

LEARNING FOR CHANGE:

SCOTLAND'S ACTION PLAN FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE
UN DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

“To integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning” is the overarching goal of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and is what Scotland aspires to achieve.

To help realise this goal, the previous Scottish Executive launched an action plan entitled *Learning for Our Future* back in 2006 when the UN Decade began. Now, at this halfway point, the Government has an opportunity to take stock of Scotland’s achievements in education for sustainable development (ESD) so far, and to present a brand new action plan which can help build on the momentum of the first half of the Decade.

A huge amount has been achieved in the first five years of the UN Decade. We have welcomed the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence, in which the principles of sustainable development are firmly embedded; we have seen a large majority of Scotland’s universities and colleges signing up to the Climate Commitment for Scotland; and we have witnessed community groups across the country galvanise themselves into action for sustainable living through new initiatives like the Climate Challenge Fund.

The second half of the UN Decade in Scotland is set against the backdrop of the new Climate Change (Scotland) Act, passed by Parliament in June 2009, with the most ambitious climate change targets in the world. We will all see – and be part of – a lot of activity over the next few years aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to ensure we meet our target of a 42 per cent reduction by 2020.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is vital as we move into the second half of the Decade, but it’s important to remember that sustainable development is about more than climate change and protecting the environment. It is also about building communities that we are happy to live in; it’s about ensuring our children grow up to be responsible citizens in a fair and equitable society; and it’s about working to ensure the wellbeing of all of Scotland’s people.

This is a whole of Scotland approach, where every individual should have the opportunity to learn about the benefits that a sustainable way of living and working can bring – for every one of us. Creating a sustainable future for us and for Scotland will require widespread understanding and huge cultural change – and the key to achieving this is education for sustainable development.

With this future in mind, we are delighted to endorse this new action plan for ESD in Scotland. We are confident that this plan will help to build on the excellent progress achieved thus far during the UN Decade for ESD, and that the Scottish Government can work together – with Scotland’s schools, our colleges and universities, and with our wider communities throughout the country – to drive forward learning for sustainable development in the second half of the Decade and beyond.



Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, May 2010.



Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, May 2010.

INTRODUCTION



The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)

Awareness of sustainable development has risen enormously in recent years, and many of us are now much more conscious of issues such as climate change and the need to act to preserve precious resources and use them sustainably for the future. Sustainable development challenges us, as individuals and as members of families, community groups and workplaces, to think about and act upon some very big issues. We need to face up to the threat of unsustainable development: development that is causing such significant environmental damage that the planet cannot sustain us, leading to a world where future generations will no longer have the resources to meet their needs.

In response to these issues, the United Nations launched the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) on 1 January 2005, to promote education as a basis for moving towards a sustainable society and to integrate sustainable development into education at all levels and all areas of life including communities, the workplace and society in general.

“The overall goal of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. This educational effort will encourage changes in behaviour that will create a more sustainable future in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability, and a just society for present and future generations.

The objectives for the DESD are to:

- facilitate networking, linkages, exchange and interaction among stakeholders in ESD;
- foster an increased quality of teaching and learning in education for sustainable development;
- help countries make progress towards and attain the millennium development goals through ESD efforts;
- provide countries with new opportunities to incorporate ESD into education reform efforts”

UNESCO

For more info on the UN Decade, go to www.unesco.org/en/esd/decade-of-esd/

Scotland’s Response

In response to the launch of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the previous Scottish Executive set out Scotland’s ambitions for ESD in the *Learning for our Future* action plan, published in 2006 to cover the first five years of the Decade.

Our aim is that by 2014 people in Scotland will have developed the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to live sustainable lives.

We want to see a Scotland where:

- Learning for sustainable development is fully integrated into all stages of the formal education system
- There are lifelong opportunities to learn
- The sustainable development message is understood and acted upon
- We share our skills, expertise and resources through strong networks and partnerships

Learning for our Future

Learning for our Future specified key actions across education and learning in Scotland (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/07/25143907/4). One of these was a commitment to review the plan in 2009-10.

Undertaking this review gives us an opportunity to consider progress made against the actions laid out in the original plan, to assess what we have learned over the first five years of the UN Decade for ESD, and to look to the future, laying out new actions to take Scotland forward into the second half of the Decade. It is our intention to build on the momentum and the excellent work achieved in the first half of the UN Decade.

