

## Certificate in Sustainable Food Packaging

Food Drink Ireland Skillnet have created a bespoke on-line Sustainable Food Packaging Course for the Food & Drink Sector in Ireland.

### **Aim:**

This course is designed to aid and support the development of a sustainable business strategy. Its focus is on Packaging, a key component of manufacturing / sourcing and part of any good sustainable solution.

The contents will provide a sound foundation and understanding of packaging. From this we will build and develop sustainable thinking, and help the student apply this new knowledge to their job and to a practical course project. A key goal for us all, is to help enable, the development of a circular economy, to retain material value, enhance resource efficiency and address growing resource scarcity concerns.

We will be studying various materials and formats, the alternatives, the reuse, or the recyclability and the best sustainable choices for your product type, business, and the environment. This course will help the students understand the challenges and required functionality of their packs and upskill them to make informed decisions on the material / format, and understand the implication, for the circular economy.

### **Trainer:**

FDI Skillnet are collaborating with **The Irish Packaging Society and Leonard Little & Associates Ltd.**

### **Target audience:**

The course is ideal for those responsible for making sustainable packaging choices, such as Packaging Managers or Specification Officers and those working with packaging and NPD (new product development), from the Supply Chain, Production, Marketing, Packaging Technology and Procurement Departments.

### **Key learning outcomes from programme:**

The key outcome for participants, will be the ability to critically evaluate their current packaging formats and reflect on the required functionality of that packaging, with a view to making good sustainable choices. Having identified needs they will be able to diagnose and apply the knowledge to create a pack change plan, for those less sustainable packaging choices and consider the next step for the more difficult format challenges.

The course will raise attendees' general packaging knowledge and understanding of the goals and challenges around sustainability. Their chosen project will copper fasten these learnings, and help apply them to real-world examples, while creating a plan / process to make changes, that will benefit their company and the environment.

## Programme Content

- Introduction & Sustainable Packaging Overview - Choices, challenges, and issues.
- Functions of Packaging, Fundamentals, Hazards of Distribution and Food Safety.
- NPD process - Stages, Keylines, Origination, Proofs, Timelines etc.
- The Importance of Specifications. Working with Suppliers.
- Student Audit Project– Brief, SWOT analysis, (methodology, learning outcomes).
- Materials and Conversion Processes (on-line Unit 1 Multiple-Choice Exam).
- Packaging Testing Introduction - Plastics, Paper and Distribution
- Student Project Support. Systems Thinking.
- Sustainability - Fit for Purpose Packaging.
- Carbon Footprint, Life Cycle Assessment and CO<sub>2</sub>e Systems.
- Packaging for a Circular Economy.
- Sustainability & Legislation (on-line Unit 2 Multiple-Choice Exam).
- Student Project Presentation to Group.

## Programme Format

- 11 sessions (on-line) (10 classes + gap week + 1 day project presentations)
- Timings: Tuesdays 09:30 – 13:00 weekly
- Course approach is on-line, based on up to 14 attendees per session.
- Student assessment, through a multiple-choice exam and project research with interactive oral presentation (Dragons Den) and infographic or PowerPoint.
- 1-2 Lecturer's (dependent on session) plus Expert Guest Lecturers.
- Course notes will be provided.
- Course will be Certified by PiABC as a UK Level 3 Certificate award.
- Course is equivalent of 6 ECT Credits, with 40 contact hours and 110 independent learning hours.

**Dates:** 26<sup>th</sup> September – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Price:** FDI Skillnet €950 – subject to numbers (non-members €1,700)

To book your place, or for more information, contact Mark Skinner on (01) 6051615 or [mark.skinner@ibec.ie](mailto:mark.skinner@ibec.ie)