



The Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre

Investing in the Next Generation



Today, people the world over are in search of solutions to such issues as climate change, disease, economic stability, energy alternatives and hunger, pollution, poverty, security and strife and water scarcity. Research indicates that the need for skills to effectively deal with these issues is growing far faster than many nations' ability to train.

This is why a new generation of sustainability leaders is needed now.

The Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre (SLIC) will bridge this gap by attracting, training and empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders. The Centre is a vital component of the Global Connectivity program at the Head Office of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Today, people aged 20 to 30 are more concerned than ever about the state and fate of our planet but they need to be empowered to make a difference—just as they also need to acquire the necessary skills and the networks to do so. *This is where SLIC comes in...*

- Our Aim:** To find, engage, train and advance the best and brightest, new sustainability leaders in the world.
- Our Plan:** To train thousands more new leaders from countries all over the world whose lands and peoples face similar challenges.
- Our Future:** To build a new generation of sustainability leaders to provide innovative sustainability solutions to crucial issues that go beyond borders and our lifetime.

“The world needs new leaders in the thousands—to advance sustainable development across business, government, technology, civil society, and academia.”

– Heather Creech, IISD Director of Global Connectivity



Our Vision:

Tomorrow's sustainability leaders, today.

Our Mission:

To equip the next generation of leaders with the skills, knowledge and networks they need to start driving change towards global sustainability, today.

Our Approach:

- To deliver innovative and targeted experiential and online training programs,
- To design these programs based on research of the skills needed for a new sustainability economy, and
- To work in full partnership with other training and leadership institutions to scale up the preparation of the next generation of sustainability leaders, locally, nationally and internationally.

The essence of the Centre

In our on-going pursuit of innovative excellence, Centre staff provides training in climate change, natural resources management, business, measurement and assessment, trade and economics. Key functions of the Centre are:

1. Leadership Training

- To improve and expand leadership training in sustainable development
- To train committed, enthusiastic participants from developed, developing and transitional countries through internships, fellowships, workshops and conferences
- To develop and deliver on-line training courses in sustainability

2. Collaboration and Networking

- To bring international sustainability organizations together to consolidate and coordinate next generation leadership training as a global endeavour
- To expand the current capacity of sustainability institutions to work effectively with the next generation of professionals in the field of sustainable development
- To create a global network of sustainable development professionals
- To generate and maintain ongoing consultations with new leaders in sustainability

3. Research

- To investigate market demand, skills gaps, and best practices in leadership training
- To launch an ongoing series of practical, leading-edge research publications on sustainability training and engagement
- To employ the newest, state-of-the-art communications connectivities and on-line training techniques

Before it grew to be the Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre, IISD's internship program trained over 300 young Canadian professionals

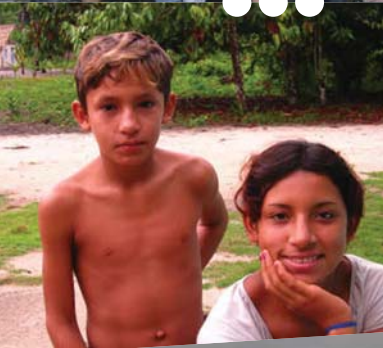
Every year since 1998, we sent committed, energetic Canadians—aged 20 to 30—to work with IISD's overseas partners on sustainable development projects—as part of IISD's institutional mandate to help society successfully manage the impacts of global change.

Recently, an IISD survey revealed that 78 per cent of these past interns have careers in sustainable development. Now, nearly 33 per cent are employed in the business sector while the remainder works with intergovernmental, governmental or non-governmental agencies.

Centre staff and other experts train participants at IISD Head Office

After which, SLIC participants are sent to their respective sustainable development assignments—locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Every one works at a high-level, practical position that directly relates to his/her university education. The four core elements are:

1. **Substance**—Knowledge of the environment and sustainable development to provide a common basis for understanding, dialogue and action. Placements provide advanced training in climate change, trade, natural resource management, business and community development.



