

## **Welcome to the Higher Education Academy's EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

### **Quarterly e-Newsletter**

Issue 3 (June 2008)

“[T]he destruction of the planet is not the work of ignorant people. Rather it is largely the result of work by people with BAs, BScs, LLBs, MBAs and PhDs.” (David Orr, *Earth in Mind*)

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the third issue of the HE Academy's ESD Project e-Newsletter. The Project is currently drawing up a strategy and an operational plan for 2008/9 and we are very excited about the prospect of continuing to develop the Project during the next academic year. As always, we welcome feedback from colleagues about priorities and activities that we should consider. If you have any suggestions, please let Heather know. We will be providing details of these plans in the next e-Newsletter, which comes out in the middle of September. In the meantime, please do look on the Project webpages (<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/esd>) for up-to-date news about ESD in the HE sector as well as the Project itself. We look forward to working with as many of you as we can during 2008/9.

*We wish to thank you for all the work you do in ESD and for your support of our work. Enjoy the summer!!*

The ESD Project Team

Simon Smith, Stephen Sterling and Heather Witham  
HE Academy

## REPORTS

We are pleased to announce the publication of more of our reports on recent projects and research. We hope they will prove useful to the sector. Feedback, of course, is very much welcomed. We will be particularly interested in comments on such things as:

- how useful is this work to you? In what ways?
- has it led to any new ideas or developments in your work?
- is the format accessible and helpful?
- can you help disseminate this work further?
- what research or capacity-building work would you want the Academy's ESD Project to be doing next?

## SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

This project, led by Dr Tim Barker at Leicester, addressed the question: can physics be made more attractive to potential students by engagement with the sustainable development (SD) agenda? This participative action research project comprised: an attitude survey amongst potential physics degree applicants concerning the role of physics in SD; coordination of development of materials highlighting the relevance of physics to SD and relevant process training in collaboration with partners; trials, evaluations and modifications of undergraduate materials; formation of an outreach activity utilising physics in SD materials; dissemination of resulting 'open' materials and processes; and materials

evaluation utilising degree entrant focus groups and research program evaluation. Read the full report at:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd\\_science4sustain](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd_science4sustain)

### **EXPERIENCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

This project focused on embedding SD in the undergraduate Geography and Environmental Sciences curricula at the University of Brighton through structured and supported opportunities for experiential learning. The project, led by Dr Jennifer A. Elliott, centred on the development, delivery and evaluation of a credited year-long module through which students engaged with an identified voluntary agency, business or community group that were undertaking actions in the field of SD. It built directly on the insights of a recent GEES-funded project within the School of the Environment that focused on the existing, formal curricula in the ESD area and work of the Community University Partnership Programme (CUPP) team in building mutually beneficial relationships between the University and its local community. The outputs included enhanced opportunities for students within the GEES disciplines at Brighton in the immediate term; capacity in terms of a network of contacts between and within the community and the university of value beyond the project term; and a greater understanding of the impact of sustainability literacy on employability – of interest to the wider HE community. The launch workshop for students, staff and local groups was successful, and last minute “expansion” was needed to accommodate the numbers. The database of volunteering opportunities may be replicable for other areas/universities. Read the full report at:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd\\_geo\\_environsci](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd_geo_environsci)

### **EMBEDDING ESD IN A LIFE SCIENCE CURRICULUM**

In order to produce a coherent and meaningful embedding of ESD into a Life Science curriculum, it is essential to know what is currently taught in relation to ESD; identify opportunities for curriculum development; identify how ESD is relevant to the professional education; and create dialogue between academic teachers and students about ESD as part of the developmental and implementation process. This project at University of Bradford, led by Dr Nigel Lindsey, developed a tool and a process which can be used to identify the extent and nature of SD-related content, as well as opportunities for enhancing ESD in Life Sciences. The approach went beyond knowledge, including skills, values, and ethics. Read the full report, including audit outcomes, at:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd\\_lifescience](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd_lifescience)

