



Certified Sustainable Development Professionals

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

CERTIFICATION SCHEME **1.0**

Version No: 1.0
Effective Date: 12/08/2025



Scope

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.

Certified Sustainable Development Professionals demonstrate competency in the following areas that are included in the CSDP® Body of Knowledge to gain certification: 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; and developing & implementing sustainability plans.



CSDP®

Eligibility Requirements for Competence

Individuals applying for the CSDP® Certification Examination must attend an approved preparatory training course, meet the following education, experience requirements, and complete a certification application.

Education and Experience Requirements

Education and Experience
4-year engineering or architectural degree, AND 3+ years related* experience
Professional Engineer (PE) OR Registered Architect (RA), AND 3+ years related* experience
4-year degree in science, business, or related field, AND 5+ years related* experience
2-year associates degree, AND 8+ years related* experience
Current status of Certified Energy Manager® (CEM®) or Renewable Energy Professional (REP™), AND 3+ years of related* experience
NONE, AND 10+ years of related* experience

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

Examination Requirements for Competence

To earn the CSDP® Certification, candidates must pass the certification examination. The competency requirements assessed are the following:

Certified Sustainable Development Professional - Examination Blueprint

Body of Knowledge / Duties and Tasks (% Exam)	
1	Why We Need Sustainable Development (4% - 6%)
101	Drivers of Sustainable Development (Historical Background)
102	Population Growth
103	Sustainable Development in Energy
104	Underlying Causes and Effects – Climate Change, Land Use, Population Growth, Changes in Energy Use?
105	Environmental Challenges
106	Social Changes
2	Sustainable Development: Definitions (4% - 6%)
201	Origins and Definitions of Sustainable Development
202	Principles and Components of Sustainability
203	UN Agenda 21
204	Relationship of Energy to Sustainability
205	Kyoto Protocol, Montreal Protocol, Paris Accord, Copenhagen Agreement
206	Types of International Government Policies that Advance Sustainability
207	Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net Zero (Carbon Emissions or Energy) - Alternative Energy - Difference Between Clean and Green Energy
3	Environmental Aspects of Sustainable Development (5% - 7%)
301	Health and Social Environmental Impacts
302	Air Quality Standards
303	Primary and Secondary Pollutants
304	Unregulated Sources of Air and Water Pollution (Emissions of Lead, Mercury, etc.)
305	Relationship of Energy to the Environment (Impacts to Water and Air Quality)

Body of Knowledge / Duties and Tasks (% Exam)	
3	Environmental Aspects of Sustainable Development
306	Environmental Justic Policies
307	Carbon Equivalent Emissions (Co2 -e)
308	ISO Standard 14001 and ISO Standard 50001
4	Social Aspects of Sustainable Development (4% - 6%)
401	Components of Social Programs
402	Health and Social Environmental
403	Energy Resource Inequities
404	Poverty Due to Lack of Energy Access
405	Energy Supply Disruptions
406	Externalities Associated with Fossil Fuel Consumption
407	Access to Water and Sanitation
408	Inequities Due to Environmental Pollution
409	Just Energy Transition (JET)
5	Governance and Policy for Sustainable Development (4% - 6%)
501	International Frameworks (e.g. UN Sustainable Development Goals)
502	National and Local Sustainability Policies
503	Who are the Stakeholders?
504	Importance of Mission Statements
505	Economy, Environment, and Society (EES)
506	Pros and Cons of ESG
507	Components and Variables for Sustainable Development Policies
508	Leadership's Role and Commitment
509	Double Materiality and impacts Risk and Opportunities IRO
6	Climate Change and Decarbonization (6% - 8%)
601	Climate Change
602	Impact of Carbon Emissions
603	Strategic Solutions (ex. Stabilization Triangle)
604	Scope Assessments (1-3)
605	Carbon Markets and Exchanges
606	Net Zero Carbon Emissions
607	Types of Offsets

6	Climate Change and Decarbonization
608	GHG Protocol, ISO Standard 14064 parts 1 – 3, 14065
609	Available Carbon Calculators
7	Concept of Sustainable Policy Analysis (5% - 7%)
701	Policies Associated with the Concept of Sustainability
702	Measurement Approaches
703	Qualitative Indicators of Sustainability
704	Quantitative Analysis Techniques
705	Developing Sustainability Indexes
706	What are the Solutions for Cities
707	Policy Planning Tools
8	Corporate & Industrial Sustainability Programs (5% - 7%)
801	Corporate Sustainability Programs
802	Approaches to Implementation of Corporate Sustainability Programs
803	√ Management by Objectives
804	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
805	Design for the Environment (DfE)
806	ICC Charter for Sustainable Development
807	Setting the Vision
808	Industrial Sustainability Planning
809	Elements of Industrial Sustainability Programs
810	Developing Assessments
811	Reporting Opportunities
9	Sustainable Buildings (6% - 10%)
	Building Materials and Supply Chain
	- Materials and Holistics
	- Renewable Energy Systems
901	- HVAC
	- Waste Management
	- Indoor Air Quality
	- Pesticides and Chemicals
902	High Performance Buildings
903	Ratings of Facilities (ex. Benchmarking)

Body of Knowledge / Duties and Tasks (% Exam)	
9	Sustainable Buildings
904	Rating Systems for Green Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LEED Buildings - Energy Star Buildings - BREEAM Building - International Energy Conservation Code
905	Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEBS)
906	Zero Emission Buildings (ZEBs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASHRAE Standards - WELL Building Standard - Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS)
10	Sustainable Design and Procurement (4% - 6%)
1001	Sustainable Design Practices
1002	Sustainable Engineering
1003	Attributes of Green Products and Materials
1004	Examples of Green Products
1005	Emissions Strategies
1006	Construction Specification Institute Format
11	Green, Clean, and Alternative Energy (6% - 8%)
1101	Hydropower
1102	Tidal and Wave Power
1103	Passive Solar, Thermal, & PV Applications
1104	Wind Power
1105	Bioenergy
1106	Geothermal
1107	Power-to-X (ex. Hydrogen, Ammonia, Synthetic (e) Fuels)
1108	Hybrid Applications
1109	Fracted Gas and Unconventional Oil
1110	Small and Medium Nuclear Technologies

12	Energy Systems and Technologies (6% - 8%)
1201	Decarbonization Technologies
1202	Energy Storage Systems
1203	Hybrid Generation Systems'
1204	Microgrids
1205	Heat Pumps
1206	Wireless Energy Transmission
1207	Applications for Energy Systems
1208	Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage
1209	Waste Heat Recovery
13	Sustainable Transportation (5% - 7%)
1301	Developmental Considerations
1302	Planning Solutions
1303	Transportation Alternatives
1304	Renewable Energy Transportation Systems
1305	Types of Vehicles "types of transportation"
1306	√ Avoid, Shift, Improve (ASI), Alternative Energies
1307	Transportation Demand Management
14	Water Management (5% - 7%)
1401	Why Conserve Water?
1402	Water Metrics and Measurements
1403	Identifying Water Leaks
1404	Approaches to Water Conservation
1405	Rainwater Collection
1406	√ Storm Water Management
1407	Water Recycling and/or Treatment
1408	Pros and Cons of Desalination
15	Financial Assessment & Life Cycle Costings (6% - 8%)
1501	Economic and Financial Solutions
1502	Valuing Costs and Benefits
1503	Alternative Approaches to Financing
1504	Utility Rebate and Grant Programs
1505	Performance Contracting
1506	Risk Analysis and Mapping
1507	Approaches to Lifecycle Cost Analysis

Body of Knowledge / Duties and Tasks (% Exam)	
16	Developing & Implementing Sustainability Plans (7% - 11%)
1601	Who are the Stakeholders?
1602	Importance of Mission Statements
1603	Dimensions and Goals of Sustainability Plans
1604	Key Components of Sustainable Development plans
1605	Approaches to Sustainability Programs
1606	Performance Evaluation
	- Types of Sustainable Development Indicators
	- Monitoring Progress and Impact Assessment
	- Baseline Analysis
	- Measuring and Verifying Savings
	- Measuring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)
1607	Documentation and Reporting
	Community Sustainability Plannings
1608	Community Sustainability Plannings



CSDIP®

Version No: 1.0

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Examination Specifications

The examination will be 4-hours, open book / open notes and follow the specifications outlined in the examination blueprint and will include 111 multiple-choice graded questions in accordance with the percentage range for each task.

Code of Ethics

Codes of Practice are found in the Code of Ethics for Certified Professionals V1.1 dated November 21, 2019, available at www.aeecenter.org/CodeOfEthics



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Recertification Requirements

A CSDP® must accumulate ten professional credits every three years and submit a completed Renewal Form to AEE to remain certified. Professional credits for recertification can be accumulated at any time within the three-year period. Detailed explanation of activities applicable as credits for certification renewal available at www.aeecenter.org/certification/renewal

Activities for CSDP® Renewal Credits

Continued employment in sustainable development activities:

- **1 credit per year**

Membership in a professional engineering society

- **1 credit per year**

Offices held in a professional engineering society:

- **1 credit per year**

Continuing education (CEU's) / professional activities (seminars or conferences) including but not limited to sustainable development

- **2 credits per CEU, college credit hour or 10 contract hours for training**

Awards presented and/or papers published involving sustainable development:

- **1 credit per: one energy-related presentation**
- **2 credits per: one energy-related paper**
- **2 credits per: one energy-related individual award**

Certified Professionals who do not acquire sufficient CSDP maintenance points to be recertified on the recertification date will no longer have an active certification and be notified in writing of suspension from using the CSDP designation. They will also no longer be listed as a CSDP in any AEE publication. A lapsed CSDP must resubmit to the certification process and successfully meet the criteria for certification by personal data information and examination. Another option for certified professionals is to acquire make-up points at a cumulative total equal to 3.5 per year for every year since date of expiration. This option is available one-time only. Certifications that have lapsed more than three renewal cycles must retake the CSDP exam.

A CSDP, upon retiring and/or and reaching the age of sixty-five, can be designated as "CSDP® – Retired," will no longer be required to pay renewal fees, and will no longer be listed in our directory of actively practicing CSDPs. No further reporting is necessary except to notify AEE of meeting the age requirement by sending a copy of the retired CSDP's Driver's License and completing the Retired Certification Request Form online.

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