



Circular Economy & Zero Waste Systems Training and Employment Pathways

The Circular Economy and Zero Waste Systems are a core element of achieving sustainability in a diverse range of industries.

In the Manufacturing industry sector the MSS Sustainability IRC forecast 2019-2023 has recognised sustainability as a discipline that crosses a broad range of industries making skills in these areas cross sectorial in nature. They recognise that the “workforce challenges and opportunities relating to... the rise of the circular economy... are impacting sectors that utilise qualifications from the MSS Sustainability Training Package”. They acknowledge that training priorities need to address gaps such as in Environmental Monitoring and Technology and that “the concepts and principles of ‘circular economy’ are starting to be applied across Australia’s waste industries.

The Textiles, Clothing and Footwear industry are currently reviewing their practices and training package as “there is an increasing demand for textiles, clothing and footwear items to be altered, tailored and repaired for continued use or upcycling” and that “Many consumers are increasingly concerned about the provenance and life cycle of the clothing they purchase”.

The Property Services Industry which includes architectural services, cleaning, pest control and waste management have identified sustainability as a key driver for change in their industry. “As well as consumer demand for sustainable products, policy shifts have placed an increasing focus on ‘green’ buildings and the reduction of waste”

CEZWS and general sustainability principles can be applied to all elements of design, manufacturing and service delivery for many industries such as.

- Textiles, Clothing and Footwear
- Process Manufacturing
- Architecture & Construction
- Furnishing
- Hospitality
- Waste management
- Transport & Freight
- Education & Training
- Production Horticulture
- Renewable Energy
- Cleaning
- Eco tourism

The roles individuals may be engaged in are varied and encompass many job titles such as:

- Permaculturalist
- Environmental Scientist

- Sustainability Planner
- Environmental Monitor
- Recycling and Waste Sorters
- Consultant – Waste, Recycling and Resource Management
- Industrial Designer
- Architect
- Sustainability Educator
- Alteration Tailor
- Environmental Engineer
- Environmental Officer

There is also the option of self-employment through setting up a small business.

Accredited Training Pathways

Sustainability in VET accredited training is more likely to be delivered as a component of a qualification rather than a qualification in itself. Below is a list of some of the VET qualifications that may be pathways to roles encompassing sustainable design/production/services. To find out more about specific courses you can visit the website of Victorian Skills Gateway at www.skills.vic.gov.au

You can undertake qualifications full or part-time at a range of TAFEs.

Industry Sector	Courses
Manufacturing	Cert III in Competitive Systems and Practices MSS30312 Cert IV in Environmental Monitoring & Technology
Business	Cert III in Micro Business Operations BSB30315 Cert IV in Business BSB40215 Cert IV in New Small Business BSB42618 Cert IV in Small Business Management BSB42518
Permaculture	Permaculture Demonstrator Skill Set Permaculture Design Course (PDC) Cert I, II, III, IV or Diploma Permaculture
Cleaning/Asset Maintenance	CPP31011 Cert III in Cleaning Skillsets: CPPSS00052 Develop & implement environmentally sustainable cleaning programs CPPSS00053 Implement environmentally sustainable cleaning program CPPSS00055 Perform environmentally sustainable cleaning operations
Waste Management	Cert III in Waste Management CPP30719 Cert IV in Waste Management CPP40919
Science	Cert IV in Science 22442VIC
Building & Construction	Cert IV in Building and Construction (Building)

In 2020 the Victorian Government is offering 'FREE' Certificates in TAFEs for eligible students in a range of priority (skills shortage) industries including Cert IV in Building and Construction (Building). Please note that these courses whilst free of tuition fees will still incur amenities and materials fees:

For further details on these free courses, including eligibility, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships, where you combine paid employment and study, are available at Certificate III level and you can investigate these further at:

www.aapathways.com.au, www.aga.com.au, www.appsmatter.com.au

University Pathways

For those looking at study beyond VET there are a range of Environment and Sustainability courses at universities such as the following:

<https://www.open.edu.au/study-online/interest-areas/environment-sustainability>

<https://www.swinburne.edu.au/study/find-a-course/arts-social-sciences/environmental-sustainability/>

<https://www.deakin.edu.au/courses/find-a-course/environment/sustainability-and-environmental-management>

Self-employment

The option of setting up your own business can be explored further at:

www.business.gov.au/guide/starting; www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/jobs-and-careers/starting-a-business/how-to-set-up-a-business;

You may also be eligible for financial, mentoring and training assistance to set up a new business through the NEIS program:

www.jobs.gov.au/self-employment-new-business-assistance-neis

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering can be a valuable way to build some hands-on experience and knowledge as well as gain useful contacts and potential future job referees.

Many organisations advertise beyond their own website so it's worth looking at opportunities listed with Volunteering Victoria on <http://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/go-volunteer/> or Seek on <http://volunteer.com.au>