### **ECOLOQO: WORKING TOWARDS A VISUAL LANGUAGE OF SUSTAINABILITY**

Jeremy Tridgell at University College Falmouth has created Ecoloqo, which is a website working towards a visual language of sustainability for graphic design students. If there is a contribution to a visual world that can reflect economic and societal priorities (as some suggest advertising does) then the study of how SD and design are represented in visual media can inform this. A review of the design of sustainability-themed websites was undertaken through a single

interactive website acting as both repository and learning space. Graphic design students used the portal site to collate, evaluate and archive the other sites. Initially this evolved from the interactive use of the development website. The project then developed a set of themes or tags for use in graphic design education to inform the interpretation of sustainability in the use of the Internet. As a collation of sustainability-themed bookmarks, the site provides a resource for use beyond graphic design. Read the full report at:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd\\_ecoloqo](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd_ecoloqo)

### **MAKING SUSTAINABILITY REAL: USING A GROUP-ENQUIRY APPROACH IN MASTERS RESEARCH**

This project, undertaken by Dr Geraint Ellis and Mr Tony Weekes of Queen's University – Belfast, evaluated, enhanced and disseminated the benefits of drawing together groups of students engaged in Masters research to address the multi-dimensional nature of sustainable development (SD) in practice. The project further developed an approach piloted at QUB Belfast during the 2005-06 academic year, which had focused thesis research of six students on the new fast track Planning M.Sc on identifying initiatives that will help deliver sustainable forms of regeneration for a failing Irish market Town, Clones, in Co. Monaghan. Read the full report at:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd\\_group\\_enquiry\\_masters](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd_group_enquiry_masters)

### **SOWING SEEDS**

Some will recall that part of Stephen Sterling's work at the Centre for Sustainable Futures (CSF) was to develop a 'generic module' in ESD, and the intention was to make this available through the Project. Workshops with academics at the University of Plymouth, however, made it clear that the idea of a 'generic module' was not something that academics particularly liked or welcomed. Instead, Stephen and the CSF team, working with colleagues from Education Development and Learning Facilities (EdaLT) at Plymouth, have developed a 'mark 2' model, sustainability module guidance called "Sowing Seeds". The document has been sent to three Schools for their comments and feedback. It consists of an introduction, indicating different levels of engagement with sustainability, a section indicating key sustainability concepts and learning outcomes by level from undergraduate to masters, and appendices showcasing six Plymouth modules incorporating sustainability, and another with national examples of sustainability modules accompanied by web addresses and/or contact details. The idea is that the document can give interested academics ideas which they can adapt, add to, modify, etc., in the light of their own experience and disciplinary interests, and at a level of engagement that suits their circumstances. You can download the document as it stands now: <http://csf.plymouth.ac.uk/?q=node/585>. CSF would welcome feedback from colleagues. And if you have examples of sustainability-related modules, perhaps relating to your discipline, and that you would be happy to have cited – including a web address and contact details – in the Guidance document, please let Heather know at [sustainability@heacademy.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@heacademy.ac.uk).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

In addition to the dissemination of past work, we are also working on:

- More interdisciplinary seminar series: During the 2006-2007 academic year, Dr Colin Brooks and Dr Alex Ryan facilitated a series of three meetings examining the challenges posed by the coincidence of two difficult topics – ESD and interdisciplinarity. A report on the series is available from: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd\\_interdisc\\_series2007](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/esd_interdisc_series2007) and the outcomes warrant planning for additional seminars in other parts of the UK.
- More solo HEI networking days: Again, based on successful events last year, we are offering more of these days that encourage a 'whole institution' discussion of the past, current and future presence of ESD within the institution, and to encourage consideration of the various manifestations and understandings of ESD. The next one is planned for a Scottish HEI. A report summarising the English HEI visits will be available in the next e-Newsletter.

## DISSEMINATION AND NETWORKING

### NEWLY FUNDED MINI-GRANT PROJECTS

In our last e-Newsletter, we invited applications for the funding of mini-grants designed to develop small-scale work in one or more of the following areas:

1. Explore links between employability and sustainability in the curriculum;
2. Link sustainability with careers advice and student volunteering;
3. Critique, develop and explore the notion and substance of sustainability literacy skills and how best to embed this area in the curriculum; and
4. Support student outreach programmes and integrate off-campus activity into programmes.

We are pleased to announce the awarding of funding for eight projects.

