

RCE East Midlands



REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustaining the region by learning

*A regional partnership of organisations
championing education for sustainable
development and global citizenship*



ACKNOWLEDGED BY



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

UN Status

The RCE East Midlands is one of 35 regional centres of expertise around the world that are recognised and supported by the United Nations University and UNESCO.

Our vision is that by the end of the UN Decade for ESD in 2014, learning will be central to the vision of sustainability in the East Midlands and sustainable development will be central to education and training in all sectors.

Regional role

The role of RCE East Midlands is to build on the work, energy and enthusiasm of many of the champions of learning and sustainability in the region. It will work closely with regional and local government to introduce an education element to policies that relate to sustainable development.

The RCE East Midlands will enable the region to develop the values, skills and knowledge that young people and citizens will need to create a more sustainable east midlands. Behaviour change is vital if the region is to get on a more sustainable track and education is one of the key routes for this change.

The region now relies on people making choices about development and consumption that are sustainable. People - young and old - will only make these harder, more sustainable choices when they have learnt the values of caring for themselves, others and the environment. The key drivers for this new form of learning are the longer-term health, welfare, security and competitiveness of the region. Learning for our future has never been more important as it is the key to sustaining the region.

Aim and Vision

Our aim is to champion education for sustainable development (ESD) and global citizenship across the region. We will do this by acting as a regional partnership for member organisations to collaborate, research, inform, advise, promote and develop ESD activity together.

Objectives

- To ensure good leadership and management by the RCE.
 - Ensure that ESD is fully recognised and integrated within social, economic, environmental and educational regional agendas.
 - Develop the regional partnership in a participative, fair, accountable and sustainable way, as well as to attract funding for regional ESD networking and activity.
- To engage organisations and individuals from all levels of formal, non-formal and informal education in RCE activities.
 - Encourage regional collaboration about the development and funding of ESD projects.
 - Inform and support educators and policy-makers about ESD regional activity and good practice.
- To include research in RCE activities, as well as the design of strategies for collaborative activities, including those with other RCEs.
 - Research and develop regional ESD activity and innovative approaches, and promote the ESD potential of the latest research and developments (eg. in science and technology) in the region.
 - Network with other RCEs and regions to share the research and

development of ESD activity and approaches.

- To transform the current education and training systems to satisfy the ambitions of the region regarding sustainable living, lifestyles and livelihoods.
 - Develop new ESD activity where there are gaps at regional level, and added value for member organisations in terms of curriculum (teaching provision and learning), campus (values, ways of working, buildings and grounds) and community (wider information and partnerships).
 - Promote transformative education practice within the region, and to other regions, and enable it to inform any national strategic framework for ESD.

developing a regional sustainable schools website.

- **Baseline survey of regional ESD activity.** Reviewed education for sustainable development activity in the 28 further education colleges and 9 adult and continuing education services across the region.
- **Revision of regional strategies.** Contributed to the revision of the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy – the key regional sustainable development document.
- **Inaugural conference.** Planned a conference called Learning in the Region for Sustainability: Supporting regional activity in education for sustainable development (September 20th at Loughborough University) in association with EMDA, DfES and the UNESCO-UK Committee.

Achievements

- **Working Groups.** Set up seven working groups to review, research and develop regional activity – for schools, further education, higher education, youth education, adult and continuing education, voluntary sector and business sector.
- **Website.** Developed website (www.rceem.org.uk) with monthly newsletters, information, advice, events and contacts about education for sustainable development in the region.
- **RCE promotion.** Promoted the UN University/ UNESCO model of a worldwide network of Regional Centres of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development to DfES, other Government regions, UNESCO-UK, other regional networks.
- **Higher Education Seminar.** Worked with the UK Higher Education Academy to organise their first regional ESD networking seminar (November 29th 2006) as a pilot for other UK regions.
- **Sustainable Schools Conference.** Organised a regional conference (March 7th 2007) to promote sustainable schools.
- **Sustainable Schools promotion.** Awarded £50K from DfES over two years to promote sustainable schools by showing links to other educational initiatives, promoting to educational leaders, using cases studies and

Planned activities

Our activities are currently led by the seven Working Groups and the Management Group.

- **Sustainable College Assistants.** Assisting 9 further education colleges in sustainably developing their campus, curriculum and community links, as a regional pilot with the Learning and Skills Council.
- **CSR in region's universities.** Developing a joint regional proposal for corporate social responsibility in the region's universities.
- **Regional events and initiatives.** Promoting education related to climate change at the EXPO07 regional sustainable development showcase event (October 16th) and sustainable farming and food as part of the Year of Farming and Food in schools.
- **Regional business case for ESD.** Working with the Regional Development Agency to research and develop the business case for ESD as a way of introducing ESD to new and updated regional policies.
- **Government ESD policies.** Promoting the DfES Sustainable Schools Framework to regional schools, the Learning and Skills Council policy to regional FE colleges and lifelong learning centres, and the Higher Education Funding Council of England

policy on education for sustainable development to regional universities.

- **Partnerships and Funding bids.** Developing plans for regional and international partnerships and funding bids by RCE East Midlands Working Groups, related to climate change, campaigns, empowerment and capacity-building, educational leadership and educational buildings.

Member organisations

All member organisations formally support the RCE East Midlands and contribute to its plans, activities and working groups. The current membership of nearly 40 regional organisations, with nearly 400 staff on the mailing list, includes higher education institutions, further education colleges, government agencies, local authorities, business networks and associations and voluntary organisations. However others are expected to formally join in the near future, and any other East Midlands organisation with a professional interest in education for sustainable development is welcome to join at any time.

Higher Education Institutions - Bishop Grosseteste College, De Montfort University, Loughborough University, Nottingham Trent University, University of Derby, University of Northampton, University of Leicester, University of Lincoln.

Government agencies - East Midlands Development Agency, East Midlands Regional Assembly, Government Office for the East Midlands, Peak District National Park.

Educational Bodies - East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, National Youth Agency, Rosliston Forestry Centre.

Businesses - East Midlands Action Group on the Environment.

Further education colleges - Brooksby Melton College, Colleges –University of Leicester Network, East Midlands Further Education Council. Tresham Institute, Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College, Leicester College.

Local authorities - Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council.

Voluntary organisations - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Global Education Derby, Groundwork

East Midlands, Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire, Groundwork North Northamptonshire, Leicester Masaya Link Group, Skillshare International, StudentForce for Sustainability.

Working Group Chairs/ Co-Chairs

School Education Working Group

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Voluntary Sector Working Group

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Business Sector Working Group

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For more information

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For more information on Education

for Sustainable Development

and the RCE initiative,

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or visit www.ias.unu.edu/efsd