

Lesson Plan for Sustainable Hotels
Grades: 10th and 11th - 1st year Hospitality and Tourism
Lesson Length - 45 minute periods, 2-3 days

Purpose:

The purpose of this lesson is to help students explore the principles of a sustainable economy and understand how businesses, particularly in sectors like agriculture, hospitality, and tourism, can balance environmental protection, social responsibility, and economic growth. Through case studies, interactive activities, and project-based learning, students will develop practical insights into sustainable practices that can be applied to their future careers and daily lives.

Background Agricultural Connections:

Agriculture plays a critical role in sustainable economies, as it directly impacts natural resources, food security, and livelihoods. The shift towards sustainable agricultural practices—such as renewable energy usage, soil conservation, water management, and reducing chemical inputs—demonstrates how interconnected the economy and environment are. By adopting sustainable farming techniques, the agricultural sector can help reduce pollution, preserve biodiversity, and ensure long-term food production, all while promoting fair wages and safe working conditions for workers. These practices form a foundation for understanding how sustainability applies across industries, including hospitality and tourism.

Objective:

Students will understand the concept of a sustainable economy and its three pillars—environmental protection, social equity, and economic growth—by analyzing real-world case studies, engaging in debates and role-play, and designing a sustainable business model.

Learning Outcome:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define and explain the key principles of a sustainable economy, including renewable energy, fair wages, and waste reduction.
2. Analyze how businesses can adopt sustainable practices through case studies.
3. Design a sustainable business model that incorporates environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and present it with practical solutions for real-world application.

1. Introduction:

- **Hook:** Begin with a [short video](#) that highlights the benefits of sustainable practices.
- **Discussion:** Ask students to share their thoughts on how human activities might be affecting the environment. Encourage them to think of examples from their own lives.

2. Explain the Concepts:

- **Presentation:** [google slides](#) to explain the concept of a sustainable economy.

- **Key Points to Cover:**

A sustainable economy is one that helps people, protects the environment, and allows businesses to grow without harming the future. Here's how it works:

1. **Protecting the Environment:** A sustainable economy takes care of natural resources, like air, water, and land. It focuses on using renewable energy (like solar and wind), reducing pollution, and recycling to keep the planet healthy.
2. **Smart Growth:** Instead of using up resources quickly, it focuses on growing the economy in a way that doesn't create a lot of waste. Companies make products that can be reused or recycled and try to waste less.
3. **Fair for Everyone:** In a sustainable economy, everyone has a chance to succeed. It promotes fair wages, safe working conditions, and helps people access education and jobs.
4. **Adaptable:** It can handle problems like environmental disasters or financial crises by being flexible and investing in things like clean energy and sustainable farming.
5. **Everything is Connected:** The economy, environment, and society all affect each other. Businesses and governments work together to make long-term decisions that benefit everyone, not just short-term profits.

A sustainable economy aims to protect the future, while still allowing people and businesses to thrive today.

- **Vocabulary:**

1. **Sustainable:** *Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level; in this context, it refers to practices that support long-term ecological balance without depleting resources.*
2. **Economy:** *The system of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in a society; it encompasses all activities related to financial transactions.*
3. **Renewable Energy:** *Energy sourced from natural processes that are continuously replenished, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power.*
4. **Pollution:** *The introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment, causing adverse effects on ecosystems and human health.*
5. **Recycling:** *The process of converting waste materials into reusable materials to reduce waste and conserve resources.*
6. **Waste:** *Unwanted or unusable materials or substances that are discarded after the completion of a process or use.*
7. **Fair Wages:** *Compensation that is just and equitable for work done, ensuring that workers earn a living wage that reflects their labor and contributions.*
8. **Adaptable:** *Able to adjust to new conditions or changes; in this context, it refers to the economy's ability to respond to challenges like environmental changes or financial issues.*
9. **Interconnected:** *Having a mutual relationship; in this context, it emphasizes that the economy, environment, and society are all linked and influence one another.*

10. **Long-term Decisions:** *Choices made with a focus on future implications and sustainability, rather than immediate benefits or profits.*

3. Case Study Analysis:

- **Example of a Green Hotel:** Introduce the [Proximity Hotel](#) as a case study.
 - **Activity:** Divide students into small groups and assign them to research different aspects of the hotel's sustainability practices (environmental, social, economic).
 - **Presentation:** Each group presents their findings, explaining how the hotel embodies the three pillars of sustainability.

4. Interactive Activity:

- **Debate or Role-Play:**
 - **Debate:** Organize a debate where students argue for or against certain practices (e.g., logging vs. sustainable forestry).
 - **Role-Play:** Have students role-play different stakeholders (e.g., hotel managers, environmental activists, local community members) to discuss how to balance economic needs with environmental protection.
- **Sustainability Project:**
 - **Task:** Ask students to design their own sustainable business or operation, incorporating the three pillars of sustainability. This could be a small-scale project like a school cafeteria or a larger concept like a resort or hotel.
 - **Presentation:** Students present their projects to the class, explaining the sustainability practices they would implement and how these practices contribute to a sustainable economy.