This action plan provides a summary overview of the progress so far, and sets out what we will do over the remaining five years – and beyond – to help ensure that education for sustainable development is truly embedded in all areas of education throughout Scotland. A summary table of all the actions that Scottish Government and partners are committing to in the five years up to 2014 is provided at the end. Full details on activities within each of the three strands of

education (Schools; Universities and Colleges; and Lifelong Learning) are hosted on the relevant pages of the Scottish Government's central website. The following weblinks will take you directly to these pages:

Schools –

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/susdevp

Universities and Colleges –

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/UniversitiesColleges/16640/UNDESD

Community Learning and Development –

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Life-Long-Learning/LearningConnections/policytopractice/learningforchangeclld

This web-based approach to the sectoral-specific sections of the second action plan will ensure that the information does not become rapidly outdated – the content can be reviewed on a regular basis so that it reflects the latest developments that are happening across the country. The Scottish Government is committed to regularly updating these web pages to reflect progress made, and to highlight new initiatives.

How has this Action Plan been developed?

From the start of the process, we have worked with partners and stakeholders to jointly develop a coherent and up to the minute set of actions. We have maintained ongoing engagement across the related sectors in a variety of ways, including:

UN Decade Action Plan Steering Group

The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) Scotland, at the request of the Scottish Government, set up and managed a short life working group of education-related stakeholders. The group represented a broad spectrum of interests in ESD and has been invaluable in helping to shape many of the commitments and activities referred to in this action plan. For more information, go to:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/scotland-education.html

Stakeholder Events

In January 2009 the Scottish Government and CIFAL Findhorn hosted a conference to celebrate the excellent progress being

made across all sectors on education for sustainable development. It was our first chance to discuss with stakeholders what we should aim to achieve over the next five years. In January 2010, a similar event was hosted by the Scottish Government and SDC Scotland where proposed key messages and actions from this plan were presented for discussion and feedback. For further information on both of these events, please go to:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/SustainableDevelopment/UNDecade

2009 UNESCO World Conference for ESD

Scotland's Minister for Schools and Skills, Keith Brown, represented the UK at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Bonn, Germany, in Spring 2009. Information on the conference as well as its final declaration can be found at:

www.esd-world-conference-2009.org

What is Sustainable Development?

The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

The Scottish Government's overall purpose is to focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

The Scotland Performs web page, over time, will tell us just how Scotland is doing in the pursuit of these aims. It describes the outcomes we want to achieve and how well Scotland is progressing in key areas: health and wellbeing; justice and communities; the environment; the economy; and education and skills.

What is Education for Sustainable Development?

Education for sustainable development (ESD) is about learning how we achieve sustainable development. ESD seeks to raise awareness and understanding of all the issues relating to sustainable development: to help us learn how best we can

participate in building stronger communities and developing a sustainable economy; how best we can reduce our impact on the environment; and how best to cultivate skills and attributes which help us contribute to a just and equitable society.

Learning to live sustainable lives plays a key role in helping us rise to the challenge of making Scotland a better place for all. We need successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to build a sustainable Scotland.

The purpose of ESD is not to tell people what is important and what they should do, but to enable them to decide what is important to them, decide what they want to do about it, and equip them with the skills they need to do it.

"Education for sustainable development challenges individuals, institutions and societies to view tomorrow as a day that belongs to all of us, or it will not belong to anyone."

UNESCO

What are the benefits of ESD?

ESD is an approach that not only delivers knowledge and understanding but also enables learners to act on this information to change their behaviour. The importance of values is central to this: people are more likely to change their behaviour if they value the benefits that sustainable living can bring.

Learning to live sustainable lives can bring many benefits, some of which are highlighted below:

For Our Children and Young People:

- assists in children's development as responsible global citizens
- promotes a good learning atmosphere in schools
- offers a broad sense of achievement
- encourages outdoor and 'real-world' learning, which can enhance children's emotional development and reduce teacher stress levels

For Our Students:

- access to highly-relevant new academic courses and modules
- increased levels of relevant skills and employability
- a greater sense of their place in their local community and the wider world
- a heightened sense of their ability to influence the future

For Our Communities:

- the chance to play an active part in building a sustainable future
- learning to make better use of resources
- a heightened sense of community and of links to the wider world

For Our Workplaces:

- learning to make better use of resources, leading to more efficient and more effective businesses
- more joined-up working across the private and public sectors
- improved development of agendas such as health promotion, social inclusion, community wellbeing
- more efficient governance and policy-making

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SCOTLAND

How have we done so far?

