



PLANETWISE

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Module 04: Digital Skills for the Green Transition

Project Number: 2024-1-EL02-KA151-YOU-000230927



Co-funded by
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Module Overview

This module prepares participants to use digital tools for environmental innovation and advocacy. As sustainability efforts increasingly rely on virtual collaboration, data literacy, and multimedia storytelling, green changemakers must be equipped with relevant digital competencies. From project coordination to immersive education and e-learning development, this module emphasizes hands-on practice in platforms that make climate action smarter, faster, and more scalable.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Use collaborative platforms (like Trello, Miro, and Notion) to manage sustainability projects
- Analyze and communicate environmental data effectively using dashboards
- Experience and design basic VR/AR content for ecological awareness
- Plan and produce engaging green campaigns on Instagram and TikTok
- Create an educational micro-course in Moodle focused on sustainability



Collaborative Platforms: Trello, Miro, Notion Leadership Metaphor

Digital collaboration is essential for sustainability projects involving distributed teams. Trello enables transparent task management using visual boards. Miro supports collective brainstorming and eco-system mapping through a flexible whiteboard interface. Notion offers a hybrid workspace for organizing research, notes, timelines, and content.

Participants will:

- Practice planning a small environmental project using Trello or Notion
- Use Miro to visually map the impact of a green initiative
- Reflect on the benefits of asynchronous digital teamwork

A photograph of a smiling couple in a desert landscape. The woman on the left is wearing sunglasses and a white tank top under a denim jacket. The man on the right is wearing sunglasses, a patterned shirt, and has a watch on his left wrist. They are both looking towards the right. The background is a bright, hazy desert scene with mountains in the distance.

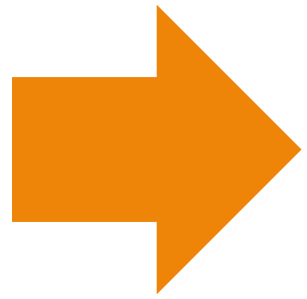
Data Analytics for Sustainability

Data can drive smarter decisions and highlight environmental progress. Participants will learn how to gather, interpret, and present climate-related data such as CO₂ emissions, energy use, or biodiversity loss. Tools like Google Sheets, Datawrapper, or Tableau Public help build accessible dashboards that tell a story.

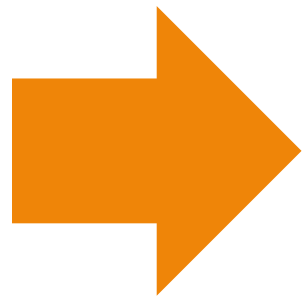
Participants will:

- Analyze sample datasets on climate trends or energy consumption
- Create simple dashboards to visualize key metrics
- Practice turning data into narrative insights for stakeholders

Digital skills have become essential in the modern environmental movement



As the world accelerates toward sustainability and climate solutions, the ability to use digital platforms effectively enables activists, educators, and project leaders to scale their impact. Whether coordinating a team online, analyzing carbon trends, or designing immersive digital campaigns, these competencies are at the heart of the green transition. This module emphasizes practical skills that are not just helpful but necessary for those driving eco-conscious change.



Collaborative platforms like Trello, Miro, and Notion serve as digital ecosystems for project organization. These tools help teams coordinate tasks, share updates, and visualize progress all essential in fast-paced sustainability projects. They also encourage transparency, accountability, and remote inclusivity.





Collaborative platforms like Trello, Miro, and Notion serve as digital ecosystems for project organization.

- Trello: Visual task boards for tracking progress
- Miro: Digital whiteboards for real-time collaboration
- Notion: All-in-one space for documentation, planning, and calendars
- Use Case: A youth-led recycling campaign using Trello to assign and track responsibilities across cities





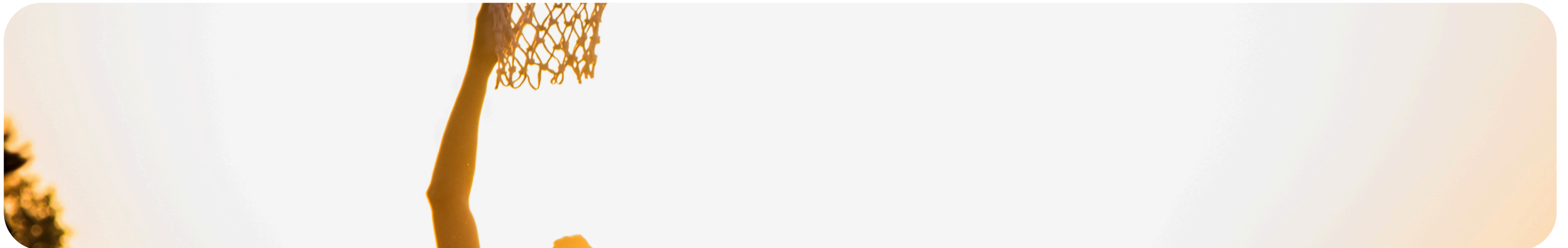
Trello is especially valuable for green teams managing multiple tasks

Its card-based system allows users to assign deadlines, attach resources, and set priorities. Environmental groups can easily track outreach progress, logistics, and stakeholder communication in one visual interface. With Trello, visibility creates shared ownership, a key value in sustainability work.

