

Advanced Sustainability Management

Winter Semester 2025/26

This course is designed as an advanced exploration of corporate sustainability, building upon the foundational knowledge acquired in the introductory *Sustainability Management* course. It aims to deepen students' analytical and practical understanding of strategic and organizational approaches to sustainability within the corporate context. The curriculum provides rigorous engagement with advanced topics, including sustainable business models and transformation, sustainable innovation, sustainability reporting, climate strategy, and the analysis of sustainability-related data. Through the integration of case studies, interactive discussions, and exercises, students will critically assess contemporary corporate sustainability practices and develop proficiency in the tools and frameworks necessary for managing complex sustainability transformations in organizations. The course emphasizes both theoretical perspectives and practical applications, equipping students to evaluate and implement sustainability strategies in dynamic business environments.

Course Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction to Advanced Sustainability Management

We begin by reviewing the key concepts from the introductory course *Sustainability Management* and refreshing central definitions. Drawing on evidence from peer-reviewed academic research, we analyze whether and to what extent responsible corporate behavior translates into financial performance. The chapter concludes by introducing The 360° Corporation framework, offering practical tools for developing, implementing, and evaluating comprehensive sustainability strategies.

Chapter 2: Sustainable Business Models and Corporate Transformation

In this chapter, we investigate how companies design and scale sustainable business models to create competitive advantage. The discussion focuses on business model innovation, disruption, and the scalability of sustainability initiatives. We also address the role of corporate transformation strategies—including mergers and acquisitions, resource redeployment, and divestitures—as levers to drive sustainability across the organization. We will also explore sustainability management in novel contexts such as the sharing economy, highlighting the shift from ownership to platform-based business models.

Chapter 3: Organizing and Reporting on Sustainability

We cover the fundamentals of sustainability reporting and carbon accounting, including compliance with current regulations and approaches that go beyond compliance to create sustainable value. Attention is next directed to the organization of sustainability inside firms. We examine how organizational design and corporate governance structures can support sustainability goals and how companies engage with both internal and external stakeholders.

Chapter 4: Sustainable Supply Chains and Corporate Climate Data Analysis

The penultimate chapter examines sustainable supply chain management, emphasizing value chain engagement and collaboration. We also analyze corporate climate strategies, with a particular focus on mitigation, adaptation, and the use of CDP data to understand risks and opportunities. In addition, you will gain first hands-on experience in analyzing sustainability data using Stata.

Chapter 5: Integration, Reflection, Exam Preparation

The final chapter synthesizes key insights from the course and revisits central concepts in preparation for the exam. It provides space for discussion, reflection, and targeted exam training.

Course Prerequisites and Grading

- Completion of *Sustainability Management* is a prerequisite.
- Attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended due to interactive formats.
- Final grade is based on the written exam according to the examination regulations.
- Extra points can be earned through in-class exercises (e.g., Stata session).

Organizational Remarks

- The course is held as a block course on Wednesdays, 10:00AM to 2:00 PM, the session starts at 10:15 – please make sure you arrive on time!
- Teaching format: interactive lectures, case study discussions, empirical exercises.
- We use ILIAS as our primary communication platform. Please check the course materials before class.
- Make sure to bring an electronic device (e.g. laptop, tablet).

Important Dates

Event	Room	Date
Kick-off & Introduction	SEM 00/0130	15.10.2025
Winter break	-	22.12.2025 – 11.01.2026
Introduction to Data Analysis: Exploring CDP with STATA	0047 Wiwi-Pavillon	04.02.2026
Recap & Q&A	SEM 00/0130	11.02.2026
Exam (please consult the official exam schedule)	tbd	18.02.2026