Digital Sustainability Leader (DSL)

**Learning Pathway: Core programme in Level 7 Master's Certificate in Strategic Sustainability Leadership**

This curriculum prepares learners to lead strategic sustainability transformations at senior management levels and drive organisational change that influences industry practices. Graduates will develop advanced strategic thinking capabilities, systemic change methodologies, and cross-sector influence skills. They typically serve as senior directors responsible for enterprise-wide sustainability transformation, industry leadership initiatives, and the development of innovative approaches that shape sector practices.

EQF Level 7 | 30 ECTS | 6 Learning Units | Work-Based Learning: 44.8% (exceeds 20% minimum)

# Programme Overview

**Role Focus:** Executive and system-level leadership

**Target Audience:** Senior managers and directors responsible for strategic sustainability leadership, organisational transformation, and cross-sector influence

**Learning Approach:** EQF Level 7 professional development programme with 30 ECTS, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application through structured learning and standardised work-based learning integration.

**Core Tools & Platforms:** Strategic planning frameworks, Change management platforms, Executive dashboards, Transformation methodologies

# Competence Frameworks Alignment

**GreenComp Framework:** 2.1 Systems thinking, 4.1 Political agency, 4.3 Collective action

## e-CF Framework (Detailed Mapping)

**A.1:** IS and Business Strategy Alignment - Level 4

**E.1:** Forecast Development - Level 4

**E.8:** Information Security Management - Level 3

*Learning outcomes are mapped directly to GreenComp and e-CF framework descriptors*

# Dual Education Model & Work-Based Learning

**WBL Compliance:** 44.8% work-based learning (exceeds minimum 20%)

## Model Implementation

**Minimum Wbl Percentage:** 20

**Employer Partnership:** Mandatory for all programmes

**Workplace Learning:** Integrated throughout curriculum

**Assessment Split:** 70% academic, 30% workplace-based

## Quality Assurance

**Workplace Standards:** Standardised workplace learning environments

**Mentor Qualifications:** Certified workplace mentors

**Assessment Criteria:** Unified workplace assessment standards

**Monitoring Systems:** Regular quality monitoring of WBL delivery

# Flexible Learning Pathways

**Modular Design:** Learning units designed for flexible recombination

**Competence Catalog:** Integrated with competence-based learning unit catalog

**Stackability Options:** Horizontal and vertical stacking supported

**Pathway Flexibility:** Multiple entry and exit points available

# Assessment Framework

**Primary Method:** Strategic leadership portfolio

**Work-Based Component:** Senior-level transformation leadership and industry influence

**Assessment Components:**

**• Organisational transformation strategy:** 45%

**• Industry influence project:** 35%

**• Multi-stakeholder coordination:** 20%

**Rationale:** Advanced leadership programmes require strategic thinking and demonstrated industry-level influence

# Delivery Framework

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Contact Hours** | 150 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 258 hours |
| **Work-Based Hours** | 336 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 44.8% (exceeds 20% minimum) |
| **Work-Based Learning** | Integrated (dual education model) |
| **Delivery Methods** | Classroom, Online, Workplace, Blended |

# Learning Unit Structure

## Learning Unit 1: Sustainable Digital Transformation Strategy

*This learning unit forms part of the Core programme in Level 7 Master's Certificate in Strategic Sustainability Leadership*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 7) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 25 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 56 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 44.8% |
| **Thematic Area** | General |

**Description:** Develop holistic strategies for sustainability-focused digital transformation

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Senior executive roles across sectors

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Strategic transformation leadership

• Cross-sector collaboration projects

• Industry influence initiatives

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Pioneer organisational change methodologies in sustainable digital transformation strategy within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.1 Political agency*

**Skills:** Lead transformation transformation leadership in sustainable digital transformation strategy to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Forecast Development - Level 4*

**Competence:** Lead strategic transformation of strategic leadership responsibilities for sustainable digital transformation strategy while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Information Security Management - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 2: Systematic Innovation for Sustainability Challenges