Learning for our Future, Scotland's first action plan for ESD, set out the first wave of actions to be undertaken over the initial five-year period in support of the UN Decade. At this halfway point, the scope of what the Scottish Government has achieved is much wider than what was laid out in the original plan.

We said that we would focus on working together to:

- bring initiatives together rather than adding to confusion and overload
- pool experience, skills, ideas and expertise
- develop a shared approach and a common language
- provide support to people working in the field
- spot new opportunities
- highlight and celebrate the good work that is already going on
- learn from each other

The positive progress in many of these areas is reflected in a recent report from the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) Scotland, which graded the Scottish Government's progress in education for sustainable development with four marks out of a possible five¹. The report states that 'education is an area in which sustainability principles increasingly underpin policy in Scotland. The education sector in Scotland is becoming more sustainable in terms of its operations and underlying philosophies, though there remains room for improvement', and acknowledges that the Scottish Government has successfully engaged stakeholders through the UN Decade working group.

What's new in 2010?

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act, passed in 2009, provides us with an entirely new legislative backdrop as we move into the second half of the UN Decade. The Act is the world's most ambitious climate change legislation, introducing a headline target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, with an interim target of 42 per cent by 2020. The Scottish Government's delivery plan for achieving these ambitious targets envisages largely carbon-free electricity generation by 2030, primarily carbon-free heating for buildings by 2050, and the almost complete decarbonisation of road transport by 2050.

The Act requires Scottish Ministers to publish a public engagement strategy by 31 December 2010. The strategy must inform people about the emissions reduction targets set by the Act and encourage them to contribute to achievement of those targets, identifying actions which they can take. As part of this strategy, the Scottish Government will take forward an ambitious programme of work on behaviour change to reduce carbon emissions. This programme will inform policy development on how individuals and households – at home, in their communities and in the workplace – can be enabled and encouraged to contribute to meeting Scotland's climate change targets.

Meeting the climate change targets is not for Government alone to achieve. This will require a fundamental shift in the way the people of Scotland live, work and travel, affecting all of our lives in one way or another. According to the *Scottish Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours Survey (SEABS)*, published by the Scottish Government in 2008, many people believe that they are doing their bit to reduce climate change through recycling some waste materials. This is a great start but there is an urgent need to raise public awareness of the impact of more carbon intensive behaviours, such as domestic energy use, short car journeys and air travel. This is one area where ESD can – and must – play a significant role.

¹ Sustainable Development Commission Scotland – Third Annual Assessment of Progress by the Scottish Government (December 2009)

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ... AND BEYOND

Scotland has made huge advances in education for sustainable development over the past five years. As we move into the second half of the UN Decade, our focus is on sustaining the momentum that has built up over the first half of the Decade, and on creating a flourishing Scotland where people have developed the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to live more sustainable lives – **and choose to do so**. So where do we go from here? And what are our goals for the remaining years up to 2014 and beyond?

We will focus over the next few years on **working together** to:

- build on the momentum created in the first half of the decade
- celebrate our successes
- develop networks to share experiences, skills and ideas and offer support
- look for new and innovative approaches to ESD
- support the development of leadership in ESD

The actions that the Scottish Government and its key partners are committing to in this plan will make a large contribution towards ensuring that ESD is integrated throughout Scottish society – and we all need to be involved and working together to move towards truly living sustainably in the future.

Action 1:

The Scottish Government and partners will host a series of seminars over the remainder of the Decade, which will bring together key people across the three strands of education to share best practice in ESD, and to consider further ways of working together.

Action 2:

The Scottish Government will host an event at the end of the Decade to celebrate the achievements in Scotland on education for sustainable development – and to consider how best to continue this good work in the future.

