorities on sustainability strategy, ESG integration, and environmental policy implementation. With over 25 years of international experience, he has advised governments, Fortune 500 companies, and multilateral institutions on decarbonisation, corporate sustainability, and climate reporting frameworks.

Currently serving as a professor of sustainability and ESG innovation, Professor Freissmuth has held academic and advisory positions across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, and is widely respected for his ability to translate complex environmental regulations into actionable strategies for business leaders.

A sought-after speaker and executive educator, Professor Freissmuth is known for his dynamic teaching style, sector-specific insights, and ability to engage senior leadership teams in aligning environmental compliance with strategic growth.



Who is this Program For?

This programme is designed for **professionals** and organisations across the Middle East who are directly or indirectly impacted by the UAE's newly enforced Decree 11 on carbon footprint reporting and sustainability compliance. If your role involves strategy, operations, compliance, or ESG integration — **this is your opportunity to get ahead** of the regulatory curve.

It is especially relevant for:

- Business leaders and senior executives
- Sustainability managers and ESG officers
- Operations and facility managers
- Compliance and legal professionals
- Public sector and semi-government entities
- Consultants, auditors, and advisors

Whether you're leading a large enterprise or a fast-growing SME, **this programme equips you with the tools, knowledge, and confidence** to turn compliance into a competitive advantage.



When
Sept 24, 2025



Duration
6 Weeks



Format
Online - Live Virtual



Fee
USD 2,495

Curriculum

Module 1

Introduction to Sustainability in a GCC Context

This foundational module introduces you to the core principles of sustainability through the lens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. It begins by exploring the concept of planetary boundaries and the environmental limits within which humanity can safely operate—providing a global perspective that frames local responsibility.

You will gain a working understanding of key sustainability concepts such as the triple bottom line, systems thinking, and circular economy principles, before examining how these are being interpreted and applied across GCC nations.

The module will also introduce tools like life-cycle assessment (LCA) to evaluate the environmental impact of products and services from cradle to grave. Emphasis will be placed on identifying and measuring sustainability performance using key performance indicators (KPIs), with a focus on data collection, interpretation, and reporting.

By the end of this module, you will have a clear grasp of the sustainability challenges and opportunities facing the GCC and will be equipped with analytical frameworks to assess and improve organisational sustainability practices.

Module 2

Sustainability Ambitions and Strategies of the GCC

This module delves into the bold sustainability visions and policy frameworks shaping the future of the GCC region. You will explore national strategies and roadmaps for decarbonisation, energy transition, food and water security, waste management, and innovation—all critical pillars in achieving environmental and economic resilience.

Each country within the GCC has articulated unique yet complementary goals aligned with international climate commitments, and this module will examine how these are being operationalised at a national and sectoral level. From net-zero pledges and hydrogen strategies to food sovereignty initiatives and circular waste systems, you will gain insight into the region's multi-faceted approach to sustainable development.

The module also emphasises the role of research and development (R&D) in driving sustainability innovation, as well as the importance of robust KPIs and accurate data collection in tracking progress.

By the end of this module, you will understand the strategic direction of GCC governments and be better positioned to align their organisation's sustainability agenda with regional priorities.

Module 3

Shifting to Green Economies: New Regulations and Laws in the GCC

This module explores the regulatory transformation driving the GCC's transition toward green and low-carbon economies. You will examine how international climate commitments—such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement—are influencing national legislation and regional cooperation.

The module will unpack the evolution of local laws across the GCC that aim to promote environmental protection, emissions reductions, and resource efficiency. Key topics include the introduction of ESG disclosure requirements, carbon pricing mechanisms, renewable energy mandates, and sustainable procurement policies. The module also investigates how new and emerging regulations are being tailored to specific industries—such as construction, oil and gas, aviation, and finance—each with its own compliance frameworks and sustainability reporting expectations.

By understanding the shifting regulatory landscape, you will be better equipped to ensure organisational readiness, navigate legal obligations, and turn compliance into a competitive advantage within the emerging green economy of the GCC.

Module 4

ESG Reporting Standards, Strategies, and Compliance

This module provides a comprehensive overview of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting frameworks and compliance obligations, with a focus on their application within the GCC's evolving regulatory and investment landscape. You will be introduced to the key global standards that are increasingly shaping corporate disclosure practices, including the ISSB's IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges (UNSSE) initiative.