Miro transforms the way teams brainstorm and build ideas

It allows multiple people to collaborate in real time, using sticky notes, flowcharts, diagrams, and mind maps. This is especially useful for system thinking exercises or mapping out environmental challenges.

- Interactive templates support eco-design thinking
- Stakeholder maps help visualize actors in a climate initiative
- SWOT analysis boards reveal team strengths and risks
- Sustainability mind maps build connections across sectors and ideas



A group of diverse people, including an older man with a white beard and a woman wearing a hijab, are smiling and looking up at the camera. They are arranged in a circle, creating a sense of unity and community.

Learning from Symbiotic Relationships



Symbiosis, like that between fungi and tree roots, demonstrates that cooperation benefits all. Leaders who build mutual benefit into partnerships ensure long-term success and avoid exploitation.

Decision-Making Inspired by Animal Behavior Certain species, like African wild dogs, use consensus-based decision-making (e.g., sneezing to vote). This behavior challenges top-down leadership and encourages inclusive, democratic approaches.



Notion is a flexible and dynamic tool for environmental knowledge management

It acts as a digital workspace where content, calendars, checklists, and embedded visuals live side-by-side. Teams can build project dashboards, link research libraries, and even draft press releases all within one ecosystem.



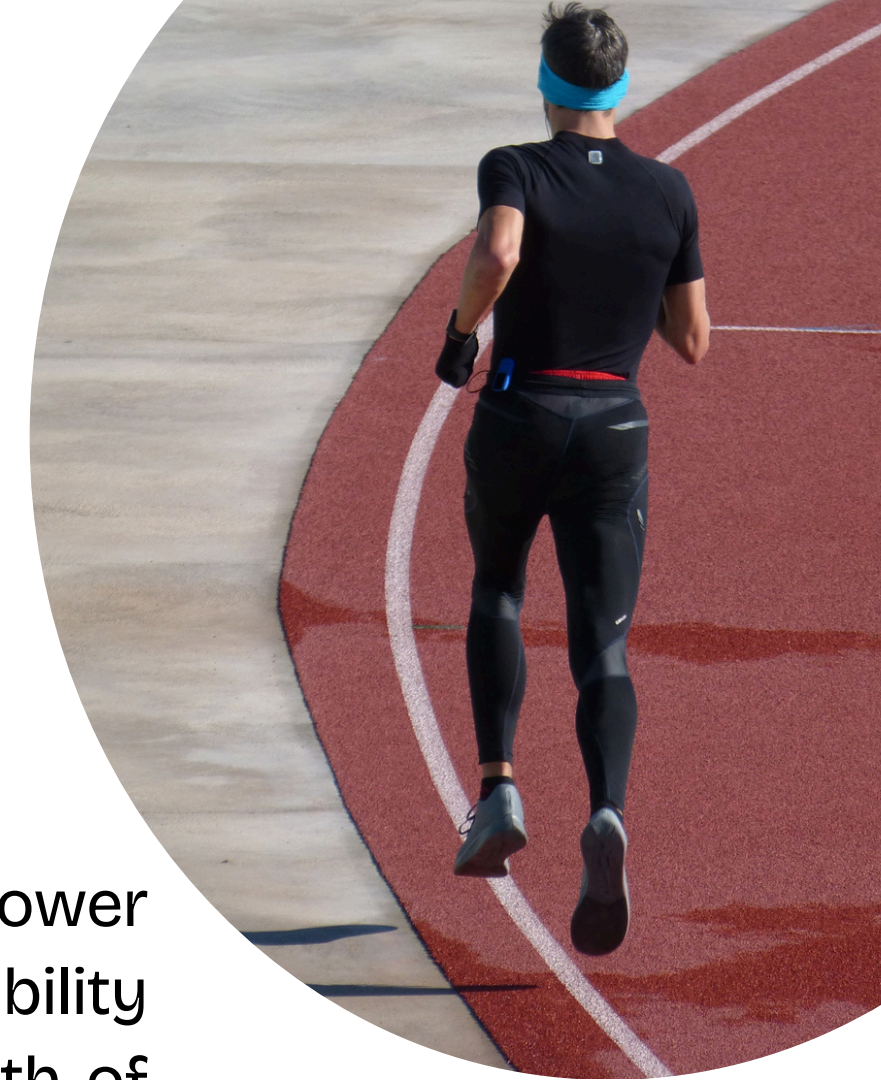


Data analytics enables evidence-based sustainability.

