

SMALL BUSINESS, BIG IMPACT

A Six-Step Journey to Drive
Sustainability and Business Growth

An SME Learning Journey



Academy

START YOUR TRANSFORMATION TODAY

Small Business, Big Impact

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the engine of private-sector growth in both developing and developed economies, yet they face unique challenges in integrating sustainability strategies that are critical to long-term business success and resilience. Leaders at all levels of SMEs have a lot on their plate, and often fewer resources than their larger counterparts. They may feel they lack the time, knowledge, capacity or funds to tackle global challenges like the climate crisis or discrimination against minorities. Others simply do not know where to start.

The UN Global Compact invites you to join the Small Business, Big Impact: A Six-Step Journey to Drive Sustainability and Business Growth - a new high-impact, interactive learning journey designed specifically for SMEs.

Through weekly emails and activities, you will join peers in five short, on-demand courses, one live peer exchange session, and a toolkit offered in multiple languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Arabic) and time zones. Get ready to make progress towards a more sustainable and resilient future — regardless of your region, industry or sector.

WHY JOIN

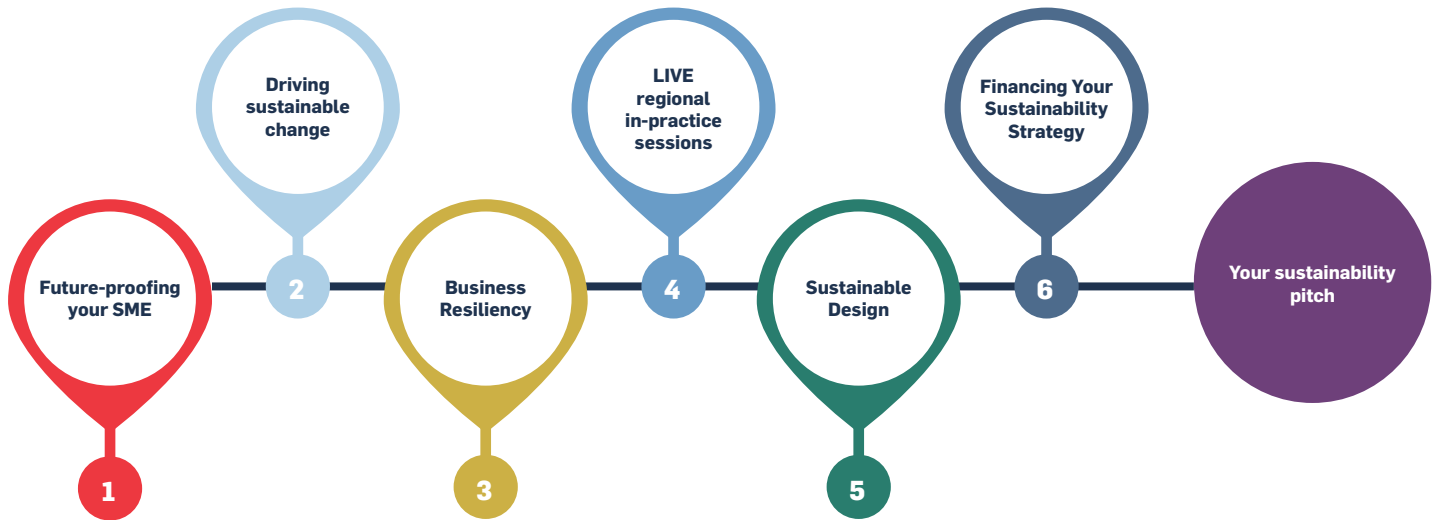
- Receive concrete tools to navigate the business case for SMEs and how to take action on key sustainability topics
- Connect with some of the most innovative and influential SMEs around the world
- Exchange ideas and best practices with regional peers, and get support to craft your sustainability story and buy-in from internal and external stakeholders
- Get exclusive access to live sessions, actionable workbooks, social media assets and an opportunity to share and be recognized virtually for your efforts at the UN High Level Week in September and beyond
- Gain a certificate of completion from the UN Global Compact

HOW IT WORKS

- Sign up for the learning journey [here](#)
- Start learning! Engage in interactive online content starting 30 May, watch on-demand sessions, hear from global changemakers
- To support your learning you will receive regular emails with suggested timelines, activity reminders, and additional resources to help keep you on track
- Don't miss the live sessions on 27 June, providing valuable opportunities to ask experts questions LIVE and exchange experience with a network of other participants who are working towards the same sustainability goals you are
- The journey is open and free of charge to all



OVERVIEW OF THE LEARNING JOURNEY



Step 1. Learn how to future-proof your SME with the UN Global Compact Ten Principles



Format: E-learning module



Duration: 1 hour



Languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic

This course provides you with the business case for sustainability considering both risks and opportunities, and six practical steps to align your SME with the UN Global Compact Ten Principles to address human rights, labour rights, environment and anti-corruption.

