

Training as a Green Consultant

2026 Programme

Sustainability in Film and Media Production

The European film industry has introduced a range of measures designed to increase energy efficiency in production and post-production. Tasked with ensuring these energy-saving measures are correctly implemented in the complex environment of film production, green consultants provide advice and guidance in the set-up stages, on set, and during post-production.

The producers' increasing awareness of sustainability issues is just one reason why green consultants are in demand – hiring them makes business sense as well. After all, the related costs are covered by many film-funding schemes in Switzerland and abroad.

In this continuing education programme, filmmakers in various creative and technical trades as well as floor managers and other professionals with set experience train as certified green consultants for film and media production.

Contact

Head of Programme

Prof Dr Florian Krautkrämer
T +41 41 248 61 73
florian.krautkraemer@hslu.ch

Information and Administration

Margaretha Hüsser
T +41 41 248 61 58
margaretha.huesser@hslu.ch

As at 7 May 2024 / subject to change without prior notice

Programme content (modules)

- Introduction to sustainable filmmaking
- Project management and the tasks of a green consultant
- Carbon balancing: Introduction and use of different CO₂ calculators
- Processes, tasks and measures in the different areas of film production
- Conflict management and communication
- Energy management on film sets
- Exam
- Final day (presentation of final assignment and panel discussion)

Course format

In-person instruction in Lucerne

2.5 days of classes, typically from 9:30 to 17:30.

Online instruction

One half-day, date tbd, plus six evening classes (about 1.5 h each)

Final presentation

One half-day

Language of instruction

English

Dates

Course days in Lucerne

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 14 January 2026 | Module 1: Fundamentals. Sustainable filmmaking and the professional field of green consulting (one day) |
| 15 January 2026 | Module 2: Balancing – Introduction and use of different CO ₂ calculators (one day) |
| 16 January 2026 | Module 3: Conflict management and communication (one half-day) |
| tbd | Module 7: Final presentations and certificate ceremony |

Online course days

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| tbd | Module 4: Energy management on the film set: introduction and practice (one half-day) |
| March/ April 2026 | Module 5: Six separate evening classes (about 1.5 hours, online) Processes, tasks and measures in the different film production departments (light and camera, set design, production office and management, catering and transport, make-up and costume, postproduction, green IT); dates tbd |
| | Module 6: Exam preparation and final assignment as self-study |

Fundamentals: Sustainable Filmmaking and the Professional Role of the Green Consultant (Module 1)

Course day in Lucerne, 14 January 2026

Sustainable filmmaking

In the past few years, there have been various initiatives and measures around the world to make film and TV production more environmentally and resource friendly. Our aim is to turn the trend of sustainable production into the new normal. This introduction offers an overview of various measures, approaches and opportunities across Europe and describes the current situation in Switzerland. It also provides a basic understanding of sustainability and introduces the associated key concepts.

Project management and the professional role of the green consultant

This module introduces the relatively new professional role of the green consultant. Consultants with experience in the film industry talk about their past experiences and challenges. It also showcases experiences in adjacent fields, including communication processes around gender awareness and the perspectives of a Covid manager. Contributors include technical types and communication specialists, employed workers and freelancers.

The green consultant's tasks and responsibilities are manifold. Participants look into the different stages – from production set-up to work on set to post-production – and develop an understanding of each phase in terms of sustainable film production management. Dedicated offices in Switzerland are introduced and discussed.

Learning objectives

Participants understand the foundational mechanisms associated with the processes and tools of sustainable film production and are familiar with a green consultant's challenges and responsibilities. Participants know which aspects to consider when consulting a film or TV production.

Lecturers

Sereina Gabathuler is a producer with **Dschoint Ventschr** Filmproduktion, the owner of Roundabout Film and a green consultant.

Assessed assignment

Course attendance.

Homework assignment: Finding a project or example in one's own professional practice that is suitable for treatment in the framework of the subsequent modules. The project's suitability will be discussed in class.

Grading

Pass / fail

Energy Management on the Film Set (Module 4)

Half-day online course, tbd

This module offers an introduction to the topic of energy efficiency on the film set and identifies potential synergies between departments. In addition to discussing environmental standards for the technical departments, participants learn to measure how much electricity a generator set produces at a specific moment. They develop catalogues of questions for the team and for location scouting, with special focus on energy-intensive departments such as lighting, production management and catering.

