



In this century an understanding of sustainability will be critical for every person in a leadership role in every sector of society.

The College of Sustainability offers the opportunity for every Dalhousie student and professor to engage meaningfully with issues of Environment, Sustainability and Society.

The Environment, Sustainability & Society Major



College of Sustainability



Educating for Change

- Includes:-
 - *generational justice*
 - *responsibility to act*
 - *need for education*
- *David Orr: If we want to achieve different results in the future, we must begin to educate differently.*
- The sustainability challenge is complex and diverse, requiring new ways of problem-solving, new knowledge, leadership and ideas
- Decisions need to be made from many perspectives: social, political; business, scientific, and technological; design and culture
- Understanding and experience of interdisciplinary work will be fundamental to addressing the challenge of sustainability
- Education must harness the creative energy of faculty, community, and students at all levels, inspired by real-world challenges
- *“Our new College does not throw away the ‘bits and pieces’ [of the disciplines] but blends them into an ‘integrated sense of the unity of things.’” - Tom Traves, Dalhousie President, March 2008*

The College of Sustainability

- Approved June 2008
- First classes September 2009
- An interdisciplinary, student-focused forum for collaborative teaching and learning in environment, sustainability and society
- College programs integrate with a broad range of Dalhousie degrees, providing a rigorous disciplinary basis for responsive, issues-oriented study.
- A flow of students, teachers and community through the College allows for a constant exchange of ideas, expertise and passions.
- Environment, sustainability and society will be at the centre of the Dalhousie community.
- Key objectives: Multiple literacies; Understanding of complexity; Interdisciplinarity; Creativity; Self-awareness and engagement



College of Sustainability

Graduate
Constellation

Community
Service

Change + Inspire

Lead

Common
Place

Undergraduate
Major in ESS



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Inspiring Minds

sustainability.dal.ca

The Environment, Sustainability & Society Major

- Interdisciplinary, team-taught lecture classes supported by small tutorials - issue-oriented in 1st year, simulation- and problem-based in 2nd year
- Interdisciplinary methods, experiential learning and community engagement classes in third year
- Optional third year internship
- Capstone class - student teams work with community groups on real-world challenges using problem-based learning approach
- Honours thesis project in parallel with Capstone
- Sustainability lecture series on Thursday nights, building public awareness (required for first and second year students)
- Core electives list of 100 classes from 5 faculties



"You have three professors, all on stage teaching about sustainability, but from their perspectives... you can have a historian, a biologist, and an architect... and it's super interesting and engaging as a student to be able to see what's going on on stage, how they're discussing these issues, and an amazing learning experience."

Camila Das Gupta, ESS student

The ESS Major

Forms a double major with a broad range of subject areas

Offered through 5 partner faculties and 7 degrees (BA, BSc, BCD, BCSc, BInf, BJH, BMgmt)

Draws on virtually every academic discipline

14 teaching faculty, each 33% in College, 66% in home units, for a 3 year term (renewable), augmented by 40 cross-appointed faculty from 7 faculties and several area universities

30 graduate TAs drawn from 7 faculties

Environment, Sustainability and Society (ESS) combined with second major subject B

YEAR 1	FALL	SUST 1000	ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B	MAJOR SUBJECT B	
	WINTER	SUST 1001	ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B	MAJOR SUBJECT B	
YEAR 2	FALL	SUST 2000	ESS ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B	MAJOR SUBJECT B	
	WINTER	SUST 2001	ESS ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B	MAJOR SUBJECT B	
YEAR 3	FALL	SUST 3000	ESS ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B
	WINTER	SUST 3502	ESS ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B
YEAR 4	FALL	SUST 4000	ESS ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B
	WINTER		ESS ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	MAJOR SUBJECT B

Major subject A combined with Environment, Sustainability and Society (ESS) as second subject

YEAR 1	FALL	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	ELECTIVE	SUST 1000	
	WINTER	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	ELECTIVE	SUST 1001	
YEAR 2	FALL	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	2 ESS ELECTIVES or SUST 2000*	
	WINTER	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	2 ESS ELECTIVES or SUST 2001*	
YEAR 3	FALL	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ESS ELECTIVE
	WINTER	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ESS ELECTIVE
YEAR 4	FALL	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ESS ELECTIVE
	WINTER	MAJOR SUBJECT A	MAJOR SUBJECT A	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ESS ELECTIVE

*Students must take one of Sust 2000 or Sust 2001

Environment, Sustainability & Society - profile

- 2009 planned enrollment: 100-150 incoming first year students
- 2009 actual enrollment: 300 incoming first year students (150 registered in the first hour)
- 2011-2012: 350 1st year students; 130 2nd year; 100 3rd year; 40 4th year
- 2014 anticipated enrollment: 1000 undergraduate students total (out of 10,000 undergrads at Dal)
- To date, over 1100 students have taken a SUST class; over 500 have declared the ESS Major
- 61% said the ESS major was influential in their decision to come to Dal
- 28% said they would not have chosen Dal if the ESS major was not available
- 73% of first-year students intend to complete the ESS major
- According to students, the key Learning Objectives are
 - Real World Issues (88%)
 - Interdisciplinary Learning (51%)
 - Problem-solving approaches (45%)



Environment, Sustainability & Society - directions

- Certificate in Sustainability Leadership
 - Open to ESS Majors and students in undergraduate degrees without the ESS option
 - Requires completion of qualifying class (SUST 1000 or 1001) plus three weekend workshops in leadership for sustainability, and 60 hours of community service learning
 - Launches March 2012 with a certificate planning forum
- Graduate Certificate in Environment, Sustainability & Society
 - Open to all graduate students in a degree with a thesis or major research project (including PhD)
 - Requires completion of two SUST classes at 5000 level: Interdisciplinary Scholarship for Sustainability; & Problem-based Learning for Sustainability, within degree credit requirements, plus
 - Sustainability-focused Thesis or Major Research Project
 - Launches September 2012
- Minor in Sustainability
 - In planning for September 2013

“Earthrise,” 24 December, 1968
Apollo 8



- ***Sustainability is not a technique, a thing, a policy, or an action***
- ***Sustainability is a mindset, a way of being in the world, a second nature***