*This learning unit forms part of the Core programme in Level 7 Master's Certificate in Strategic Sustainability Leadership*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 7 (Programme: 7) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 25 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 56 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 44.8% |
| **Thematic Area** | Technical Implementation |

**Description:** Apply structured innovation methodologies to develop breakthrough sustainability solutions

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Senior executive roles across sectors

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Strategic transformation leadership

• Cross-sector collaboration projects

• Industry influence initiatives

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Establish industry leadership approaches to systematic innovation for sustainability challenges within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.3 Collective action*

**Skills:** Create breakthrough cross-sector influence through systematic innovation for sustainability challenges to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Information Security Management - Level 3*

**Competence:** Shape industry practices in industry influence activities through systematic innovation for sustainability challenges while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: IS and Business Strategy Alignment - Level 4*

## Learning Unit 3: Ethics and Governance in Digital Innovation

*This learning unit forms part of the Core programme in Level 7 Master's Certificate in Strategic Sustainability Leadership*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 7) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 25 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 56 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 44.8% |
| **Thematic Area** | Ethics & Governance |

**Description:** Evaluate ethical implications of digital systems and ensure inclusive governance

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Senior executive roles across sectors

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Strategic transformation leadership

• Cross-sector collaboration projects

• Industry influence initiatives

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Research systemic impact strategies for ethics and governance in digital innovation within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 2.1 Systems thinking*

**Skills:** Innovate organisational culture change via ethics and governance in digital innovation to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: IS and Business Strategy Alignment - Level 4*

**Competence:** Influence sector-wide systemic change leadership involving ethics and governance in digital innovation while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Forecast Development - Level 4*

## Learning Unit 4: Sustainability Frameworks and Standards

*This learning unit forms part of the Core programme in Level 7 Master's Certificate in Strategic Sustainability Leadership*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 7) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 25 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 56 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 44.8% |
| **Thematic Area** | Management |

**Description:** Overview of major sustainability frameworks, regulations, and standards

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Senior executive roles across sectors

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Strategic transformation leadership

• Cross-sector collaboration projects

• Industry influence initiatives

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Advance strategic transformation frameworks for sustainability frameworks and standards within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.1 Political agency*

**Skills:** Research and develop strategic roadmap development for sustainability frameworks and standards to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Forecast Development - Level 4*

**Competence:** Drive systemic change in enterprise-wide transformation initiatives in sustainability frameworks and standards while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Information Security Management - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 5: Sustainable ICT Procurement and Policy

*This learning unit forms part of the Core programme in Level 7 Master's Certificate in Strategic Sustainability Leadership*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 7) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 25 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 56 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 44.8% |
| **Thematic Area** | Management |

**Description:** Develop policies and practices for sustainable technology procurement

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Senior executive roles across sectors

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Strategic transformation leadership

• Cross-sector collaboration projects

• Industry influence initiatives

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Conceptualise organisational change methodologies in sustainable ict procurement and policy within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.3 Collective action*

**Skills:** Lead transformation transformation leadership in sustainable ict procurement and policy to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Information Security Management - Level 3*

**Competence:** Lead strategic transformation of strategic leadership responsibilities for sustainable ict procurement and policy while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: IS and Business Strategy Alignment - Level 4*

## Learning Unit 6: Applied Ethics in AI for Sustainability

*This learning unit forms part of the Core programme in Level 7 Master's Certificate in Strategic Sustainability Leadership*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 7) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 25 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 56 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 44.8% |
| **Thematic Area** | Ethics & Governance |

**Description:** Address ethical considerations in AI applications for sustainability challenges

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Senior executive roles across sectors

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Strategic transformation leadership

• Cross-sector collaboration projects

• Industry influence initiatives

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Pioneer industry leadership approaches to applied ethics in ai for sustainability within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 2.1 Systems thinking*

**Skills:** Create breakthrough cross-sector influence through applied ethics in ai for sustainability to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: IS and Business Strategy Alignment - Level 4*

**Competence:** Shape industry practices in industry influence activities through applied ethics in ai for sustainability while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Forecast Development - Level 4*

Educational Curriculum Modeller (ECM) - Version 2.0 - July 10, 2025