



IMPACT!

➤ Youth Sustainability
Leadership Program

Sustainability Leadership Training:
Program Guide

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Young people care deeply about people, the planet, and the future. Given the opportunity, we believe young leaders have the power to influence positive change in their communities. IMPACT! Training is a call to passionate, motivated individuals who are looking to make a difference.



This offering is one of the main elements of the [IMPACT! Youth Sustainability Leadership Program](#), recognized by [Canada's Clean50](#) as the [Top Project for 2015](#) for its outstanding contribution to sustainable development and clean capitalism. This is a one-of-a-kind program focused on supporting young adults to be effective agents for positive change. National in scope, it brings together a diverse range of individuals with a unique blend of talents and knowledge who share a passion for sustainability.

IMPACT! is an initiative of The Co-operators and The Natural Step Canada.

Comprehensive sustainability leadership development



Participants come away from our training with stronger leadership skills, a deeper understanding of sustainability practices, and tangible tools and supports to pursue their action plan for their initiative.

This transformational experience is anchored by an in-person weekend workshop, which is preceded by award-winning online learning and supported by professionals, funding opportunities up to \$5000, and direct connections with experts, mentors and practitioners in the community. Moreover, the program includes a connection to over 1200 other young leaders from points all across Canada.



Catalysing exceptional ideas

The passionate individuals who join us may arrive with an idea, an initiative underway, or with a few ideas in mind. By the end of the training, all of these individuals will be supported to take on a leadership role in the development or implementation of an initiative or social enterprise that will improve their community.

Our commitment includes providing top-notch training, helpful project development tools, and meaningful post-workshop support for 4 months to ensure that initiatives have the highest chance of success. Participants will also learn about funding opportunities to launch or scale up initiatives.

"It was so welcoming and inspiring! If you have hundreds of ideas or none and don't know where to start, this weekend helps you gain skills to plan and implement your ideas. It was amazing!"

- 2016 IMPACT! Participant

Leaders come in many forms

IMPACT! Sustainability Leaders are passionate, talented, and committed individuals who want to lead positive change or are already doing so, aged 19 to 30. Those who take part in this program are interested in addressing challenges across the sustainability spectrum, including environmental, social, and economic issues. They represent many disciplines and fields of study: from science, engineering, and business, to the social sciences, humanities, and arts; all bring important insights to sustainability.

The IMPACT! Leaders aren't just the leaders of tomorrow... they are the leaders of today, striving to have greater positive impact in their communities, whether local or global. For more information, please visit impactleaders.ca.

"IMPACT! is an inspiring and effective program: Young sustainability leaders acquire valuable resources to change the world. This makes them powerful drivers of change within organizations and communities—just what the world needs. Corporate Knights is proud to partner with IMPACT! to enable more of today's business leaders to mentor more of today's youth leaders."

- Toby Heaps, CEO and Co-Founder, Corporate Knights



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

IMPACT! Training is not a weekend workshop or a web-portal or a webinar. It is not a mentorship program or a funding opportunity. It is ALL of these things in a comprehensive, proven program designed to provide the necessary, tailored support to those individuals who are going to make a difference in their careers, their community, and their actions.

The program includes the following:

Pre-Workshop Preparation

- Plan what you want to get out of the program
- Complete the award-winning [Sustainability 101 eLearning course](#)

In-Person Workshop

- **Build** your skills to strengthen your self-awareness, your leadership, and your understanding of sustainability processes
- **Connect** with peers and community leaders
- **Receive** a suite of tools and resources to help plan and implement your ideas
- **Understand** the processes and benefits of testing, piloting, succeeding, failing, evaluating, learning, and more

Personal Development and Initiative Planning

- **Develop** a plan for your idea or initiative
 - **Receive** professional feedback to guide your development
 - **Connect** with experienced mentors*
 - **Access** exclusive funding through the IMPACT! Fund, with \$5,000 average grant funding*
- *These activities are optional and may be limited and competitive.*

Reflection and Catapult Forward

- **Join** the national social innovation community of peers taking initiative to make a better world!
- **Get** national exposure and support from IMPACT! partners as you take action implementing a new initiative, or take a leadership role to advance an existing opportunity
- **Share** your story through an alumni blog-post on the IMPACT! Website to amplify your voice, connect to peers, discuss lessons learned, achievements, next steps!

OVERVIEW OF IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

Focus on you

Connect, explore, clarify

- Share ideas, skills, and goals with a community of peers
- Individual leadership: Passions and leadership styles
- Social entrepreneurship: Is it for you?
- Personal development: Motivational tools and techniques
- Clarify and advance project ideas through facilitated small-group activities



Knowledge you need

Sustainability concepts, project models, strategic project planning

- Systems thinking, the framework for strategic sustainable development (FSSD) and human needs
- Project model options: Explore informal to formal models, charity to for-profit incorporation, and co-operatives and alternative business models
- How to choose a model that best fits your desired outcome
- Project planning 101: How to develop a winning action plan
- Measuring success in sustainability projects and actions

The social entrepreneurship community

Peers, collaborators, and mentors share invaluable lessons learned

- Engage in discussions with local community experts, funders and sustainability practitioners
- Explore strategic approaches to social change, stories of challenges and successes
- Tools and techniques for collaboration and networking
- Start planning, developing partnership opportunities, and initiate action in the facilitated open space



THE NATIONAL IMPACT! TEAM



Casey Shore
Blogger and Social Media Lead



Gloria Kan
Training Logistics and Program Advocate



Jonathan Wade
Social Enterprise Consultant



Julia Toth
IMPACT! Fund Coordinator



Katrina Siks
Training Manager and Facilitator



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Partnerships, Fundraising and Sustainability Expert

LOCAL FACILITATORS



Amanda Hachey
East Coast Facilitator



Tamara Connell
West Coast Facilitator



Karen Stroebel
West Coast Facilitator



ABOUT THE LEAD PROGRAM COLLABORATORS

The Natural Step Canada

The Natural Step Canada is a leader in raising awareness, providing education, and building local capacity in sustainability. We are a dynamic non-profit organization and federally-registered charity with 20 years of experience helping youth, municipal, and business leaders understand and make meaningful progress toward sustainability. Through award-winning learning programs and advisory, and process facilitation services, we translate the fundamentals of sustainability into practical steps businesses and communities can take to achieve lasting change.

Our focus on young leaders helps unleash the unrelenting passion and commitment of youth to creating a better world by sharing the knowledge, tools, and practical training to be effective sustainability leaders.

With a head office in Ottawa, we are part of a growing global sustainability network with offices and projects in 18 countries. With a proven track record in Canada, The Natural Step has become a leading source of expertise and advice in the field of transformational change toward sustainability. Since The Natural Step was established by Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt in Sweden in 1989, we have received numerous prestigious awards from around the world for our leading sustainability work.

The Co-operators

The Co-operators Group Limited is a Canadian owned and operated company that insures over two million people Canada-wide. We are active corporate members of our communities, a catalyst for a sustainable society, and a true home-grown champion with strong co-operative roots. We support and fund the development of community-oriented co-operatives and social enterprises, and we work hard to contribute to communities across Canada.

“The question of reaching sustainability is not about if we will have enough energy, food, or other tangible resources... The question is: Will there be enough leaders in time?”

– Dr. Karl Henrik Robèrt, Founder, The Natural Step



IMPACT! is an initiative of:

