

# Certified Sustainable Development Professional

An Industry Recognized Certification for Energy Professionals Specializing Sustainable Development and Green Energy Technologies

## Who are Certified Sustainable Development Professionals?

- Are you an energy professional, with knowledge of “green” construction technologies and practices, that is involved with projects or programs to improve the sustainability of a building, facility, campus, or community?
- Are you an energy-efficiency consultant that helps clients understand the impact of sustainable practices and policies and then helps them meet their sustainability goals?
- Are you involved in planning, developing, and implementing sustainability policies or programs for your organization, or involved in the process of deciding which improvement programs get approved?



Certified Sustainable Development Professionals are recognized for understanding development practices, applicable policies, technical requirements, program analysis, and financial assessments related to sustainable development. They understand the myriad of approaches an organization might employ when developing or implementing sustainability programs. They may work in commercial, institutional, industrial, or governmental sectors and have specific knowledge applicable to a given market, such as green building construction, environmental mitigation, industrial facility operation, planning; green, clean, and alternative energies; carbon reduction, sustainable transportation, or water conservation.

### What does the Certified Business Energy Professional (CSDP®) Certification Program offer?

This program educates and qualifies individuals involved in developing and implementing sustainability programs. By obtaining the CSDP certification, candidates gain international industry and peer recognition by demonstrating their understanding of core principles, practices, and technologies related to sustainable development. The program raises the professional standards, both technical and ethical, of those engaged in this important industry sector.

### What is the bottom line for me or my company?

Gaining a wide-reaching and industry-recognized certification is always a personal and financial investment. Individuals report career improvements in the form of salary and responsibility increases. The certification shows that individuals have a fundamental understanding of the profession and a commitment to the highest standards of sustainable development practices. Companies, organizations, and consultants with a CSDP on-staff have a greater affinity with their customers because CSDPs understand their requirements and are viewed as a trusted and credentialed subject matter expert. These companies continuously support sustainability programs as a means of aligning their corporate programs in a way that enables operating costs to be reduced.

## What functional areas does the CSDP® Certification Program cover?

The certification program requires fundamental knowledge across the many core interdisciplinary principles and practices specific to sustainable development. These include:

- Why We Need Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development: Definitions
- Environmental Aspects of Sustainable Development
- Social Aspects of Sustainable Development
- Governance and Policy for Sustainable Development
- Climate Change and Decarbonization
- Concept of Sustainable Policy Analysis
- Corporate & Industrial Sustainability Programs
- Sustainable Buildings
- Sustainable Design and Procurement
- Green, Clean, and Alternative Energy
- Energy Systems and Technologies
- Sustainable Transportation
- Water Management
- Financial Assessment & Life Cycle Costing
- Developing & Implementing Sustainability Plans

## How do I become eligible for AEE's CSDP® certification?

Every certification program offered by AEE is defined by strict standards to ensure the program maintains its recognition and credibility. To that end, AEE stipulates three criteria that all CSDP candidates must meet. First, applicants must have relevant experience or educational credentials (see below). Second, candidates must undergo a defined training program that aligns with the fundamental knowledge base of the program, and the principles and practices of the industry as a whole. Third, candidates must pass the associated exam to demonstrate their technical knowledge, proficiency, and abilities in the area of sustainable development.

## Experience & Education

Applicants must meet one of the following eligibility criteria:

- 4-year engineering/architectural degree OR Professional Engineer (PE) OR Registered Architect (RA) and 3+ years related\* work experience.
- 4-year degree in science, business (or related field) and 5+ years related\* work experience.
- 2-year associate degree and 8+ years related\* work experience.
- Be a current Certified Energy Manager (CEM®) or Renewable Energy Professional (REP) and 3+ years related\* work experience.
- 10+ years related\* work experience.

\*Related experience in energy efficiency, environmental science, pollution prevention, or sustainable development.

## Why would I want to take a training program when I believe I already have the knowledge and experience required to pass an exam?

A CSDP training program adds value by preparing individuals to take the associated exam. It brings all candidates to a base level of understanding across a wide variety of sustainable development, green and clean energy management topics. It updates candidates on state-of-the-art practice in the field of sustainable development.

For those entrenched in their normal daily activities, attending a training program, held away from the office, in a classroom environment can be a catalyst for improvement and change. For many, the opportunity to network, connect, and learn from other like-minded individuals is incredibly valuable.

## I obtained my CSDP® Certification, where do I go next?

The CSDP certification can help define your status as an energy and sustainability professional and help advance your career in this highly specialized field. Once complete, make sure you maintain your account and track of your certification on [aeecenter.org](http://aeecenter.org). You can also keep up-to-date on sustainable energy management practices and technologies by joining and being active in your local AEE Chapter. Energy professionals tell us repeatedly that they stay ahead in the industry by staying involved in their local community.

[Find Your Local AEE Chapter](#)