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The ISSP Certified Sustainability Professional (ISSP-CSP) Study Guide is a valuable tool for sustainability practitioners preparing to attain the ISSP Certified Sustainability Professional (ISSP-CSP) credential. We are extremely grateful to those who were involved in the creation of this resource.

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ISSP deeply appreciates the time and effort provided by our group of volunteer Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who developed the content for this Guide. This team wrote, edited, and reviewed documents in an iterative process that has culminated in this informative guidebook that speaks with multiple voices.

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THE ISSP-CSP STUDY GUIDE

This ISSP Certified Sustainability Professional (ISSP-CSP) Study Guide provides guidance to credential applicants preparing to sit for the ISSP-CSP credentialing exam. A more advanced publication, than its predecessor—the ISSP-SA Study Guide—this publication provides guidance on how more experienced professionals apply the Core Sustainability Concepts. These Guides are not intended to be comprehensive reference manuals, rather they offer a refresher of knowledge previously learned through adequate sustainability education.

AUTHORSHIP

Using a team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to develop the content, this current publication provides more than just the mechanics of how sustainability is practiced. Ten Reader Reviewers joined our 20 SMEs to form a diverse team—recruited from 10 countries on 5 continents, and practicing in industry, academia, government, and nonprofit settings. The team—comprised of 19 ISSP-CSPs and 7 ISSP-SAs—wrote, edited, and reviewed documents in an iterative process that has culminated in this informative guidebook that speaks with multiple voices. Ultimately, this multi-stakeholder process has yielded a publication that reflects the vast body of knowledge found throughout ISSP’s community.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The ISSP-CSP Study Guide is not prescriptive in nature, but rather it illustrates—with real-life anecdotes, lessons learned, and case studies—the industry best-practices for implementing sustainability knowledge.

The structure of the ISSP-CSP Study Guide follows the advanced Domains of the Body of Knowledge and is organized as listed below. (Note that the first Domain, Core Sustainability Concepts, is covered in the ISSP-SA Study Guide.)

- Introduction – ISSP Sustainability Certification
- Domain 2 – Stakeholder Engagement
- Domain 3 – Strategic Planning
- Domain 4 – Implement Sustainability Strategies
- Domain 5 – Evaluate and Report
- Domain 6 – Adjust plans
- Conclusion – The Role of the Sustainability Professional
- Glossary
- Acronyms
Each Domain begins with a detailed Table of Contents, and covers its body of knowledge with sections based on the related job task areas, providing:

- Text boxes summarizing important knowledge, skills, and attributes associated with the related Job Task Area under discussion.
- A narrative description of the knowledge and skills, which our subject matter experts have determined are critical to the successful execution of the defined job tasks.
- Case stories or anecdotes, from practicing professionals, that demonstrate how the knowledge and skills are put to use in the real world.
- Useful resources for getting a deeper understanding of the subject, including articles, books, and tools as appropriate.

Keep in mind that knowledge alone does not make a sustainability professional good at his or her job. An ISSP Certified Sustainability Professional (ISSP-CSP) needs to understand how things fit together as a whole. The Domains, taken collectively, provide important context. Having an understanding of how all the pieces fit together, and how to tailor the tools in your toolbox, are key to becoming successful sustainability professionals.

To determine the most important content to include in such a limited space, the SMEs considered two criteria:

- What information would a potential employer or client expect a “minimally competent” Certified Sustainability Professional to know, regardless of the industry in which the professional is employed?¹
- Would the information be relevant to a sustainability practitioner regardless of their geographic location? If local or regional in nature, does the topic have international relevance? (Note that in some cases the standard for a specific country is listed because of its relevance. Readers are encouraged to research the equivalent in their local context.)

In the interest of providing credential candidates with the most up-to-date information, the Study Guide’s references were selected for their credibility and current relevance. The sustainability field is still young so it is constantly growing and expanding. The ISSP-CSP exam and this Study Guide will endeavor to change and grow with the field. We welcome your suggestions for improvement by reaching out to us at: certification@sustainabilityprofessionals.org.

¹ “Minimally competent” is the terminology used to describe those who achieve the minimal passing grade of a credentialing exam.
## Domain 2: Stakeholder Engagement

Skills and knowledge related to collaboratively working with stakeholders to forward a mutually satisfactory beneficial agenda

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Create a comprehensive, long-term, and inclusive approach to the systematic implementation of sustainability vision and initiatives

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