

Learning in the Region for Sustainable Development Inaugural Conference to launch the first UK Regional Centre of Expertise on ESD

Workshops

Thursday 20th September 2007

Aim: To explore some of the activities, challenges and opportunities facing education for sustainable development practitioners regionally, nationally and internationally.

- Government policies and initiatives in support of education for sustainable development and global citizenship regionally, nationally and internationally
- RCEs and United Nations activity
- National and regional ESD activity in the UK, across the schools, FE, HE, youth, Adult and continuing education, voluntary and business sectors
- Next steps for the ESD and global citizenship agenda regionally, nationally and internationally

Morning Workshops – on the regional supported provided and needed for different educational sectors

What regional support is provided to make sustainable development and global citizenship central to different educational sectors?

What regional support is needed to make sustainable development and global citizenship central to different educational sectors?

Pre-registered choice of workshops with introductions by co-chairs and members of working groups, based on case studies, current projects and discussions:

1 School Education

Dove

Claire Plumb, Leicester Masaya Link Group; Marcela Flores Newburn, Global Education Derby; Lisa Young, Mundi Centre, University of Nottingham

This workshop will share how the Schools Working Group has developed practical case-studies to support schools in implementing the ESD agenda through using the DCSF's Sustainable Schools Framework. The workshop will also discuss plans to engage more schools in the ESD agenda through providing regional signposting, an interactive schools website with key contacts and case-studies and action research projects.

2 Further Education

Derwent – Front side

Elain Crewe, Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Leicester; Rick Heslop, East Midlands Further Education Council; Simon Winch, StudentForce for Sustainability; Roy Morgan-Wood, Leicester College

This workshop will focus on supporting sustainability in post-16 education and how this could be transferred to other sectors. It will provide an overview of the StudentForce project which places Sustainable College Assistants into FE colleges and the recent LSC-funded ESD baseline survey in East Midlands FE colleges. With examples of good practice from one college in the region, the workshop will draw upon lessons learnt and suggest ways in which these can be utilised by other sectors.

3 Higher Education

Wye

Dr Paul Warwick, Leicester University; Prof. Paul Phillips, University of Northampton; Dr Ed Brown, Loughborough University

This workshop will explore new visions of higher education in the East Midlands. It will provide an opportunity to discuss the major challenges facing the development of education for sustainable development activities within the HE sector in the East Midlands. It will outline some of the ongoing work being conducted by members of the HE working group of the RCE East Midlands focussing in particular on the experiences of a project at Leicester University which has used innovative approaches to the curriculum, campus and community in order to engage students in aspects of sustainable living. This will be followed by an opportunity for wider discussion and agenda-setting.

4 Youth Education

Ecclesbourne

Margaret Fleming, Woodcraft Folk and ESD Consultant; Merlyne Francique, National Youth Agency; Juan Toledo and Diana Walles, The British Council

This workshop will focus on both current and planned projects on communicating climate change by young people to young people. A team of 20 young people have been working to disseminate the knowledge and understanding they have gained of climate change to a wider audience of young people across England. Their mission is to convince their peers of the critical importance of understanding climate change and the actions that they could take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This work has started with young people through a combination of internet-based interaction and specially organised events and festivals. A number of young people from the East Midlands have been involved in the project either by being members of the steering group or by supporting the national events. Young people will describe the project at the workshop and will give further information about a number of exciting events. Last we will have an opportunity to consider a possible international youth-led initiative on climate change with the British Council.

5 Adult & Continuing Education

Derwent – Back side

Lesley Harry and Vanessa Swetman, Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service; Karen Lowthrop, Hill Holt Wood

This workshop will look at the challenges and opportunities of introducing ESD to adult and continuing education. Two case studies will illustrate some of the ESD activity in the region. The College of the Peak is an innovative project working with a wide range of adults and young people in rural communities of the Peak National Park focusing mainly on heritage building skills and rural crafts. Hill Holt Wood runs a wide range of E2E as well as specialist educational programmes based on woodland management, permaculture and sustainable technologies at its Lincolnshire centre.

6 Voluntary Sector

Severne – Window side

Dr Raul Pardinias-Solis, Skillshare International; Craig Owen, Wales Council for Voluntary Action

The Gold Star Community Link project brings together different community initiatives and community links between Wales and Africa, working towards the UN's Millennium Development Goals, where sustainable development is one of the key factors to be addressed in both developed and developing countries. The workshop will consider how this sort of project could be developed in the East Midlands.

