Overview

Enhance your ability to empower people through sustainable community development with this highly-flexible certificate program. The program, offered through Village Earth, uses a multi-sector, participatory approach to learning. Rather than teaching prescriptive solutions to community problems, you learn how to use the community’s input and vision to create options and solutions that truly meet community needs. In this program, you will learn through case studies, exercises, and group discussions and share experiences with fellow community development practitioners from around the globe. Experienced practitioners will gain a fresh perspective on community development, and novices and volunteers will get the training they need to be successful in this field.

With community development training through this program, you will be prepared with practical tools to meet today’s challenges as a project director, community leader, grassroots activist, funder, or field worker in community-based organizations and governmental and nongovernmental institutions. The program is highly customizable and offers many specializations for you to choose from. Additionally, the ability to create your own specialization from our wide breadth of community development courses allows you to tailor the program to meet your individual needs and interests.

Curriculum

To earn a certificate in Sustainable Community Development, you must complete a total of four courses (see specializations and electives below). Each course runs five weeks and requires a minimum of 20 hours of student participation. You may take courses in any order.

Choose a specialization or create your own track.

- Community planning and development
- Economic development
- Food security/agriculture
- Humanitarian assistance
- Participatory facilitation
- Political empowerment
- Natural resources management