- Are Employers Seeking Sustainability-Literate Graduates? (Kingston)
- Developing Participative ESD to Enhance Links between Sustainability Literacy, Sustainability Competencies, and Employability (UWE)
- Development of Sustainability Skills through Volunteering (London Met)
- Green Collar Graduates for the Future of the Fashion Industry (London College of Fashion)
- Greening Business: Employability and Sustainability (Keele)
- Improving Student Awareness of SD and Related Employability Issues through Embedded Course Content (Hull)
- Regional Reflection: Sustainable Career Guidance (Coventry)
- Soundings in Sustainability Literacy (Gloucestershire, EAUC and Brighton)

For details, see <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/esd>

### SOUNDINGS IN SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY EVENT

One of the mini-grants funded above, entitled Soundings in Sustainability Literacy, revolves around an exploratory event in which sustainability educators from across the country gather to generate new insights into two crucial questions: what sustainability skills do graduates need to deal with the

challenges of the 21st century, and what active learning techniques can help them gain those skills? The insights generated will be transformed into a concrete and practical book and video resource which will help inform the embedding of sustainability literacy skills across higher education. The event will be held on Friday 21 November 2008. This is an EAUC project co-ordinated by Arran Stibbe, University of Gloucestershire; funded by the HE Academy ESD Project, Brighton University, and the Centre for Active Learning; and in co-operation with UNU RCE West Midlands. For details and an application pack, contact Seek Pang: [spang@glos.ac.uk](mailto:spang@glos.ac.uk)

### **ESD NETWORKS AND REGIONAL NETWORKING DAYS**

Do you have experience of, or are considering, incorporating ESD into your higher education work – or incorporating higher education into your ESD work? Statutory agencies, local authorities, voluntary and community organisations, and those working within higher education are all invited to join one of the networking lists we have created to allow individuals and organisations to find one another for collaboration on community and curriculum projects. Your details, including expertise and interests, are collected, collated and then sent back to other members for networking purposes. An e-mail list allows for periodical updates and extraordinary requests for partnerships. Links to the forms are below. All responses on the forms are made available to all other respondents in that region/nation. You may choose whether or not to receive the e-mails with updates.

In Scotland? [http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/scotland\\_f.htm](http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/scotland_f.htm)

In the South West? [http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/southwest\\_f.htm](http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/southwest_f.htm)

In Wales? [http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/wales\\_f.htm](http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/wales_f.htm)

In the West Midlands? [http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/westmidlands\\_f.htm](http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/westmidlands_f.htm)

Let us know if you find these network lists helpful as we may offer more lists in other regions... Watch this space!

Meanwhile, if you would be interested in a networking day for your region, please contact us as we may be able to offer advice and resources. Details about previous networking days are available:

East Midlands: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/sustainable\\_development\\_in\\_east\\_midlands\\_2006](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/sustainable_development_in_east_midlands_2006)

Scotland: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/sustainable\\_development\\_in\\_scotland\\_june07](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/sustainable_development_in_scotland_june07)

South West: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/sustainable\\_development\\_in\\_southwest\\_mar07](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/sustainable_development_in_southwest_mar07)

Wales: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/21\\_May\\_2008\\_ESDGC\\_Welshevent\\_Millenniumcentre](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/21_May_2008_ESDGC_Welshevent_Millenniumcentre)

### **ALL OUR FUTURES CONFERENCE**

This year, the ESD Project is not holding its own conference, but we are endorsing and supporting the major conference that CSF is holding in Plymouth in September. The details are below and interested colleagues are invited to follow it up.



## **All Our Futures Conference**

9th – 11th September 2008, The University of Plymouth

The aim of the conference is to explore, in the context of threat to our planet, how to shape and deliver an education for sustainable futures that brings hope, possibility and transformation. All aspects and levels of education are on the conference agenda; but there is particular emphasis on the contribution to be made by the universities and other institutions of higher education. Confirmed keynote speakers are Professor David Orr and Mark Lynas. Find out more at: <http://csf.plymouth.ac.uk/?q=allourfutures>

## **SUBJECT CENTRE SPOTLIGHTS**

### **HOW TO MAKE YOUR TEACHING MORE SUSTAINABLE**

This project, led by Katherine Clark of the Higher Education Academy's Centre for Bioscience, developed a series of "How to Make Your Teaching More Sustainable" sheets. Intended as guidelines, they provide information on how to make some aspects of teaching in the biosciences more sustainable and demonstrate how these changes in practice can then be raised as discussion points among students within the lecture, tutorial or lab group. The sheets consist of:

