Education for Sustainable Development

Promoting education for sustainable development is at the very heart of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).

To further advance sustainability and climate action in urban communities, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and FutureLearn are offering FREE online courses from our course collection 'Education for Sustainable Development' for people living in UNESCO learning cities.

Our offer:

- Collection of FutureLearn courses focusing on Education for Sustainable Development
- Online, on-demand (learn at your own pace)
- 2-7 weeks, 2-5 hours per week
- Free of charge for residents in UNESCO Learning Cities
- Access to courses in the ESD collection
- Digital certificate of achievement upon successful completion



futurelearn.com/courses/ collections/unesco-gnlc





How can learners of UNESCO Learning Cities access the courses?

Step 1:

GNLC focal points request a code for their city from FutureLearn, distribute it to partners and issue a press release / public information about the initiative while inviting residents to participate.

Step 2:

Learners register on FutureLearn and use the code to join a course. The code for the city includes a consecutive number (from 1-12). If learners wish to enrol in several courses, they can easily do so by changing the last digit of the code for each enrolment.

Step 3:

Learners are invited to post on social media about their learning experience during or after completing the course with the hashtag #ImALifelongLearner.

Example of courses in the Education for Sustainable Development collection:



Hanken School of

Entrepreneurship for Sustainability and Wellbeing in an Era of Digitalisation



University of Reading & Walker Institute

Planet Partners: Tackling the Climate Crisis Together



University of Groningen & Global Centre on Adaptation

Making Climate Adaptation Happen: Governing Transformation Strategies for Climate Change



University of Leeds

Renewable Energy: Achieving Sustainability through Bioenergy

View the full collection at futurelearn.com/courses/collections/unesco-gnlc

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) and FutureLearn partnered to accelerate Education for Sustainable Development in UNESCO learning cities. FutureLearn, a member of the Global University Systems' network of institutions, will provide free access to online courses on sustainable development issues for 100,000 lifelong learners in UNESCO learning cities across the globe. 365 cities from all world regions are members in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, coordinated by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.