7 Business Sector

Severne – Door side

Hugh Fenton, East Midlands Action Group on the Environment; James Luger, East Midlands Development Agency

The workshop will focus on the role of business in sustainable development education. It will open with a short presentation on what form ESD interventions might take within the business community, what the rationale for intervention might be, including references to national business support programmes. The presentation will close with some examples of CSR best practice in the region and open out into a discussion focussing on identifying the levers and barriers involved in engaging businesses with sustainable development as well as ESD.

Afternoon Workshops – on the policy and practice of education for sustainable development

8 RCEs

Severne – Door side

Adam Cade, StudentForce for Sustainability

The workshop will give a brief introduction to the UN Regional Centres of Expertise for education for sustainable development, including some case studies of the current 35 worldwide RCEs and the 15 or so newly proposed RCEs, together with some of their flagship activities. We will briefly outline the support from the RCE secretariat, European RCE network and the application process, as well as review the state of regional ESD networks in the UK. This will lead into a discussion of some of the challenges and opportunities for future development, collaboration, funding and research.

9 Buildings for sustainable education

Derwent – Front side

Andrew Bannister, Dr Jose Hernandez and Brian Rule, Pick Everard

The workshop will consider some of the opportunities and challenges of sustainably-designed educational buildings. It will illustrate some of the sustainable design features that can be included in educational buildings. Pick Everard is a multi-disciplinary construction consultancy including architectural, surveying and engineering services and was the architect for the award-winning new building for Stephenson College in Coalville.

10 Waste

Ecclesbourne

Prof. Paul Phillips, University of Northampton; Claire Poole, The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management; Robin Hall, Government Office East Midlands

This workshop will focus on education about waste management and recycling. An introduction to the regional context for education about waste management will be followed by some examples of waste management education from the University of Northampton as well as some Northamptonshire initiatives by the FE and school sectors, including the Waste Education Centre, NVQ courses and distance learning. It will also include some of the educational activities of the

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management. This will be followed by discussion of the challenges and opportunities for education about waste management and recycling.

11 Climate Change

Wye

Felicity Coxon, Derby City Council; Anne Downes, Derby University; Maggie Bishop, Derbyshire County Council

The workshop will look at the challenges and opportunities for education in the region about climate change. This will be introduced with a look at the Derby 7Cs project, where seven of Derby's biggest employers, including the University of Derby and Derby College, have come together to fine tune existing communication tools and produce interactive, engaging communications programmes to help change employee attitudes to climate change. It will also look at the Climate Heroes project - Making a positive shift in public attitudes towards climate change in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The campaign is targeting 85% of people in the two counties considered to be "fuel rich". A high profile information campaign will aim to educate and influence a wide range of audiences, including schools, householders, businesses, community and voluntary groups and local authority staff about the changes they can make to help reduce the effects of climate change.

12 Global Citizenship

Dove

Rohini Corfield, East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools; Eddie Playfair, Regent College; Helen Trilling, Leicestershire County Council

The workshop will discuss the regional support available to schools to help with the implementation of Global Citizenship and consider Regent College as a case study of how an educational institution can make global citizenship central to all aspects of college life.

13 Microgeneration

Derwent – Back side

Tony Dowsett, Institute for Energy and Sustainable Development, De Montfort University

Microgeneration is the production of heat and/or electricity on a small-scale in almost any type of building from a low carbon source. This workshops will give an overview of some of the different microgeneration technologies including Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Fuel Cells, Solar PV (Photovoltaic), Wind Turbines, Micro Hydro, Solar Heating, Heat Pumps (Ground, Air or Water Source), and Biomass Heating. These various technologies can help tackle climate change, ensure reliable energy and tackle fuel poverty. This will include some case studies of installation and education in schools and community buildings, as well as some of the government grants available. Discussion will focus on the challenges and opportunities of installing microgeneration in educational and community buildings and education that can build on this.

14 Sustainable Communities

Severne – Window side

Susan Hallsworth, Regeneration East Midlands; Sarah Walley, OPUN

The workshop will draw upon the programmes and case studies developed by REM across the themes of design, skills, intelligence and funding and how national priorities translate into regional delivery. A discussion session will enable those attending to develop thinking around capacity, priorities and challenges and aims to explore additional ways in which the education sector can address and respond to policy as well as embed themselves within the sustainable communities agenda through partnerships and delivery. Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.