

1. The European sustainability competence framework

The European Commission emphasises Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on quality education (SDG 4) crucial for achieving all SDGs. Lifelong learning and sustainability skills are central to the EU and Member States' policies. From 2019 to 2024, the Commission prioritises sustainability in education and training. GreenComp is introduced as an EU framework for sustainability competences. It provides a shared foundation for learners and guidance for educators, fostering a common understanding of sustainability competence. GreenComp aims to cultivate a sustainability-centred mindset by imparting knowledge, abilities, and attitudes for empathetic, responsible, and environmentally conscious actions. It offers a universal model for lifelong learning stakeholders to create sustainability-focused learning opportunities and measure progress. Proficiency in sustainability empowers learners to address cognitive dissonance and act effectively on environmental issues.

GreenComp consists of 12 competences organised into the four areas below:

1. Embodying sustainability values, including the competences
 - valuing sustainability
 - supporting fairness
 - promoting nature
2. Embracing complexity in sustainability, including the competences
 - systems thinking
 - critical thinking
 - problem framing
3. Envisioning sustainable futures, including the competences
 - futures literacy
 - adaptability
 - exploratory thinking
4. Acting for sustainability, including the competences
 - political agency
 - collective action
 - individual initiative

The GreenComp framework encompasses 12 competences applicable across all learner ages and educational settings. It complements existing sustainability efforts by providing a common reference and promoting dialogue among educators. Competencies include knowledge, skills, and attitudes, fostering holistic development in sustainability. All competences are equally important, with sustainability encapsulating them collectively.

Learners are encouraged to develop proficiency in all 12 competences, which are interconnected and contribute to a unified understanding of sustainability.

Mastery in each competence may vary, and learners are not required to achieve identical levels of proficiency across all areas. GreenComp aims to facilitate mobility within the EU and enhance participation in European society through portable competences.

GreenComp offers a conceptual reference model that can be utilised by all stakeholders in lifelong learning for diverse purposes, like:

- raising awareness about the importance of learning for environmental sustainability
- designing learning opportunities aimed at developing sustainability competences and
- assessing where one stands in supporting learners to develop sustainability skills.

The following stakeholders may utilise GreenComp for a range of objectives, like:

- National, regional, and local policymakers can integrate GreenComp into policies for environmental sustainability learning.
- Education providers can utilise GreenComp to shape formal and non-formal educational offerings.
- Teacher training programs can incorporate GreenComp for preparing educators in sustainability teaching.
- Assessment services can develop certificates aligned with GreenComp competences.
- Employers can integrate sustainability competences into recruitment and talent development.
- Human capital monitors can refine indicators using GreenComp.
- Research bodies can explore GreenComp's impact on educational outcomes.
- Occupational standards providers can update job profiles with GreenComp.

Engaging in experiential sustainability learning triggers a mindset shift. This shift fosters changes in production and consumption habits, exemplified by advocating waste reduction and sharing practices among learners.

It's important to consider a comprehensive approach within schools. Integrating sustainability education into everyday activities and across various subjects.

Schools opting to cultivate a culture of sustainability and facilitate professional development. Adopting a whole school approach streamlines the process and facilitates organisational change. Encouraging the utilisation of GreenComp in lifelong learning for sustainability is strongly advocated. It's crucial to tailor the framework to meet the needs and backgrounds of learners.

Now that you know what GreenComp is all about, seize the opportunity to drive sustainable change!

Use GreenComp as your compass to design impactful learning experiences and track progress towards a greener future.

For your benefit, the toolkit for the setup and management of Green Combs, including MOOC Canvases and the How to Guide, are available on the GreenHive website: www.greenhiveproject.eu.