Schools

For the UN Decade, we have a vision of schools in Scotland where:

- Education for sustainable development helps young people to become responsible citizens
- Classroom learning is set within a whole school approach that promotes the same values
- Schools are modernised and improved based on sustainable design
- Schools have access to the highest quality materials, advice and support on sustainable development education
- Learning and support in sustainable development is of the highest quality
- Schools are making the best possible use of our natural heritage as a classroom for learning

In the biggest shake-up of Scottish school education in a generation, the Scottish Government, local authorities and partners are implementing Curriculum for Excellence – a more coherent, flexible and enriched curriculum for 3 to 18 year olds, in which the principles of education for sustainable development and global citizenship are firmly embedded. The new curriculum helps equip the children and young people of today with the skills, knowledge and values they will require to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It has also led to the introduction of Glow, the world's first national education intranet, encouraging schools, teachers and pupils to join-up online to share ideas and information.

Schools are increasingly taking a whole school approach to ESD – through the curriculum, through the way their buildings and grounds are run and through the leadership, culture and ethos of the school. With Scottish Government funding, the Eco-Schools programme has proved an enormous success in Scotland. This is an international initiative which encourages schools to take action to reduce energy usage and to help protect the environment, with a focus on pupil participation as a vital part of a whole-school approach. 97 per cent of local authority schools are now participating in Eco-Schools, with almost a third of these having been awarded the prestigious Green Flag award, making Scotland amongst the best performing Eco-School countries worldwide.

There are also excellent opportunities for active learning about sustainable development through participation in school travel plans, engaging on issues about how schools can be more sustainable and developing skills to work in the sustainable jobs of the future. This all contributes to helping develop responsible global citizens.

Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) has committed to establishing a Sustainable Development Education Advisory Group, which will help to provide strategic direction for developing ESD as a key context for learning within Curriculum for Excellence. LTS will also develop further support for staff to assist them in the delivery of ESD within schools, through online resources, face-to-face meetings and other CPD learning tools.

The Scottish Government will continue to support all of these developments, and will encourage the various bodies involved in their delivery to keep up the momentum, to ensure that ESD continues to be embedded throughout schools in Scotland.

For full details of these and other commitments for the schools sector in the second half of the UN Decade, please go to: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/susdevp

Universities and Colleges

For the UN Decade, we envisage a Scotland where:

- Our universities and colleges play a key role in developing knowledge and understanding of sustainable development
- Estates developments embody the principles of sustainable development and encourage learners and staff to act sustainably
- Education for sustainable development is integrated into curricula
- The whole experience offered to learners contributes to the development of their sustainability literacy and citizenship skills, attitudes and behaviours
- Universities and colleges have access to the highest quality materials, advice and support to enable them to embed education for sustainable development into their courses and the wider student experience
- The value of sustainability skills is understood and articulated by institutions, learners and employers.

In the last five years we have developed our understanding of these activities in colleges and universities and it is clear that significant progress has been made across all of these areas.

The urgency of climate change and global warming has clearly been widely recognised, with nearly 75 per cent of higher and further education establishments having now signed up to the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland. This commits them to developing a five-year action plan, and to bringing students and staff on board in the challenge of implementing this plan – ESD in action – all of which will contribute towards a significant reduction in emissions. The Scottish Government and partners will continue to encourage establishments in this sector to sign up to the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland, and to deliver on the associated five-year action plans.

With funding assistance from the Scottish Funding Council, the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) has now established a permanent office in Scotland, at Queen Margaret University's Musselburgh campus. This centre acts as a one-stop shop for advice, guidance and training on sustainability, environmental management and social responsibility for universities and colleges.

The universities and colleges sector is committed to looking at options for embedding sustainable development principles into professional requirements for teaching in colleges, and at ways of making sustainable development literacy an expectation for new entrants to vocations and professions.

A report undertaken by HM Inspectors on sustainability in Scotland's colleges was published in October 2009. It concluded that whilst sustainability is embedded in the strategic plans for the majority of colleges, and there has been a lot of progress in terms of sustainable college estate management, there is not yet sufficient development in colleges in terms of raising awareness of sustainable development issues amongst staff and students, or of embedding sustainability into the content of courses and modules. This is an area for improvement over the next five years of the UN Decade, and to ensure this is happening, the Scottish Government and partners will be encouraging colleges to act upon the recommendations made in the report.

In addition to this, there is a need to recognise the impact on Scotland's colleges and universities of Curriculum for Excellence being implemented in our schools, as young people leave school and move on into further and higher education. It is vital that universities and colleges engage closely with the schools sector over the next five years, and beyond, to consider implications from this fundamental change, and the Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council will support them in doing so.

