

Ashridge Centre for Business and Sustainability

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The Ashridge Centre for Business and Sustainability is Ashridge's in-house think tank on sustainable development and the implications for leadership, strategy and change in organisations. Established in 1996, the centre leads influential research and thought leadership in collaboration with external partners, and works collaboratively across Ashridge to support Ashridge's education and consulting work around leadership and change for sustainability. [View four short videos by the Centre's Director, Matt Gitsham, about topical issues of sustainability, the challenges sustainability poses for leaders, and how Ashridge is responding.](#)

Leadership in a rapidly changing world

In the past few years, more and more business leaders have begun speaking a new language – talking about, taking action on and defining their success in terms of things that used to be the preserve of political leaders and NGO activists – the contribution their core business makes towards addressing today's most pressing societal challenges.

This shift in rhetoric is being matched by a shift in action, with many organisations engaging in innovative partnerships prioritising activities that create stakeholder value as well as shareholder value.

This is all the more surprising coming at a time, in the wake of the financial crisis, when negative stereotypes of business leaders are flourishing in public debate.

What does this shift mean for how we think about business leadership? Is there an emerging group of business leaders that are leading in a different way to the generation that went before them? If so, what does that mean for everyone else?

[See here for more information](#)

For more information on the Ashridge Centre for Business and Sustainability, please contact:

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New Research on sustainability and organisational change - Sustainability As Usual

Recent research by Ashridge Business School has found that successful change strategies for sustainability need to take into account an organisation's identity

[Read the report to find out more.](#)

The ESTAR (Enabling Sustainability through Action Research) project.

The project was the subject of a Visiting Research Fellowship awarded to Patricia Hind by the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USBS)

The research focused on SMEs who were keen to develop sustainability practices, it used an Action Research Methodology to achieve two key objectives:

To examine and identify the specific attributes of organizations – the structures, processes, cultures and/or resources that are conducive or resistant to the 'enablement' of responsible leadership.

To contribute to the development of a global understanding of the concept of responsible leadership and its links to sustainability.

[more...](#)

More from Ashridge

Thought Leadership

[Matt Gitsham, Director of ACBAS, discusses topical issues of sustainability](#)

[Ashridge Centre for Business and Sustainability](#)

[Ashridge on Sustainability Blog](#)

Programmes

[Ashridge Masters in Sustainability and Responsibility](#) is a two year part-time Masters programme based on a series of eight intensive residential workshops.

Bespoke Learning and Change Consulting

Ashridge Consulting's [Sustainability Practice](#) works with a wide range of clients on learning and organisational change for sustainability.

Ashridge Conference on Sustainability and Organisational Change 2011

Ashridge Conference on Sustainability and Organisational Change was held on 10-12 June 2011

[See here for further information](#)

New posts on the Ashridge on Sustainability blog

Read **recent Ashridge blog posts** on *The Economist* and Cancun, Unilever's 2020 Sustainable Living Plan, The Psychology of Climate Change and Earth Overshoot Day

Ashridge launches new publication on sustainability, management education and organisational change at UN Global Compact Leaders' Summit.

Drawing on data from the UN Global Compact-Accenture 2010 CEO Study, Ashridge and EABIS have led an analysis of CEO perspectives on management education for the UN PRME.

[more...](#)**Thoughts on Sustainability: Volume 2 Principles into Practice**

In this the second volume of Ashridge sustainability thought-pieces, a series of four articles - by Chris Seeley, Sandra White, Myrna Roselind Jelman and Chris Nicols - trace a path from thought to action.

Thoughts on Sustainability: Volume 1 Principles leaning into process

In this the first volume of Ashridge sustainability thought-pieces, some of the principles and big ideas that can help us meet the profound challenges currently facing us all are explored. Perspectives on intelligent growth, happiness and wellbeing, ecological mindset, and relational sustainability are offered.

Three new articles from Ashridge faculty on sustainability

Three new articles from Nick Ceasar, Alexandra Stubbings, Chris Nichols and Chris Seeley have recently been published in *Converse*, the journal of Ashridge Consulting, giving accounts of some of Ashridge's recent work on sustainability with clients.

[more...](#)**Read more about the Ashridge Centre for Business and Sustainability's current research**