Learning objectives

Participants acquire foundational knowledge of energy-efficiency (power and light) as well as low-emissions services and catering on film sets. The goal is to develop a catalogue of questions to facilitate both the set-up of an energy-efficient film production and the evaluation of the different energy supply options.

Lecturer

Adriano Grilli was born in Bari (Italy) in 1979. He earned a degree in Film Studies in Bologna. From 2005, he got increasingly attracted to the many facets of light design. In 2009, he moved to Northern Germany, where his practice on set and his hunger for knowledge remain constant companions. Over the years, he has become a certified event operator with focus on lighting and has acquired a series of additional qualifications. He has been a member of the board of the German Association of Lighting and Dolly Grip (BVB) since 2018 and in 2020 and set up his own rental company for lighting equipment, Prismaland, in Bremen.

He has been a lecturer with the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, the Hochschule für Medien in Stuttgart and the Universidade Lusófona in Portugal and other institutions.

Assessed assignment

Course attendance

Recommended reading

Useful tutorial for energy-efficient lighting

<https://youtu.be/j-xaItxTir0>

Note: Don't worry, the video is primarily intended for technicians. However, it should give you (as future experts) a solid first impression.

Grading

Pass / fail

Balancing – Introduction and Use of Different CO₂ Calculators (Module 2)

Course day in Lucerne, 15 January 2026

CO₂ calculators are among the most important and well-established tools to raise awareness for energy consumption and resource-friendly measures. This module introduces a range of international CO₂ calculators used in a variety of contexts, including how to use them in practice. Participants work extensively with the Swiss CO₂ calculator. Data collection is not only a key factor for both the set-up and completion of a project, but it is also useful to track the progress made across the industry. To this end, the module also offers an introduction to statistics and to evaluation tools and methods.

Learning objectives

Participants are familiar with a range of international CO₂ calculators used in film production. They can use different calculators and apply the skill to carbon-balance film projects.

Lecturer

Sereina Gabathuler is a producer with Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion, the owner of Roundabout Film and a green consultant.

Assessed assignment

Course attendance.

Each participant carbon-balances an example of a film production. Results are submitted online. Through their own work and by comparing international calculators, participants can formulate suggestions for improvement and report them to existing Swiss CO₂ calculators. The assignments will be discussed online in October.

Grading

Pass / fail

Conflict Management and Communication (Module 3)

Half-day course in Lucerne, 16 January 2026

A key aspect of a green consultant's work is to provide guidance and advice, to explain the importance of the proposed measures and to motivate the crew to implement them. Communication is crucial.

Participants reflect on their role in film production and analyse the associated opportunities and challenges. They gain an overview of primary communication models and, using real-life examples, practice communicating sustainability measures successfully, dealing with resistance, and raising awareness among the more sceptical members of the crew.

Learning objectives

- Participants can identify and analyse potential areas of conflict in their everyday practice as green consultants.
- Participants can map out strategies for the successful communication of sustainability measures in their own professional practice.
- Specifically, they can apply instruments and strategies of lateral leadership to successfully implement sustainability measures in a film production.
- Participants can reflect on their role as green consultants and on their personal communication patterns and understand how these patterns might impact internal communication overall.

Lecturer

David Loher is a Subject Specialist for Teaching in Higher Education at the HSLU's Centre for Learning, Teaching and Research ZLLF.

Assessed assignment

Course attendance.

Recommended reading

Stöwe, C., and Keromosemito, L. 2013. Führen ohne Hierarchie – Laterale Führung: Wie Sie ohne Vorgesetztenfunktion Teams motivieren, kritische Gespräche führen, Konflikte lösen. 2. Edition 2013. Wiesbaden: Springer Gabler.

Grading

Pass / fail

Notice

The course day concludes with a written and oral evaluation.

Measures in Specific Departments (Module 5)

Webinar held over six evenings
(about 1.5 hours each), from February 2026

The processes and tasks of a green consultant can vary substantially between departments. Green consultants must be familiar with camera and energy, set design, production office, catering and transport, costume, and green IT and be able to provide information about possible measures. Potential areas of conflict must be identified early in the process. This module presents and explores different cases based on real-life examples and reports.

Production office and production management

Analysing the needs of the production and production management department, participants discuss potential measures, the introduction of new processes, raising awareness within the team and, not least of all, the issue of social sustainability.

Post-production and green IT

The significance of post-production continues to increase, and energy plays a significant part. Analysing the status quo, the module identifies technological developments and potential energy-saving opportunities not only in terms of computers and servers, but also as relates to buildings, workers and periphery.