More detail on the plans for colleges and universities over the second half of the UN Decade can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/UniversitiesColleges/16640/UNDESD

Lifelong Learning

ESD is not solely about schools or the traditional learning environment. It relates to education and learning in its broadest sense, incorporating all aspects of community and business learning. Delivered through public, private, voluntary and community sectors, learning at all levels can help us move towards a sustainable way of living.

Recognising this wider reach of ESD is a key priority for developing a Scotland where:

- learning for sustainable development supports action for change
- young people learn about sustainable development through all aspects of their lives – in and out of school
- communities have opportunities to learn more about the sustainable development issues that concern them
- communities use their learning about sustainable development to help them shape the future

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

Over the last five years there has been good progress in the community arena. For example, the Community Development Alliance Scotland (CDAS) organised a seminar in February 2009 in partnership with the Scottish Government on the theme of *Learning to Work Together for our Future*, at which Keith Brown, Minister for Schools and Skills, gave the keynote speech.

A further similar event was hosted in February 2010 by Scottish Natural Heritage in partnership with CDAS and the Sustainable Development Education Network. These seminars brought together a wide range of people involved in supporting community-based learning and action on sustainable development issues and helped to start setting the agenda for community learning and development and ESD in the second half of the UN Decade.

Another success story is the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), which was launched in June 2008 with a budget of £24.7m over the three financial years 2008-11. In total, the fund is supporting around 250 communities across Scotland. Communities are encouraged to work together, and to come forward with their own solutions to make a significant reduction in carbon emissions that will contribute to Scotland achieving its ambitious climate change targets. Projects can involve a range of actions, from helping communities to use less energy, walk and cycle more, to local sustainable food. The projects can also have environmental, social and economic dimensions; this can be to give people new skills, improve health, help them to work together or to provide better community facilities. Carbon reduction must however be at the heart of every proposal and the community at the centre of any decision making.

We recognise, however, that more work is needed across the CLD field, and over the next five years we aim to build on the momentum which has begun. The focus will be on four key areas within CLD: building community capacity to help the move towards sustainable living; developing stronger links between ESD and youth work; improving communication and networks between ESD and CLD, and working to upskill the CLD workforce.

The Scottish Government will support its key partners in improving links and networking between practitioners in order to increase the overall focus of ESD in Scotland's community learning and development sector. To help drive progress, we will set up a short-life working group with key partners from the CLD sector.

For further information on the actions that the Scottish Government and partners will undertake to help build links between ESD and the field of community learning and development, please go to: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Life-Long-Learning/LearningConnections/policytopractice/learningforchangeclld

In The Workplace

There is a wealth of good practice in the business community relating to learning for sustainable development. A couple of examples are highlighted below:

Scottish Business in the Community is a membership organisation which specifically aims to support Scottish businesses to improve their impact in the workplace, marketplace, community and environment. It aims to help shape new ways of doing better business, helping to create socially and environmentally stronger communities. One of the key ways of doing this is through the delivery of a wide range of projects and training courses around corporate social responsibility, climate change, and sustainability more generally.

VisitScotland, the national tourism organisation, is committed to ensuring Scotland's tourism industry continues to innovate, think and act sustainably. Through European Regional Development Funding, VisitScotland is developing a series of free events for tourism businesses, promoting business growth through the encouragement of sustainable business practices. These are scheduled to run throughout 2010 in various venues around Scotland.

Public Awareness and Capacity-Building

The Scottish Government is supporting a number of exciting initiatives across Scotland both in government itself and in the wider public sector aimed at increasing understanding of sustainable development, some examples of these are given below:

The 'GoGreener' campaign was launched by the Scottish Government in 2008 (www.infoscotland.com/gogreener). This is a two-year initiative which aims to contribute to widespread culture change and to 'normalise' so-called 'green' behaviours. The campaign encourages and supports people to take action to adopt more environmentally-sustainable behaviours that can contribute to the achievement of the Scottish Government's climate change targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions, as well as to its national outcomes of: reducing the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production; and valuing and enjoying our natural environment whilst protecting and enhancing it for future generations.

The Scottish Government is working on an Energy Efficiency Action Plan and Zero Waste Plan, both due for publication in late Spring 2010, which will be the main vehicles for work on energy and waste reduction and efficiency, with a key element of this focusing on public awareness and behaviour change.