We are here to help you stay on track

The learning journey is designed to be self-paced, so you can do it on your own time within the start and end date. We provide recommended due dates throughout the journey to help keep you on track, but the only mandatory deadline is 31 August. We recommend you start the course the day it opens and complete your lessons and workbooks one week at a time. This will not only help keep you on track to complete the journey on time, but will also give you time to iterate on your work based on the resources and insight shared by experts and peers.

Step 2. Understand the business case for sustainability and how SMEs can integrate the Global Goals into their strategy



Format: Academy Changemaker session



Duration: 30 minutes



Languages: English with Subtitles in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Arabic

Get inspired by changemakers from around the world.

Hear from Gabriel Tan, Founder and Director of GUAVA Amenities of Singapore, on how SMEs can integrate the global goals into business in a strategic way that sets them apart and prepares them for the future.

Step 3. Learn how being more sustainable makes you more resilient



Format: E-learning module



Duration: 30 minutes



Languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic

Global challenges like climate change, geopolitical instability or public health issues impact all businesses, but often have a greater impact on small-to-medium sized enterprises as their smaller workforces, limited customer bases, and leaner operations make them more susceptible to disruptions. This module provides you with a practical toolkit and framework approaches across Strategy, Workforce and Organization, Data and Analytics, and Ecosystem Engagement to help you prepare for global challenges and take concrete actions to ensure resilience.

The business case for sustainability for the SMEs

By becoming more sustainable, your company can lower costs and risk, strengthen trust amongst stakeholders and unlock new revenue streams.



**Lower
Operational cost**



**Reduce
Business risk**



**Increase
trust**



**Increase
revenue growth**

Step 4. Join a live regional peer learning session on International SME Day



Format: Live learning session (virtual)



Duration: 90 minutes



Date: 27 June (recordings available on-demand after)

Engage in our regional exchange sessions to learn from peers across sectors in your region on how they have successfully integrated sustainability into their business strategy and operations, and key lessons learned. **Choose your session below by picking your region and time zone.**

Region	Time Zone	Register
Asia	1:00 p.m. (Bangkok)	Choose your session by picking your region and time zone
Africa	12:00 p.m. (Lagos)	Choose your session by picking your region and time zone
Eastern Europe	2:00 p.m. (Georgia)	Choose your session by picking your region and time zone
Western Europe & North America	3:30 p.m. (Copenhagen) 9:30 a.m. (New York)	Choose your session by picking your region and time zone
Latin America	11:00 a.m. (Mexico City)	Choose your session by picking your region and time zone

Step 5. Understand the what and how of Sustainable Design for SMEs



Format: E-learning module



Duration: 30 minutes



Languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic

In a world where global consumer, investor and regulatory trends are shifting towards more sustainable preferences, sustainable design — the practice of designing products and services in line with results that promote social, environmental, and economic sustainability — should be a key consideration for all SMEs. This module provides you with a concrete framework and ideas for how to incorporate sustainable design into your products and services and develop a strategy to execute.

Step 6. Learn how to Finance Your Sustainability Strategy



Format: E-learning module



Duration: 30 minutes



Languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic

Lack of financing is a key challenge that small-to-medium sized enterprises face when trying to take action toward a more sustainable economy. The International Finance Corporation estimates that 70% of SMEs are unserved or underserved by formal financial institutions. **This module will help you assess the landscape of the many types of sustainability funding available to SMEs** and steps you can take to leverage sustainability to finance your business.

Toolkit Handoff: Craft your sustainability story to secure internal and external buy in



Format: Toolkit (intro video and workbook)



Duration: 1 hour



Languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic

Serving as the culmination of the trainings you've completed, this activity and supporting documents will teach you how to effectively communicate your sustainability strategy and how to secure buy-in both inside and outside your company. The templates provided are designed to be iterated on with members of your company. This allows you to engage employees across your business, share learnings, and prepare to take collective action.

Are you a large company working to develop a more sustainable supply chain? Your supply base has a major impact on the overall sustainability of your business. Sustainability goals will only be achievable if your key suppliers play their part. Invite your small and medium-sized suppliers to [join this learning journey today](#)



Academy

As the UN Global Compact's leading-edge learning platform, the [Academy](#) provides business leaders and practitioners with the skills and knowledge they need to move their companies further faster in implementing the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals. Through innovative learning experiences across key topics and languages, the Academy offers actionable insights and best practices to companies and professionals of all functions and levels of advancement.