

About the Gender-Responsive Green Transformation (GR-GT) Programme

Introduction to Growing an Inclusive and Green Business

The **Gender-Responsive Green Transformation (GR-GT) Programme** is an introductory business development programme that equips entrepreneurs and MSMEs with the knowledge and practical tools to build businesses that are **inclusive, environmentally sustainable and commercially competitive**.

Developed under **Project EMBRACE**, the programme recognises that future business success will increasingly depend on organisations' ability to respond to environmental, social and governance (ESG) priorities while embracing gender equality, responsible business practices and sustainable growth.

The programme introduces participants to the principles of sustainability, environmental stewardship, gender

responsiveness and responsible governance, providing a practical roadmap for integrating these concepts into everyday business operations.

Through interactive learning, practical exercises and business planning tools, participants develop an understanding of how inclusive and green business practices can improve resilience, strengthen competitiveness and unlock new market opportunities.

Who Should Apply?

The programme is designed for:



Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).



Entrepreneurs seeking to transition towards more sustainable and inclusive business models.



Businesses preparing to participate in green economy value chains and procurement opportunities.



Business owners committed to improving their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance.

Programme Modules

The programme is delivered through seven practical learning modules:



Sustainability and Climate Change

Develop an understanding of sustainability principles, climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the business case for sustainable development.



ESG and the Just Energy Transition

Explore Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and understand how South Africa's transition to a greener economy creates both opportunities and challenges for MSMEs.



Inclusion as a Competitive Business Advantage

Learn how diversity, equity and inclusion contribute to innovation, business performance, workforce development and long-term competitiveness.



Gender Responsiveness in the Workplace

Understand how gender-responsive policies and practices create stronger, more inclusive organisations while supporting women's economic participation and leadership.



The Green Economy

Gain an introduction to circular economy principles, resource efficiency, life-cycle thinking and opportunities for green innovation.



Greening Your Business

Identify practical actions to improve environmental performance through resource efficiency, cleaner production and sustainable business operations.



Designing an Inclusive and Green Business Model

Apply practical business planning tools to redesign existing business models with sustainability, inclusion and long-term competitiveness at their core.

Benefits of the Programme

Participants will:

- ✓ Develop a practical understanding of sustainable business practices.
- ✓ Learn how ESG principles contribute to business growth and competitiveness.
- ✓ Strengthen their knowledge of gender-responsive and inclusive business practices.
- ✓ Identify opportunities to reduce environmental impact while improving operational efficiency.
- ✓ Explore green innovation and circular economy approaches.
- ✓ Develop practical action plans to transition towards more sustainable business operations.
- ✓ Build more resilient, responsible and market-ready businesses.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the programme, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the relationship between sustainability, inclusion and business competitiveness.
- ✓ Recognise business risks and opportunities associated with climate change and the green economy.
- ✓ Apply gender-responsive approaches within their organisations.
- ✓ Incorporate ESG principles into business decision-making.
- ✓ Develop practical strategies to improve environmental performance.
- ✓ Design a roadmap for building an inclusive, sustainable and future-ready business.

Programme Impact

The Gender-Responsive Green Transformation Programme forms part of Project EMBRACE's commitment to strengthening the capacity of Black-owned businesses to participate meaningfully in South Africa's transition to a greener and more inclusive economy.

Project **PROJECT EMBRACE** aims to economically mainstream Black women and youth through responsible market access and value chain transformation for an inclusive green economy

Objective Implement a sustainable framework to boost Black women and youth participation in South Africa's green economy through strengthening an entrepreneurial ecosystem providing research, skills development, advocacy, employment, and entrepreneurship support.

Geographic Focus Focused on South Africa, with reach into SADC and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Implemented by South Africa Supplier Diversity Council NPC (SASDC)

Duration 01 Sept 2024 - 30 Jun 2027



Our Partners

Funded by:



**Global
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Implemented by:



Co-funded by:



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