

## Step Up to Masters

### MSc Sustainability & Consultancy

#### Pre-induction reading recommendations

Welcome to the MSc Sustainability & Consultancy!



**Paul Abbott,  
Programme Leader**

It would really help your ***step up to masters*** if you start to prepare for your course before you come to Leeds. The MSc Sustainability & Consultancy programme involves finding and analysing information from a number of sources including that produced by companies, think tanks, NGOs and standards organisations. However, reading, digesting and critiquing academic texts will also be a central part of your programme and developing your own knowledge and opinions on sustainability.

When you begin your modules at Leeds you will receive module handbooks with lists of suggested readings and in several cases there are links to module reading lists available (from the programme catalogue, click on the module links and then scroll down to where it says "The reading list is available from the Library website"). Many of the items on these library module lists are only available through the library or subscription, so you will have to wait until you are registered at Leeds to get hold of them. However, in the meantime, the readings suggested below are either freely available on the internet or are quite cheap to buy.

The material suggested here largely helps prepare for the programme in general but more specifically for the first semester modules SOEE5051: Business, Environment and Sustainability and SOEE 5231 The Regulatory and Planning Context for Sustainable Projects. There are no 'heavy weight' readings here — rather they are readable but informed introductions to the kinds of debates we will be discussing in class. Please do not feel you need to read all these texts, reading just a couple will give you a good feel for the subject and is enough at this stage. Pick the ones which look most interesting to you or just the ones which you can easily get your hands on before you arrive.

## Articles and books available on the Internet

Hawkins, P ., Lovins, A .B . and Lovins, L .H . (2000) **Natural Capitalism: The Next Industrial Revolution**, Earthscan . London ([available online](#)) .

*This is a very influential book on how businesses can respond to the challenges of environmental change and degradation.*

Henderson, D (2001) **Misguided Virtue; False Notions of Corporate Social Responsibility**, **Institute of Economic Affairs**, [available online](#)

*This is quite a controversial book that comes from a free market-oriented think tank which is in contrast to many of the current ideas about corporate social responsibility.*

Utting, Peter (2005) **Rethinking Business Regulation: From Self-Regulation to Social Control**, UNRISD

[Open Document](#)

*This working paper offers a political economy perspective on the responsibilities of business, putting the recent trend for 'voluntary' CSR into historical context.*

## Books

Vogel, D . (2006) **The Market for Virtue: The Potential and Limits of Corporate Social Responsibility**. Washington, DC: Brookings Institute Press.

*This book challenges conventional notions of CSR and asking searching questions about when CSR activities benefit companies and society as a whole.*

The [first chapter](#) can be downloaded for free

Zadek, S (2007) **The civil corporation: the new economy of corporate citizenship**, London: Earthscan

Zadek, S (2009) **Tomorrow's History**; Sheffield Greenleaf

*These books are good on the reasons why corporate social responsibility has become important and is good for case studies and examples. Zadek's own website and blog offer interesting updates on progress in CSR and the first chapter of both books can be downloaded from <http://www.zadek.net/publications/>*

Laszlo, C (2008) **Sustainable Value. How the world's leading companies are doing well by doing good**. Greenleaf

*This book is a very readable introduction with lots of positive examples of how companies have embraced sustainability challenges. A couple of the chapters can be [downloaded](#) from the publisher's website.*

## **Websites**

**Ethical Corporation:** This is a news and comment magazine focusing on ethical issues affecting business. Its primary target is policy makers and business people so its main use is keeping up to date with developments in companies and other organisations. Much of the content is paid subscription only, but there is enough content that is free to be worth subscribing to the free email update and having a regular check.

**SustainAbility:** This research-based think tank and consultancy regularly publish their reports in the “Thinking” section of their website. You have to register to access this material but it is free to do so. Their “Rate the Raters” reports are particularly relevant for modules 5341: Issues and Cases in CSR and 5041: Standards and Tools in semester 2.

**SDRN:** For more of a UK focus, the Sustainable Development Research Network's site provides access to a range of research outputs across the range of issues that make up sustainability.

## **Journals**

Sample journal issues can sometimes be downloaded for free, such as:

[Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management](#)

[Business Strategy and the Environment](#)

[Journal of Corporate Citizenship](#)

[Greener Management International](#)

[Sustainability](#)

## Professional institutions

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)

The University of Leeds is an education partner with IEMA and our students are eligible for free IEMA student membership – we will need to collect some information from you in induction week to set up that membership. We'll give you more information in induction week about how to get involved but meanwhile [IEMA's website](#) has a lot of interesting information.



Your MSc is an IEMA Associate Certificate accredited programme. This means that once you gain your Masters degree, and undertake a short additional open book assessment which we set up in the spring for you, you are eligible for Associate Membership of IEMA without taking their additional exams. As with the student membership, we'll tell you more about this in induction week and as the course progresses.

And finally, also see the [pre-induction activity](#) outlined on the Step Up to Masters web pages which will help you with module SOEE 5281, Introduction to Sustainability in the first semester.

I look forward to seeing you in September!

*Paul Abbott*

Programme Manager, MSc Sustainability & Consultancy  
School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds