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# Initiating Competences for the Future:

Contributing to learners'  
consumer education  
essential for the improvement  
of daily life-skills



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# TOPIC LIST



## 1. Circular Economy explained



## 2. Preparing for DST



## 3. Digital Tools 4 Teachers



## 4. Digital Tools 4 Students



## 5. Telling Stories about Circular Economy



## 6. Developing Skills



## 7. Implementing DST in Schools



## 8. Initiating Competences for the Future



# BY THE END OF THIS SECTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO...

1. Identify and evaluate critical soft and technical skills encompassing digital competences, required for future personal and professional success.
2. Demonstrate comprehension of the significance of lifelong learning and define methods for developing an ongoing mindset for learning.
3. Develop competencies to assess and implement sustainable and smart green practices, encompassing the capacity to identify and overcome greenwashing strategies.
4. Foster attitudes and competencies that enable learners to make informed choices for enhancing daily life skills and contributing to a sustainable future.

# OVERVIEW

This material, Initiating Competences for the Future: Contributing to Learners' Consumer Education Essential for the Improvement of Daily Life-Skills, equips learners with the critical skills, attitudes, and knowledge necessary to navigate modern challenges and contribute to a sustainable future. It integrates concepts of future-ready skills, lifelong learning, and sustainability, focusing on practical applications such as digital literacy, problem-solving, and informed consumer decision-making.

By exploring the recognition of greenwashing, fostering adaptability, and embracing continuous learning, the module empowers both teachers and students to make impactful choices that enhance daily life and support environmental responsibility.

Through real-world examples, hands-on activities, and strategies for personal growth, this module serves as a guide to building competencies essential for thriving in an ever-evolving world.

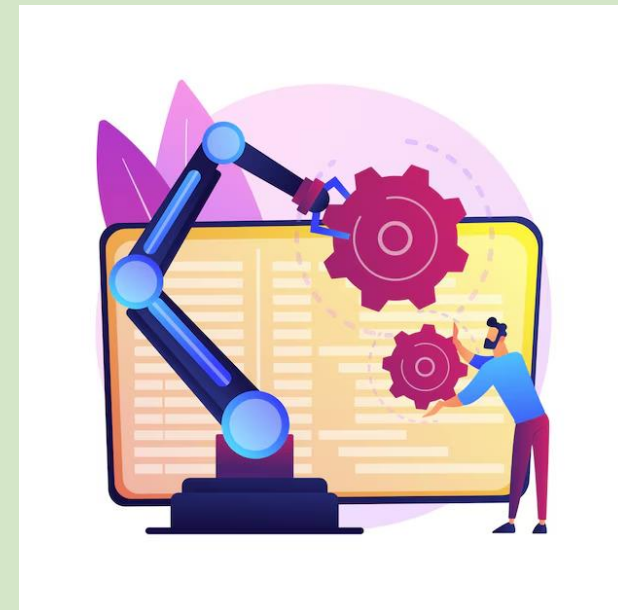
# Understanding Future-Ready Skills



## What are Future-Ready Skills?

Future-ready skills are a combination of abilities, attitudes, and knowledge that enable individuals to succeed in an ever-changing world.

They include **soft skills** like communication, teamwork, and adaptability, as well as **technical skills** such as digital literacy, data analysis, and problem-solving. These skills prepare people to effectively navigate challenges, learn new technologies, and work in diverse environments.



# Understanding Future-Ready Skills



## Why are Future-Ready Skills Important?

Future-ready skills are crucial because they help individuals:

- ❖ **Adapt to Change:** In a fast-evolving world, these skills ensure readiness for new roles, technologies, and challenges.
- ❖ **Stay Competitive:** Employers value these skills for their impact on productivity, innovation, and collaboration.
- ❖ **Solve Problems Effectively:** Skills like critical thinking and creativity are essential for finding solutions to complex issues.
- ❖ **Support Lifelong Learning:** Future-ready skills foster a mindset of continuous learning and personal growth, ensuring individuals stay relevant in their fields.





# Understanding Future-Ready Skills



## The Role of Soft and Technical Skills

Soft skills and technical skills are the foundation of future readiness.

- **Soft Skills:** These include communication, teamwork, adaptability, and emotional intelligence. They help individuals collaborate effectively and navigate interpersonal relationships in diverse environments.
- **Technical Skills:** These involve specific abilities like digital literacy, data analysis, coding, and problem-solving. They enable individuals to work with advanced tools and technologies, which are increasingly integral to both personal and Professional success.

Balancing and developing both types of skills ensures individuals are prepared for dynamic challenges in the future.



# Understanding Future-Ready Skills



## Practical Examples of Future-Ready Skills in Action

Future-ready skills can be applied in real-life scenarios to solve problems and seize opportunities:

- ❖ Digital Literacy: Using online tools like Google Workspace for collaboration, creating digital presentations, or managing data through spreadsheets.
- ❖ Problem-Solving: Tackling a project challenge by brainstorming solutions, testing approaches, and refining based on results.
- ❖ Adaptability: Quickly learning and using a new app or platform required for remote learning or work.
- ❖ Teamwork: Collaborating with peers on group assignments or projects, ensuring effective communication and role distribution.

These practical applications show how future-ready skills can enhance productivity, learning, and innovation in daily life.





# Example for Inspiration



## Green Energy Team at Raisbeck Aviation High School in Seattle, Washington

A notable example of high school students engaging in a future-ready project is the Green Energy Team at Raisbeck Aviation High School in Seattle, Washington. This student-led initiative focuses on designing, building, an

d racing solar-powered cars in the annual national Solar Car Challenge. Through this project, students develop essential skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and technical proficiency in renewable energy technologies.

Notably, the team achieved significant success by winning all races from 2019 to 2022, demonstrating their commitment to innovation and sustainability.



# Digital Skills for Everyday Life



## The Basics of Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is the ability to effectively and responsibly use digital tools and technologies.

- ❖ Key Skills: Navigating online platforms, using email, performing online searches, and managing cloud storage.
- ❖ Practical Application: Writing reports using word processors, organizing data with spreadsheets, and communicating through messaging apps.
- ❖ Empowering Daily Life: Digital literacy enhances efficiency, connectivity, and problem-solving in everyday activities, such as online shopping or managing personal finances.



# Digital Skills for Everyday Life



## Cybersecurity and Digital Responsibility

Staying safe online is essential in today's digital world.

- ❖ Cybersecurity Basics: Learn to create strong passwords, spot fake emails or messages (phishing), and keep personal information private.
- ❖ Being Responsible Online: Be honest and respectful—don't share false information or misuse others' work without permission.
- ❖ Quick Tip: Use tools like two-factor login and antivirus programs to protect your devices and accounts.



# Digital Skills for Everyday Life



## Digital Skills for Sustainability

Digital tools can support sustainable practices in daily life.

- **Smart Tools:** Using apps to monitor energy usage, track recycling habits, or plan eco-friendly transportation.
- **Remote Work and Learning:** Reducing carbon footprints by working or learning online, saving resources like paper and fuel.
- **Digital Advocacy:** Leveraging social media and online campaigns to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

By integrating digital skills with sustainability, individuals can make informed, eco-conscious choices in both personal and professional contexts.



# Example for Inspiration



## Green Skills Academy in India

An important example of integrating digital skills with sustainability education is the Green Skills Academy established by the 1M1B Foundation in collaboration with the Government of Meghalaya, India.

This initiative aims to train one million youth in green skills by 2030, focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital citizenship, and emerging technologies.

The academy provides hands-on training and real-life applications, empowering students to address environmental challenges through technological solutions.

By combining digital literacy with sustainability practices, the program prepares students to contribute effectively to a greener future.





# Identifying and Overcoming Greenwashing



## What is greenwashing?

Greenwashing is when companies or organizations make false or misleading claims about the environmental benefits of their products or practices to appear eco-friendly.

For example, a company labeling a product as "natural" or "green" without providing evidence or certifications.

Greenwashing misleads people and makes it harder to identify truly sustainable options. Recognizing it helps us make informed and ethical choices.



# Identifying and Overcoming Greenwashing



## How to Spot Greenwashing

### *Watch for These Red Flags:*

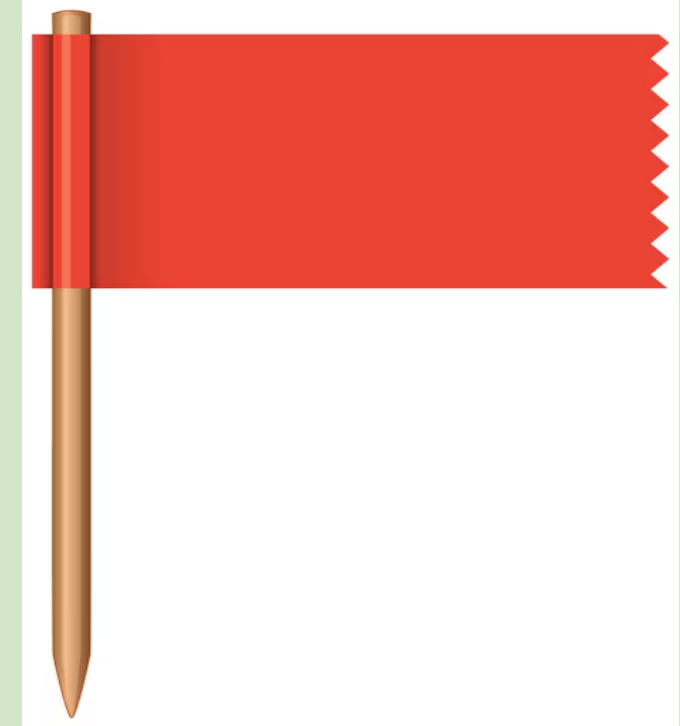
- Claims like "eco-friendly" or "natural" without explaining why.
- No trusted certifications (like FSC or Fair Trade).
- Green colors or nature images on products without proof of sustainability.

