

## **IBM furthers commitment to climate action through free training in green and technology skills for vulnerable communities and new sustainability projects**

- Training: IBM SkillsBuild launches roadmap of sustainability courses to benefit learners across communities underrepresented in technology and address the market need for green and technology skills**

- New sustainability projects: including collaborations with The University of Sharjah (UAE); The University of Chicago Trust (India); The University of Illinois (U.S.); Instituto IGUÁ (Brazil); and Water Corporation (Australia)**



**LONDON, UK, November 16, 2023** - As vulnerable communities in the UK continue to suffer outsized effects of climate change, IBM is empowering innovators with cutting-edge technologies and training. Ahead of COP28, IBM announced the latest investments in its effort to advance environmental sustainability through its social impact programs. A first-of-its-kind roadmap of sustainability skills courses, available for free through [IBM SkillsBuild](#), will empower future climate action. Simultaneously, a new set of environmental initiatives pioneering water solutions will be scaled through the [IBM Sustainability Accelerator](#) to benefit local communities across the UK.

“We are seeing a significant proportion of the world’s population is vulnerable to environmental distress. This means many people are at risk of experiencing negative impacts from environmental factors such as pollution, climate change, and natural disasters”. said Vikki Bradney-Spencer, IBM CSR Manager UK. “To address this issue, we need new strategies that can help create a sustainable future. These strategies should focus on scaling solutions that can help people immediately, while also cultivating a pipeline of future leaders at the intersection of technology and sustainability across industries.”

### **New IBM SkillsBuild Sustainability Roadmap**

[New research](#) from IBM and Morning Consult confirms a growing skills gap in sustainability that poses a threat to the workforce across industries. 71% of UK business leaders surveyed anticipate their business will emphasise sustainability skills criteria in their hiring in the next two years, with 87% expecting to invest in

sustainability training in the next year.

To help build this pipeline of sustainability talent, IBM SkillsBuild is providing free training that connects cutting-edge technologies to ecology and climate change. With AI-powered recommendations available for each learner, this interdisciplinary coursework connects topics such as ecology and biodiversity, with technology training in AI and data analytics. This is a comprehensive curriculum to help equip the next generation of leaders with skills for the green economy.

Learners can benefit from a holistic environmental tech training journey from IBM SkillsBuild with digital credentials available each step of the way.

- **Introductory courses** will help establish a foundation with historical insights and fundamentals to connect sustainability and technology.
- **Mid-level** offerings in design thinking and green entrepreneurship will encourage learners to grow their skills.
- **Advanced coursework** will ask learners to apply their skills to sustainability topics across AI, cybersecurity, and ESG reporting.

These offerings build on IBM's [commitment](#) to skill 30 million people by 2030, with a focus on underrepresented communities. Through collaborations across social service, economic development, and vocational organisations, as well as government agencies, and universities, IBM SkillsBuild makes free online learning widely available, to communities that are underrepresented in technology. These include organisations that will help skill women, including mothers returning to the workforce, ethnic minorities, low-income individuals, and refugees.

### **New IBM Sustainability Accelerator partners and projects:**

IBM is furthering its commitment to sustainable innovation with projects focused on water management solutions as part of its global social impact program, the IBM Sustainability Accelerator. The 2023 IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report identified that 3.3 billion people live in areas vulnerable to significant impacts from climate change. With a commitment of \$30 million worth of technology and services by IBM through the end of 2025, the program is adding five new projects focused on water management, offering IBM technologies, such as [watsonx](#), and an ecosystem of experts.

- **The University of Sharjah** will build a model and application to monitor and forecast water access conditions in the Middle East and North Africa, to help support communities in arid and semi-arid regions with limited renewable internal freshwater resources.
- **The University of Chicago Trust in Delhi** will aggregate water quality information in India; build and deploy tools designed to democratise access to water quality information and help improve water resource management for key government and nonprofit organisations.
- **The University of Illinois** will develop an AI geospatial foundation model to help predict rainfall and flood forecasting in mountain headwaters across the Appalachian Mountains in the U.S.
- **Instituto IGUÁ** will create a cloud-based platform for sanitation infrastructure planning in Brazil, alongside local utility providers and governments.

- **Water Corporation** will design a self-administered water quality testing system for Aboriginal communities in Western Australia.

The IBM Sustainability Accelerator program is already supporting communities in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia on sustainable agriculture and clean energy efforts.

### **About IBM Sustainability Accelerator**

Launched in [February 2022](#), the IBM Sustainability Accelerator is a social impact program that addresses multiple environmental threats around the world. Each year, the accelerator selects five projects to scale solutions that benefit communities that face challenges such as climate change, pollution, extreme weather and more. The program currently has three active cohorts; the first one is focused on sustainable agriculture, the second on clean energy, and the third on water and sanitation. For more information, visit <https://www.ibm.com/impact/initiatives/ibm-sustainability-accelerator>

### **About IBM SkillsBuild**

[IBM SkillsBuild](#) is a free education program focused on underrepresented communities in tech, that helps adult learners, and high school and university students and faculty, develop valuable new skills and access career opportunities. The program includes an online platform that is complemented by customised practical learning experiences delivered in collaboration with a global network of partners. The open version of IBM SkillsBuild is an online platform offering over 1,000 courses in 20 languages on AI, cybersecurity, data analysis, cloud computing, and many other technical disciplines — as well as in workplace skills such as Design Thinking. Most importantly, participants can earn IBM-branded digital credentials that are recognised by the market. The enhanced partner version of IBM SkillsBuild may also include workshops, expert conversations with IBM coaches and mentors, project-based learning, access to IBM software, specialised support from partners through the learning process, and connection to career opportunities. Visit [skillsbuild.org](https://skillsbuild.org) to learn more.

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