5. Reflect and Discuss:

- **Reflection Questions:**
 - What role can businesses and individuals play in promoting sustainability?
 - How can we apply these concepts to our own lives and future careers?
- **Class Discussion:** Facilitate a discussion where students share their thoughts and takeaways from the lesson. Encourage them to think critically about how they can make more sustainable choices in their everyday lives.

6. Assessment:

- **Quiz or Written Assignment:** Create a quiz or short written assignment where students propose sustainable alternatives. Include questions on the case study to assess their understanding of the three pillars of sustainability.

- **Group Projects:** Assess the group projects on the sustainability business they designed. Provide a rubric that evaluates creativity, understanding of sustainability concepts, and the practicality of their proposed solutions.

7. Real-World Connection:

- **Field Trip:** If possible, organize a field trip to a local business or organization that practices sustainability. This could be a green hotel, a sustainable farm, or a recycling plant.
- **Guest Speaker:** Invite a professional in the sustainability or hospitality industry to speak to your students about the importance of sustainability in their work.

8. References -

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):UN's framework for global sustainability, focusing on goals related to responsible consumption and production, climate action, and decent work and economic growth. Reference: [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Proximity Hotel Case Study:The first LEED Platinum-certified hotel, recognized for its sustainable design and operations, including energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste reduction.Reference: Proximity Hotel Sustainability

EPA – Sustainable Economy Concepts:Resources on how sustainability intersects with economic growth and environmental protection, focusing on renewable energy, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. Reference: [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

FAO – Sustainable Agriculture:Resources and articles from the Food and Agriculture Organization on sustainable agricultural practices, renewable resources, and the role of agriculture in economic development. Reference: [FAO: Sustainable Agriculture](#)

McKinsey & Company – The Circular Economy:Insights into how companies can reduce waste and promote a circular economy by designing for reuse and recycling, supporting long-term environmental and economic sustainability.Reference: McKinsey & Company – The Circular Economy

9. Quiz -

Sustainable Hotels and Lodging Quiz

Multiple Choice:

1. What is one goal of a sustainable hotel?
 - a. To offer luxury experiences without considering environmental impact
 - b. To protect the environment while providing guest comfort
 - c. To use as much water and energy as possible
 - d. To only care about making a profit

 2. How can a hotel reduce its environmental impact?
 - a. By leaving all lights and air conditioning on in empty rooms
 - b. By using energy-efficient lighting and appliances
 - c. By using single-use plastics for all guest services
 - d. By not recycling any waste

 3. What is a common sustainable practice in hotels for reducing waste?
 - a. Offering unlimited single-use toiletries
 - b. Using refillable shampoo and soap dispensers
 - c. Providing new towels every time a guest asks
 - d. Encouraging long showers for every guest

 4. In a sustainable hotel, what does social fairness mean?
 - a. Offering discounts to only a few guests
 - b. Paying fair wages to all employees and offering good working conditions
 - c. Focusing only on the guests' needs and ignoring the staff
 - d. Making employees work long hours without breaks

 5. How can hotels be adaptable in a sustainable economy?
 - a. By always offering the same services no matter the cost
 - b. By changing practices to handle environmental challenges, like water shortages
 - c. By ignoring new sustainable technologies
 - d. By using as much electricity as possible
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True or False:

6. A sustainable hotel will try to reduce water and energy use without making guests uncomfortable.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 7. Sustainable hotels only focus on saving money, not the environment.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 8. Offering local and seasonal food in the hotel restaurant is part of being a sustainable hotel.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 9. Sustainable hotels use eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient appliances.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 10. In a sustainable hotel, employees are treated fairly, with good working conditions.
 - a. True
 - b. False
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Short Answer:

11. Name two ways a hotel can reduce its environmental impact.
12. How does offering fair wages and good working conditions in a hotel contribute to sustainability?
13. Why is it important for hotels to adopt sustainable practices?

Answers:

Multiple Choice:

1. **b.** To protect the environment while providing guest comfort
 2. **b.** By using energy-efficient lighting and appliances
 3. **b.** Using refillable shampoo and soap dispensers
 4. **b.** Paying fair wages to all employees and offering good working conditions
 5. **b.** By changing practices to handle environmental challenges, like water shortages
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True or False:

6. a. True
 7. b. False
 8. a. True
 9. a. True
 10. a. True
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Short Answer:

11. Two ways a hotel can reduce its environmental impact include:
 - Using energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
 - Reducing waste by using refillable toiletries and encouraging towel reuse.
12. Offering fair wages and good working conditions contributes to sustainability because it ensures social fairness and helps create a positive working environment, which is an essential part of a sustainable economy.
13. It's important for hotels to adopt sustainable practices to reduce their environmental impact, save resources, attract eco-conscious guests, and contribute to long-term economic and social well-being.