To create meaningful impact, environmental leaders need to measure CO₂ trends, waste output, energy use, and biodiversity health. Analytics tools help transform raw data into powerful visuals that tell a compelling story.

- Dashboards present trends in an easy-to-read format
- Open datasets like Global Carbon Atlas or UNEP portals provide raw environmental data
- Google Sheets and Excel allow custom visualizations and scenario testing
- Outcome: Stronger proposals, smarter decisions, clearer accountability





Dashboards are the digital control centers for environmental monitoring

They consolidate vast amounts of real-time data into clear, interactive visual formats that empower users to track trends, identify challenges, and measure impact across multiple sustainability indicators. From monitoring carbon emissions and energy consumption to tracking the growth of green spaces and changes in transportation habits, dashboards provide an accessible window into ongoing climate action.

Their intuitive design helps both experts and the general public grasp complex environmental information quickly. When made publicly available, dashboards also enhance civic engagement and institutional accountability, allowing communities to monitor progress, voice concerns, and influence policy. In sustainability education, dashboards serve as both analytical tools and communication assets, reinforcing the idea that transparency leads to trust—and that data, when visualized effectively, becomes a catalyst for change.

Young climate leaders can start with simple tools to explore CO₂ trends

Google Sheets allows for customized graphs and emissions comparisons, while tools like Datawrapper offer free dashboard creation with maps and charts.

- Line charts to visualize trends over time
- Bar graphs to compare regions or sectors
- Pie charts for resource allocation
- Maps to show heat zones or pollution levels geographically



Immersive technologies like Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) are revolutionizing environmental education

These tools enable users to explore distant or endangered ecosystems, witness the effects of climate change firsthand, and imagine sustainable alternatives all within an interactive digital environment. Virtual Reality fully immerses users in simulated natural settings, such as forests, coral reefs, or polar regions, offering a 360-degree perspective that fosters emotional connection and deeper understanding. Augmented Reality, on the other hand, overlays digital information like statistics, species facts, or energy-saving tips onto real-world environments using smartphones or AR glasses.

Designing a virtual forest tour helps participants build emotional connection to nature

Instead of only reading facts, users explore a dynamic forest, observe animal behavior, and witness deforestation firsthand all from their screen.

- 3D soundscapes create realistic ambient environments
- Clickable objects reveal plant or animal facts
- Scenario-based interactions teach about reforestation or climate mitigation
- VR headsets or smartphone apps make access easier for youth audiences



AR can be used to overlay green solutions in real-world settings

Unlike traditional classroom methods, VR and AR allow individuals to interact with dynamic environments in real time, making complex ecological systems more accessible and relatable. These technologies are especially powerful in communicating issues like climate change, deforestation, ocean acidification, and biodiversity loss, phenomena that are often difficult to grasp through data alone.

In a VR simulation, users might walk through a rainforest and observe its gradual degradation due to logging or illegal mining. They can witness the disappearance of species, hear the diminishing bird calls, and feel the emotional weight of environmental decline. Conversely, they may also explore a restored ecosystem, interact with rewilded landscapes, or simulate sustainable land use practices. These immersive journeys are designed not just to inform, but to create empathy, an emotional connection to the natural world that is crucial for long-term behavioral change. →



Creating digital forest journeys builds both tech skills and eco-literacy

In workshops, youth can use platforms like CoSpaces or Unity to design their own immersive stories.

- Storyboard planning guides the narrative flow
- Asset libraries provide prebuilt trees, animals, and weather
- Voiceovers and text add educational value
- Reflection prompts encourage users to apply learning in real life

Benefits of Moodle is a powerful platform for building sustainability education Teams

As an open-source learning management system, it enables users to create custom courses with lessons, quizzes, videos, and forums.

- Modular design allows flexible course paths
- Embedded media supports engaging content
- Grading and tracking tools monitor learner progress
- Mobile-friendly for wide accessibility






Moodle is a powerful platform for building sustainability education


When young people take on the role of content creators, especially in areas like climate change, biodiversity, and circular economy, they internalize the material at a deeper level. Teaching others forces learners to clarify concepts, anticipate questions, and synthesize complex topics into clear, relatable formats. This active learning process builds confidence, critical thinking, and leadership, all essential qualities for sustainability advocates.

