Strategies for Sustainability Management

Sustainability is the Way Organizations Manage Risk

http://isites.harvard.edu/k107383

"STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT" – TAKING THE COURSE

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Specifics on Taking E-105

- Managing the Course “Tools”
- Cohort Group and Organization
- A Typical Week in this Course
- Role of the Teaching Fellows
- Action Learning – Developing Skills

Managing the Course Tools

- World Clock
- Harvard University ID Number and PIN
- Logging On Class Website
- Using Cohort Group Discussion Board
- Participating in Discussions
- Logging on Live Classroom and Chat
- Using the Dropbox
- Technical Information
Cohort Group and Organization

- You will be assigned to a cohort group
- Graduate Credit students select organization
  - What is a “virtual” organization?
  - Any organization at the community level
  - Select a community – Cambridge or your town
- Undergraduate and Non-Credit Students
  - Can select and Organization or work with an organization that has information provided
- In place on 27 January!

Typical Week in this Course

- Tuesday Morning - “Structure” Content and Method Posted
- Thursday – Write draft approach for using method to implement structure content
- Thursday - Post Information
- Friday – Saturday – Review and Respond
- Sunday – Post to class comment board
- Monday – Join live discussion and chat
Teaching Fellows and Instructor

- Teaching Fellows monitor the cohort discussion and provide grades based primarily on your activity level and contribution
- They facilitate the discussion and are your first line for information and problem solving
- The Instructor is always available for general discussions and mediation if required

Action Learning

- Perspective of an organization
- Apply foundation knowledge to structure
- Use methods to embed structure in the organization of your choice
- With cohorts - Customize, collaborate, create
- By yourself - Act, reflect, learn
- Develop sustainability skills
- Become a sustainability professional
You Have to Acquire the ‘Taste’

- For most, this teaching style is unsettling
- The teaching staff will support your transition
- Your cohort colleagues will support you
- You’ll feel the power of skill development
- Deep understanding will follow
- The term “competitive advantage” is associated with a Harvard professor

OVERVIEW OF THE CONTENT

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Foundation

Organization Development
Principles & Culture
Risk Management
Decision-Making
Systems
Sustainability

Organization – A group of people with an arrangement of responsibilities, authorities, and relationships and identifiable objectives.
Sustainability – Capability of an organization to transparently manage its responsibilities for environmental stewardship, social well-being and economic prosperity over the long term while engaging its stakeholders.

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Structure

Organization in a community setting
Responsible objectives
Internal and external context
Engaging stakeholders
License to operate
Opportunities and threats
Plan-do-check-act system
Three responsibilities

- Context
- Stakeholders
- Governance
- Risk Management
- Systems Basics
- Sustainability
Measurement

- Meeting Objectives
- Transparency and Accountability
- Monitoring and Measurement
- Lead and Lag Measures
- Maturity of Organization’s Sustainability
- Improvement and Innovation

Reinforce Skills with Two Exercises

- Open-book exercise over 9 days
- Work on your own – different organizations
- Midterm – structure elements
- Final – measurement elements
- A grading rubric will be provided to provide focus to your effort
- Semester paper for Graduate Credit students
  - Developed each week
What’s in the Vase?

They are talking about sustainability in their organization!

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