The module will examine how these standards address materiality, transparency, and stakeholder expectations—helping organisations determine which ESG issues are most significant to their operations. A deep dive into the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol will equip you with practical guidance on measuring and reporting emissions across scopes 1, 2, and 3.

Real-world case studies from both regional and international companies will illustrate best practices in ESG strategy, data governance, and regulatory alignment. By the end of the module, you will be able to interpret, apply, and communicate ESG data in a way that supports compliance, builds trust with stakeholders, and adds strategic value to their organisation.

Module 5

Carbon Markets

This module introduces you to the fundamentals and evolving landscape of carbon markets, with a focus on their relevance to the GCC region and its integration into global climate finance mechanisms. It begins by distinguishing between compliance carbon markets—driven by regulatory obligations—and voluntary markets, which allow organisations to offset emissions through the purchase of verified carbon credits.

You will explore how these markets function, including the mechanisms for credit generation, verification, trading, and retirement. The session will examine the role of market dynamics, such as supply and demand, pricing trends, and the credibility of offset projects. Special attention will be given to how GCC countries are positioning themselves within this global ecosystem—both as potential suppliers of high-quality credits (e.g., through renewable energy or carbon capture projects) and as participants in international schemes.

By the end of the module, you will understand how carbon markets operate, the risks and opportunities they present, and how organisations in the GCC can strategically engage with them to meet decarbonisation targets and demonstrate climate leadership.

Module 6

GCC Industry Relevant Module

This module is designed to provide a tailored exploration of sustainability within the industries most relevant to the participating cohort. Depending on the sectoral makeup of the group, the module will focus on specific industries such as aviation, construction, retail, energy, finance, or logistics—each with its own regulatory landscape, operational challenges, and sustainability opportunities within the GCC.

You will examine sector-specific drivers of change, including new compliance requirements, ESG expectations, decarbonisation pressures, and emerging consumer or stakeholder demands. The module will highlight practical solutions, regional and global best practices, and innovation trends transforming these industries, from low-carbon technologies and sustainable materials to digital reporting tools and green finance mechanisms.

Through targeted case studies and interactive discussion, you will gain actionable insights directly aligned with your professional context—helping you anticipate regulatory shifts, align with national strategies, and lead sustainability initiatives within your own organisations and sectors.

Why This Program?

The Gulf region is undergoing a transformative shift in environmental regulation and corporate responsibility. With UAE Decree 11 and similar mandates across the GCC demanding accurate carbon reporting and demonstrable sustainability progress, organisations can no longer afford to delay.

This program empowers leaders to stay ahead of regulatory changes, avoid costly non-compliance, and turn sustainability into a competitive advantage.

Designed with GCC realities in mind, the course bridges global ESG standards with local expectations—giving you the clarity, tools, and confidence to lead within your sector.

Whether you're just beginning your sustainability journey or refining an existing strategy, **this program meets you where you are—and takes you where you need to be.**



Key benefits include:

- Stay **compliant** with fast-evolving carbon regulations in the UAE and wider GCC
- **Build** in-house **capability** to report emissions accurately and confidently
- Align sustainability initiatives with **strategic business outcomes**
- Learn from real-world regional **case studies** across key industries
- Gain access to **expert mentorship** and a peer community of sustainability leaders



Executive Education Re-imagined

About Us

XED Online isn't a business school. It's a business upgrade. No campuses. No degrees. Just real results

At XED Online we believe in challenging the status quo and in thinking differently. Traditional executive education regularly finds itself at odds with the clients it serves - over-priced, delivered with technology as an afterthought and unable to measure any impact that it may have.

Instead, XED Online provides access to the world's leading and most respected Business School Professors with technology, return on investment and cost-effectiveness as our guiding principles. Our programs not only match those delivered by the global schools, but by starting with technology at the core of what we do, they are relevant, accessible and impactful in a way that the 21st century learner demands.

It is those core beliefs that XED Online, founded by a leadership team with over 40 years of experience in executive education and corporate learning live by.

Easily schedule a call with a program advisor to learn more:

[Schedule a Call](#)

You can enrol in the program here:

[Enrol Today](#)