As further evidence of Scotland's commitment to respond to our global responsibilities on climate change, the Scottish Government announced at the end of 2009 that a number of Fellowships would be established to allow talented individuals from Commonwealth countries to come to Scotland to share in our cutting edge knowledge on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The CIFAL centre in Findhorn, part-funded by the Scottish Government, is a United Nations Institute for Training and Research on sustainable energy and climate change, and hosts a variety of training courses and workshops to raise awareness of these issues. The Scottish Government is also one of the partners supporting the Natural Change project for education leaders. Led by WWF Scotland, this innovative project is attempting to address the challenge of environmental sustainability through key leaders in education, who are in turn encouraged to influence others around them.

A number of other public sector bodies are also contributing to ESD in action. The Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) for example is pro-active in its promotion of the use and enjoyment of Scotland's forests, feeding into the principles of ESD. It supports a range of visitor centres and informal recreation programmes which encourage learning about woodland environment, biodiversity and forestry as a sustainable industry. The Commission also produced *A Convenient Truth* in 2008, both a short film and a theatre performance for the Edinburgh Science Festival 2009 to highlight forestry's role in tackling climate change. In March 2009, the FCS produced its first Skills and Careers action plan, with the aim of addressing the forestry sector's image as an employer, tackling the skills shortage amongst 'forest floor' workers, and facilitating apprenticeships within the private sector. Opportunities are available for 30 modern apprenticeships in Forest Enterprise, and FCS is working to assist in the delivery of the *Skills for Work – Rural Skills* course.

With a view to supporting the wellbeing of Scotland's people, Historic Scotland's Education Unit works in partnership with Reachout, a mental health support group in Clackmannanshire, to provide creative opportunities for members to develop new and existing skills and confidence in their own abilities. In 2008-09, the Education Unit also worked in partnership with Stirling Council on an adult literacy project with inmates at Cornton Vale Prison.

These are all excellent examples of how organisations and communities across Scotland are helping integrate education for sustainable development into our everyday lives. By continuing to build on this and all the other good work that has taken place over the last five years, we can work together towards a sustainable future for Scotland.

Actions

Number	Action
1	The Scottish Government and partners will host a series of seminars over the Decade, to bring together key people across the three strands of education to share best practice in ESD, and to consider further ways of working together.
2	The Scottish Government will host an event at the end of Decade to celebrate the achievements in Scotland on education for sustainable development – and to consider how best to continue this good work in the future.

Schools

Number	Action
1	Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) will establish a Sustainable Development Education Advisory Group, involving key stakeholders, to provide advice about strategic direction on the aspects of this plan which relate to children and young people through schools and community learning. This group will have a particular focus on developing sustainable development education as a key context for learning within Curriculum for Excellence, and will contribute to the wider work of the LTS Developing Global Citizens Reference Group.
2	The Scottish Government will engage with partners to strengthen the understanding and commitment of school leaders to sustainable development education and global citizenship, promoting a whole-school approach and the wider participation of pupils in creating sustainable schools.
3	LTS will continue to develop local and national professional learning communities through a combination of face-to-face meetings, effective use of Glow, exemplification and other communications tools.
4	LTS will continue to provide CPD and support staff in sustainable development education for early years through to senior phase. This will include the use of Glow, exemplification, further development of LTS online resources and opportunities for face-to-face professional development.
5	The Scottish Government, LTS and partners will work to maximise the impact of the Commonwealth and Olympic Games on children and young people's learning relating to sustainable development education and developing global citizens in schools. This will include promoting active lifestyles and health and wellbeing, greater understanding of sustainable development issues in an international context and the creative use of arts and culture.
6	The Scottish Government will encourage initial and continuing teacher education establishments to embed sustainable development education within the ITE curriculum and beyond to ensure lecturers, student and qualified teachers are adequately equipped and motivated to deliver sustainable development education through Curriculum for Excellence.

Schools (cont.)