Hair and Make-Up

Things to consider in eco-friendly hair and make-up.

Catering

Vegetarian and vegan food tends to come with a considerably smaller carbon footprint than meat. This presentation shows what else needs to be considered and which strategies to pursue as caterers on set.

Props and Set Design

What are the options for working with used and surplus materials in props and set design?

Rentals

Rentals are tricky: you can only use devices in a production that are available for rental. What are the options? How can you research and rate providers?

Learning objectives

Participants consolidate their knowledge of the various departments and develop the skills to identify different problem areas and solution approaches.

Lecturers

Jessica Hefti studied documentary filmmaking, multimedia production and culture management. She has worked as an assistant director and as a production manager. Since 2018, she has been engaged in the development and production of TV series as a TV producer for Zodiac Pictures.

Carsten Schuffert runs his own company BEWEGTE BILDER and works in film production and climate-neutral post-production with a Dolby Atmos control room for cinematic productions and a large grading suite. He has been a certified green consultant for film and TV since 2020 and a member of the board of the German federal association of green consultants since 2022.

Tanja Koller is a hair and make-up artists who specialises in sustainable, eco- and skin-friendly products.

Rémy Majer is a caterer for film productions and owner of Bacio Lupaio.

Assessed assignment

Regular course attendance.

Grading

Pass / fail

Notice

The module is delivered as a series of online evening classes.
Dates tbd

Exam Preparation (Module 6)

Self-study

Exam preparation

Participants revisit the different stages and content taught in the preceding modules. They can ask questions about specific issues and consolidate certain topics according to their needs. Building on the skills and knowledge gained, this module offers an outlook on advanced projects and measures.

Learning objectives

Participants have the skills to carbon-balance a film project and enter the data as stipulated by the film-funding institutions into central databases.

Lecturer

Maria Dehmelt (responsible for the exam preparation segment) earned her MA from Leipzig University in 2015 with her thesis "Green Shooting – Nachhaltige Filmproduktion als Herausforderung für den Filmstandort Deutschland. Eine Bestandsaufnahme". She went on to work for the MFG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg for over six years. There, she managed projects in production funding and helped to establish and run the "green shooting" division. This work involved the development and implementation of environmental standards for German cinema, TV and online/VoD productions. Since January 2022, Maria Dehmelt has worked in the field of animation film funding for Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung in Leipzig. She is also a freelance expert in the field of sustainable film production and in the training of green consultants.

Assessed assignment

In a personal coaching session, participants can reflect on their progress with Seraina Gabathuler.

Examination Paper and Final Presentation (Module 7)

Self-study and half-day course in
Emmenbrücke-Lucerne (early 2025)

Exam

The programme concludes with the exam in module 7. It takes the shape of a documentation in which the skills and knowledge gained are applied in the context of a real-life project.

The projects are presented and discussed in a panel discussion on the final day. The certificate ceremony and subsequent drinks reception take place in Lucerne on the final day of the course.

Learning objectives

Completion of the continuing education programme.

Lecturers

Florian Krautkrämer (first examiner)

Prof Dr Florian Krautkrämer is the Head of the Colabor modules and of the continuing education programme for green consultants at the Lucerne School of Art and Design. He has made and produced films for TV and festivals in the past and has worked for various film-funding institutions. His academic work focuses on questions relating to digitalisation in the field of documentary film.

Maria Dehmelt (second examiner)

earned her MA from Leipzig University in 2015 with her thesis "Green Shooting – Nachhaltige Filmproduktion als Herausforderung für den Filmstandort Deutschland. Eine Bestandsaufnahme." She went on to work for the MFG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg for over six years. There, she managed projects in production funding and helped to establish and run the "green shooting" division. This work involved the development and implementation of environmental standards for German cinema, TV and online/VoD productions. Since January 2022, Maria Dehmelt has worked in the field of animation film funding for Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung in Leipzig. She is also a freelance expert in the field of sustainable film production and in the training of green consultants.

Assessed assignment

Documentation (15 pages max)

In-person oral presentation

Grading

Pass / fail.

Assessment Criteria

1. Structure
2. Carbon balancing

Notice

The participants present their documentation at Emmenbrücke-Lucerne on the final day. They will also get to establish ties with relevant industry networks.

**Lucerne School of Design,
Film and Art**
745 Viscosistadt
Nylsuisseplatz 1
6020 Luzern-Emmenbrücke
T +41 41 248 64 64
design-film-kunst@hslu.ch
hslu.ch/design-film-kunst