### *Simple Tools to Check:*

- Look for reliable eco-labels like Energy Star or Fair Trade.
- Search online to see if the company is really working to help the environment.

### *Be a Smart Consumer:*

Think critically about ads and labels. If it sounds too good to be true, it might be greenwashing. Always ask for proof!



# Identifying and Overcoming Greenwashing

## Making Smart, Eco-Friendly Choices

- ❖ Choose brands that share clear details about their environmental efforts, like how they source materials or reduce waste.
- ❖ Use tools like sustainability rating apps (e.g., Good On You or Ecolabel Index) to check if a company is truly eco-friendly.
- ❖ Encourage friends and family to make informed choices and demand better practices from companies.



# To Learn More and Get Inspired



## Watch this video

In this video ([Greenwashing Exposed: Identify and Avoid Misleading Eco-Claims](#)) \*, the truth about greenwashing is revealed, and guidance is provided on how misleading eco-claims can be identified and avoided.

Viewers are shown how informed choices can be made and genuine support given to sustainable products and companies.



\*The content is available in English.

# Lifelong Learning and Developing Future-Ready Attitudes

## The Power of Lifelong Learning

- ❖ **Why It Matters:** Lifelong learning helps you stay relevant, adapt to changes, and thrive in a fast-paced world.
- ❖ **How to Practice:** Set learning goals, explore online courses, and join community programs to keep improving your skills.
- ❖ **Practical Tip:** Dedicate just 10 minutes a day to learning something new—small steps lead to big growth!





# Lifelong Learning and Developing Future-Ready Attitudes



## Building a Growth Mindset

**What is a Growth Mindset?** Believing that your abilities can improve with effort and learning.

### Practical Steps:

- ❖ Embrace challenges as opportunities to grow.
- ❖ Learn from mistakes instead of fearing them.
- ❖ Celebrate progress, not just outcomes.

**Benefit:** A growth mindset boosts resilience and helps you adapt to change more effectively.

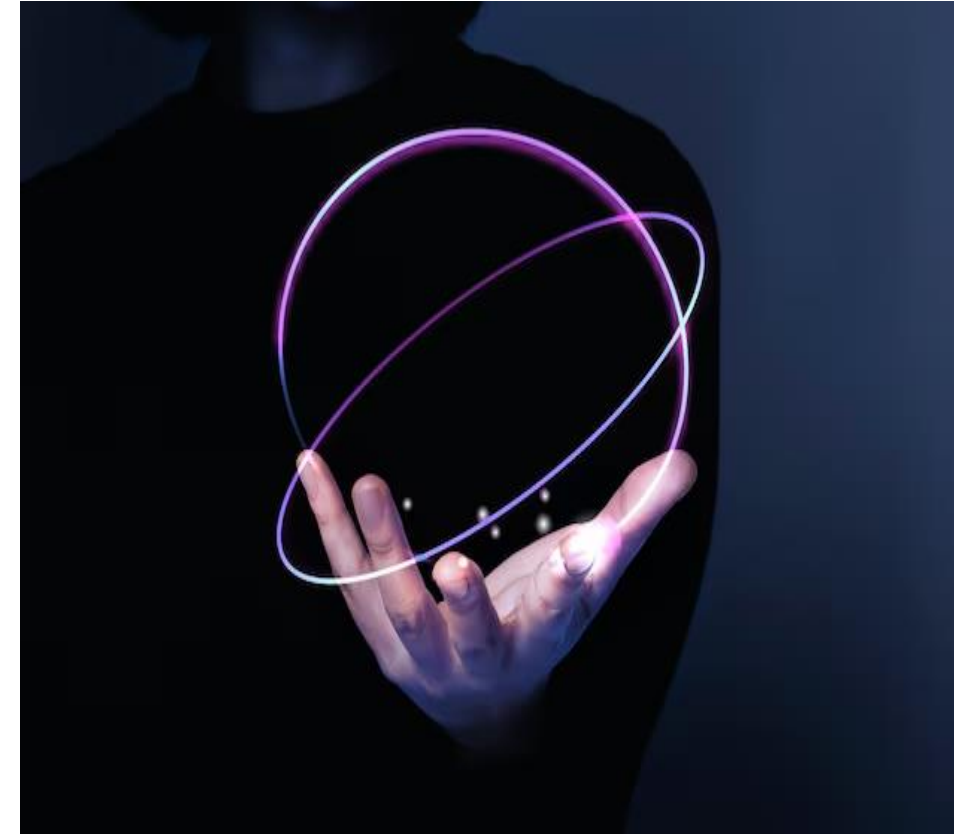


# Lifelong Learning and Developing Future-Ready Attitudes

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## Encouraging Future-Ready Attitudes

- ❖ **Stay Motivated:** Break goals into small steps and track your achievements to stay focused.
- ❖ **Self-Reflection:** Regularly assess your strengths and areas for improvement.
- ❖ **Inspire Others:** Share your learning journey and encourage friends or peers to adopt continuous learning habits.



# To Learn More and Get Inspired



## Mary Jackson, NASA's first African-American female engineer

A compelling example of lifelong learning in action is the story of Mary Jackson, NASA's first African-American female engineer. Initially working as a mathematician, Jackson pursued additional training and education to advance her career. She took night classes in mathematics and physics, overcoming racial segregation barriers to attend an all-white high school.

Her dedication to continuous learning enabled her to transition into engineering, where she made significant contributions to aerospace science. Jackson's journey exemplifies how a commitment to lifelong learning fosters adaptability and resilience, empowering individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve professional growth.



# USEFUL CONCEPTS

- 1. Future-Ready Skills**  
Equipping learners with essential soft, technical, and digital skills to adapt and succeed in an evolving world.
- 2. Lifelong Learning and Adaptability**  
Encouraging a growth mindset and continuous learning to build resilience and thrive in changing environments.
- 3. Recognizing Greenwashing**  
Teaching individuals to identify misleading environmental claims and promoting informed decision-making to support genuine sustainability efforts.

# CONCEPT 1

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## Future-Ready Skills

### Definition

Future-ready skills are a set of abilities, knowledge, and attitudes that prepare individuals to adapt, thrive, and contribute effectively in an ever-changing world. They encompass a mix of soft skills (e.g., communication, teamwork, adaptability), technical skills (e.g., digital literacy, problem-solving, data analysis), and mindsets like lifelong learning and sustainability awareness, enabling individuals to succeed in dynamic personal, educational, and professional contexts.



# CONCEPT 2

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## Lifelong Learning and Adaptability

### Definition

Lifelong learning and adaptability refer to the continuous process of acquiring knowledge and skills combined with the ability to adjust effectively to changing circumstances and challenges. Together, they empower individuals to stay relevant, resilient, and capable of navigating personal, educational, and professional transformations in an ever-evolving world.

# CONCEPT 3

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## Recognizing Greenwashing

### Definition

Recognizing greenwashing is the ability to identify and critically evaluate misleading claims or practices that falsely portray products, services, or companies as environmentally friendly. It involves understanding marketing tactics, analyzing sustainability credentials, and distinguishing genuine eco-friendly initiatives from deceptive ones.

# PRACTICAL TIP #1



## FOR TEACHERS

### What to do...

- ❖ Use case studies and examples (like recognizing greenwashing or applying lifelong learning) to connect concepts to practical, everyday situations for students.
- ❖ Organize role-playing exercises where students act as sustainability consultants or digital safety advocates.
- ❖ Use Technology to Teach Digital Literacy
- ❖ Encourage projects such as creating a digital campaign for eco-friendly practices or tracking personal sustainability goals using apps or spreadsheets.

# PRACTICAL TIP #2



## FOR STUDENTS

### What to do...

- ❖ Use digital tools like email, spreadsheets, and online collaboration platforms to build your technical confidence.
- ❖ Explore free online courses, watch educational videos, or attend workshops to learn something new every day.
- ❖ Analyze ads and product labels critically to spot greenwashing.
- ❖ Use apps to monitor your energy usage, recycling habits, or eco-friendly purchases to understand your contribution to the environment.
- ❖ Share what you learn about sustainability and digital skills with family and friends to inspire others.

# CHECK WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

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01. Can you explain the importance of lifelong learning and how it helps in adapting to changes?.
02. Identify two key differences between soft and technical skills and provide an example of each.
03. How would you recognize greenwashing in an advertisement or product claim?
04. Name a digital tool or app you can use to promote sustainability in your daily life.
05. What are some practical ways to encourage a growth mindset and continuous learning?
06. Explain how digital literacy can improve both personal and professional productivity.
07. Describe one example where combining sustainability and digital skills can solve a real-world problem.





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