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2. **Skills Development Training**—Modules include conflict resolution, leadership and project management, cross-cultural training, networking, communications and presentation skills.
 3. **Internships**—Hands-on, international experience with leading sustainable development institutions in the North and South; and exposure to relevant experts.
 4. **Networking**—Our SLIC Alumni program builds a long-term community of peer support for participants as they take on new leadership challenges in government, business and civil society.

Over time, SLIC participants will be strategically placed in government, industry, law and related fields where their perspectives on, commitment to and actions for sustainable development will be demonstrated in a great, many ways. Now over 400 IISD alumni are involved in sustainable development in their communities, companies, corporations, countries and beyond.

“This program is fantastic. It has allowed me to witness challenges in Egypt and develop a great passion for sustainable development. The work is challenging, rewarding and leads to personal growth. I'd recommend it to anyone.”

— Rada Vukovic (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

SLIC wants to take sustainability leadership training to the next level

Specifically, this involves:

1. Establishment of a vibrant network of international sustainability organizations to coordinate the next generation leadership training as a global endeavour; and to ensure that current sustainable development work continues well into the future
2. Establishment and maintenance of a research program designed to map and monitor the sustainable development sector worldwide
3. Engagement, training and the advancement of 30 to 100 of the best and brightest, new sustainable development professionals in the world—each year over the next 3 years
4. Training of 5,000 new sustainable development professionals through SLIC online courses over the next 3 years
5. Targeting of 3 specific geographic areas of the world for capacity building projects as developed and implemented by Centre staff, including:
 - **Southern and Eastern Africa**—where IISD has joined in a partnership with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), WWF, LEAD International and the World Commission on Parks and Protected Areas in a multi-faceted training program
 - **Circumpolar Region**—enhancing and expanding IISD's current, youth capacity building efforts in the Arctic
 - **North America**—starting in Winnipeg, this is a 12-month training program including workshops, sustainability projects, retreats and mentorship; ultimately designed to be rolled out across North America
6. Recruitment of hundreds more participants, worldwide-aged 20 to 30 years-by enhancing their awareness of and passion for sustainability as a basis for lasting, positive change

The Centre also provides professionals—aged 20 to 30—with opportunities to achieve leadership positions in the field of sustainable development. Their communications skills, resources, knowledge and practical, hands-on experience will assist them as effective agents of sustainable change in the years to come.

SLIC participants work with a wide range of world-class associations non-profit organizations and research institutes, including:

- UN Environment Program for Latin America and the Caribbean
- University of the Arctic, and African Institute of Corporate Citizenship Institute
- World Conservation Union, World Agro-Forestry Centre and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

IISD played a key role in establishing the Consortium for Sustainability Leadership (CSL) at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain in 2008.

Consortium MEMBERS:

- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)
- Leadership for Environment and Development International (LEAD), and
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Consortium PARTNERS:

- Commission on Education and Communication, and
- World Commission on Protected Areas



“A leader can see and understand trends and risks, and take chances on new ideas. A leader can also inspire and motivate others to achieve those ideas. In a very real way; they are tomorrow’s leaders, today.”

– Jacob Malthouse, IISD Intern Alumni

Invest in the Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre today, so we can live sustainably, tomorrow*

IISD needs your support now. With you on our team, the Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre can become a global sustainability movement for young people.

Together, we can make a world of difference.

To contribute online, please visit:

www.IISDisBridgingTheGap.org

Just click on Donate Now/CanadaHelps.org

*Support for the Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre is part of our "Bridging the Gap between Knowing and Doing" Capital Campaign.

"SLIC is designed to bring out the leader in everyone. We strive to motivate and inspire every individual we train so they, in turn, can help build capacity as ambassadors-spreading the concept of sustainability worldwide."

– Carolee Buckler, Project Manager, Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre

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iisd International Institute for Sustainable Development
Institut international du développement durable

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) was established in 1990. It is a non-partisan, charitable organization specializing in research, analysis and information exchange. Through offices in Winnipeg, Ottawa, New York and Geneva, IISD applies human ingenuity to improve the well-being of the world's environment, economy and society.

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