Number	Action
7	GTCS accreditation for teachers involved in sustainable development education activities in schools will continue to be promoted and supported. Opportunities will also be created for teachers accredited in this way to network and share their good practice with others. Opportunities to promote recognition of non-teaching staff will also be explored.
8	HMIE will support the development of sustainable development education within Curriculum for Excellence through self evaluation and the school inspection process.
9	The Scottish Government will support Eco-Schools Scotland as an international leader in the Eco-Schools programme and will promote partnership working with LTS and other organisations in supporting the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and embedding a whole-school approach to sustainable development education within schools, particularly within the Secondary sector.
10	The Scottish Government and partners will promote the use of outdoor learning experiences to engage young people in sustainable development education in a meaningful and transformative way using the <i>Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning</i> guidance and online resources to encourage teachers to make the most of outdoor learning opportunities.
11	The Scottish Government with SQA and other partners will ensure that sustainable development education is embedded within new assessment and qualification frameworks to support Curriculum for Excellence and provide mechanisms for recognising wider achievement in sustainable development education.
12	The Scottish Government and partners will support active learning and engagement of children and young people in schools footprinting activities to help meet Scotland's climate change targets and reduce the environmental footprint of the schools sector.
13	The Scottish Government will continue to develop the Greener Schools website and encourage schools to involve children and young people in the implementation of the school estate strategy which can support learning relating to sustainable development education.
14	The Scottish Government will work with local authorities and other partners to encourage schools to implement sustainable school travel plans to promote health and wellbeing and more active lifestyles and help to meet Scotland's climate change targets.
15	The Scottish Government will work with Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Renewables and other partners to create interest in low carbon industries and support young people to develop skills for jobs in renewables and sustainability.

Universities and Colleges

Number	Action
1	HMIE will continue to monitor college responses to sustainable development in areas such as the definition of sustainability skills; the embedding of sustainability within learning and teaching strategies; and campus sustainability learning. HMIE will work with partner organisations to share good practice identified through college review processes.
2	The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) will explore with Universities Scotland and Scotland's Colleges how the views of learners on education for sustainable development can be sought, in order to inform future actions by institutions and sector organisations.
3	The Scottish Government will support students' associations and student societies, by ensuring that there are opportunities to share good practice nationally of both student led activities and student involvement in estate development, curriculum development and the development of cultural and behavioural change within the communities of institutions.
4	SFC to encourage Scotland's universities and colleges to engage with the schools sector to consider how sustainable development and global citizenship is being embedded through Curriculum for Excellence, and to consider the implications for the college and university sectors, and to report periodically to the Scottish Government on progress.
5	SFC will explore with the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils in Scotland and Professional and Statutory Bodies to embed sustainable development in their expectations of new entrants to vocations and professions.
6	The Further Education Professional Development Forum, whose membership includes the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council, will ensure that Forum action plans being developed in 2010 include planning for the review of the Professional Standards for Lecturers, with special reference to enhancing and strengthening requirements on teaching standards for sustainable development in colleges.
7	Higher Education Academy to consider how they might ensure that ESD is accommodated in future revisions to the professional standards framework.
8	The SFC and Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges to encourage all universities and colleges to sign the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland and deliver five-year Climate Change Action Plans with targets and time scales to achieve a significant reduction in emissions from all activities, including sustainable estate development; sustainable travel planning; and responsible procurement of goods and services.
9	SFC will work with the other UK Higher Education funding bodies to ensure that interdisciplinary work is appropriately recognised within research funding policies, including research on sustainable development and the low carbon economy.

Community Learning and Development

Number	Action
1	The Scottish Government will work with Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) to build links with partners to promote the Capacity for Change practice guidance on community capacity building to education for sustainable development (ESD) practitioners.
2	The Scottish Government and key partner organisations, including LTS, will seek to effectively develop ESD as a key context for young people's learning in all settings.
3	The Scottish Government and LTS will support Community Development Alliance Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, and others to continue improving links and networking between practitioners in sustainable development and in community learning and development so that practice in each respective area can inform the other and increase the overall impact of community-based ESD.
4	The Scottish Government, CLD Standards Council, LTS and partners will work together to ensure that the development of the CLD workforce supports a strengthening of its role in ESD.
5	HMIE will support the development of ESD through self-evaluation using <i>How Good is Our Community Learning and Development 2?</i> and the CLD Learning Community inspection process.
6	The Scottish Government will work with LTS to establish a short-life working group which will be tasked with driving progress for ESD in the community learning and development sector. This group will involve representatives from the Scottish Government, LTS and other key stakeholders.



**The Scottish
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