- Climate Change 101: Causes, impacts, and everyday solutions
- The Circular Economy: Redesigning waste and consumption systems
- Biodiversity at Risk: Local species, ecosystem services, and conservation action
- Sustainable Food Systems: Carbon footprints, plant-based diets, and local agriculture
- Digital Sustainability: E-waste, green tech, and mindful screen use


Creating a micro-course helps youth teach others



To create an effective Moodle micro-course, begin by defining your learning outcomes. These should answer the question: “What should learners know or be able to do by the end of the course?” Once these goals are clear, organize the course into concise, focused modules. Each module should address a specific topic and include interactive or visual elements to keep learners engaged.



An introductory video is a great way to welcome learners, set the tone, and outline what they'll gain. Use infographics to simplify complex data or statistics. Visual tools like images, charts, or maps can help learners retain information and understand systems thinking more intuitively.



Incorporate a reflection journal or open-ended prompt after each lesson to help learners connect content to their own experiences or communities. At the end of each module, include a short quiz to reinforce key points and measure knowledge retention. This combination of personal insight and evaluation deepens learning while making it measurable.





The transition to a green future must be digital by design

In the same way that physical infrastructure like solar panels and bike lanes is necessary for climate action, digital infrastructure enables communication, coordination, monitoring, and mass participation. It allows climate solutions to scale quickly, adapt in real time, and become more inclusive.

Digital tools such as energy dashboards provide real-time insights into power consumption and carbon emissions, helping individuals and organizations identify where reductions can be made. Climate apps empower users to measure their personal footprint, make greener choices, or find sustainable services nearby. These tools bridge the gap between abstract environmental issues and concrete everyday actions.





Platforms for citizen science

Team rituals inspired by nature (e.g., grounding walks, sunrise check-ins) foster connection and reflection. These simple, embodied practices enhance cohesion and well-being.

like iNaturalist, Earthwatch, or AirVisual, enable people everywhere to collect data on biodiversity, pollution, and climate patterns. These contributions not only raise awareness but also feed into global datasets used by researchers and policy makers. It turns environmental monitoring into a shared civic responsibility and strengthens local ownership of climate solutions.



Facilitators can support learners by

- Providing templates and tutorials
- Sharing examples of great green content
- Encouraging peer-to-peer learning
- Celebrating progress, not perfection





What Is Digital Sustainability?

Digital sustainability means using technology in ways that support environmental goals and reduce digital waste. While tech can drive change, it also consumes energy and resources.

- Encourage the use of green servers and low-energy platforms
- Promote responsible digital consumption (e.g., delete unused files/emails)
- Understand the carbon footprint of streaming, data storage, and devices



Online Collaboration Etiquette



Digital teamwork requires clarity, respect, and consistency. Set ground rules to avoid confusion and foster productivity.

Tips:

Use consistent file naming

Assign clear roles

Respect time zones

Turn camera on when possible for better connection





Designing Digital Campaigns for Impact

Green campaigns should use emotion, urgency, and a strong call to action. Slide shows can include real examples of viral eco-content.

Key elements:

- Clear message and purpose
- Audience research
- Strong visuals and hashtags
- Timely, relevant content (e.g., Earth Day)



Activity Title: “Design Your Digital Footprint for Change”

Objective:

To help participants reflect on how their personal digital habits and skills can contribute to environmental sustainability, and then apply them by creating a mini digital campaign.





Steps:

1. Warm-Up Discussion (10–15 min)
2. Prompt: “How do you already use digital tools to support or learn about sustainability?”
 - Participants share examples (e.g., following eco accounts, using a CO₂ calculator, making TikToks).
 - Facilitator introduces key digital tools: Trello, dashboards, VR, social media, etc.
3. Digital Superpower Discovery (10 min)
4. Ask participants: “What’s one digital skill you’re good at or want to learn?”
5. Examples: storytelling, video editing, organizing, data tracking, creating visuals.
6. Participants write this on a name tag or post-it and wear it.
7. Small Group Brainstorm (20 min)
8. In groups of 3–5, they choose a green topic (plastic, food waste, energy, biodiversity, etc.) and brainstorm how they could:
 - Use their “digital superpowers”
 - Design a mini campaign or project idea using a platform/tool (Instagram, Trello, Moodle, dashboard, etc.)



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Learning Outcomes:

- Understand how to align digital tools with sustainability goals
- Build confidence in using platforms for environmental advocacy
- Practice teamwork, planning, and digital creativity
- Reflect on personal digital habits and leadership potential



Thank You

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