- How to... make your field trips more sustainable
- How to... make your lectures more sustainable
- How to... make your office more sustainable
- How to... make your practicals more sustainable
- How to... make your tutorials more sustainable

Download them at: <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/esd/howto.aspx>

### **NEW ESD WEBSITE FOR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION (ITE)**

ESCalate, the Higher Education Academy's Education Subject Centre, has launched a new website, offering resources, links, news and help for tutors, students, and teachers trying to embed ESD and Global Citizenship in ITE. The site is: <http://esd.escalate.ac.uk/>. As the site is still under development, please send all feedback, links and ideas to [hliebling@googlemail.com](mailto:hliebling@googlemail.com).

## NATIONAL NEWS

### ENGLAND

The Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) has published a consultation on an updated strategic statement and action plan on SD in the HE sector. It is available at <http://www.hefce.ac.uk> under Consultations. Three events will be held as part of the consultation process. These will provide a forum to discuss HEFCE's forthcoming SD action plan. It will also be an opportunity to share experiences of SD and discuss the roles and opportunities open to universities. The events are to be held in July in London and Manchester; further details are at: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/events/2008/sustain/>.

### SCOTLAND

The Universities Scotland Learning and Teaching Committee discussed the issue of ESD at recent meetings. The Committee agreed that a questionnaire should be prepared and issued to all Scottish HE institutions to gather information about existing practice in the field of ESD. The questionnaire was prepared by a consultant working with Universities Scotland and the Higher Education Academy. The resulting information will be used to inform the Scottish Government of the extent of practice within the HE sector and is intended to provide a positive picture, which will be qualitative rather than quantitative, providing an overview and an indication of trends, rather than seeking to measure activities.

The Scottish Government has launched a new £18.8 million fund to help communities take local action to tackle the global threat of climate change. The scheme is open to applications from organisations including voluntary sector, charities, schools, colleges, universities, local authorities and housing partnerships to fund projects which demonstrate a significant reduction in emissions. It is part of a wide range of efforts by the Scottish Government to reduce Scotland's carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. For details, see: [http://www.itsourfuture.co.uk/climate\\_challenge\\_fund/index.html](http://www.itsourfuture.co.uk/climate_challenge_fund/index.html)

### WALES

The Higher Education Funding Council of Wales (HEFCW) has awarded funding to each HEI in Wales to enable them to make progress on two of the actions contained within the Welsh Assembly Government's Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) strategy for action. These are:

- HEIs undertake a self-analysis of where ESDGC is being taught within their institution and where it could be further incorporated
- All HEIs are encouraged (via good practice examples) to develop a suitable environmental management system (EMS) and equivalent measures which cover all their operations in order to minimise their overall resource use to sustainable levels

In April and May, HEFCW arranged a series of discussion seminars to provide advice to HEIs in taking forward their curriculum analyses. At these seminars, the Sustainable Teaching Audit for University Curricula in Higher Education (STAUNCH) model, developed by Ken Peattie and Rodrigo Lozano of Cardiff University's BRASS research centre, was presented. Representatives from Welsh HEIs recognised the value of this model in terms of providing a sector-wide picture of ESDGC in the curriculum, and are currently in discussion as to how they might adopt a coordinated approach to their analyses. The Higher Education Academy will analyse HEI responses following submission to HEFCW in November 2008. The HEFCW circular can be found at: [http://194.81.48.132/Publications/circulars\\_5071.htm](http://194.81.48.132/Publications/circulars_5071.htm)

The HE Academy has been asked to take over the chair of the ESDGC Wales Network Group and review the ESDGC audits to help inform future developments. Professor Howard Colley, Senior Associate at the Academy with a role supporting Wales, will be taking on the chairing.

The ESDGC conference entitled "Opportunities for Leadership in Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship: The Welsh Agenda", was held at the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff on Wednesday 21 May 2008 and was attended by over 70 delegates from across Wales and the UK. The event, described as inspirational and stimulating, was addressed by Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills; Professor Merfyn Jones (Chair of Higher Education Wales (HEW)); and the Welsh arm of UUK. Professor Phil Gummett, Chief Executive of HEFCW, referred to the important work of the Academy and the Subject Centres in developing the thinking around ESDGC in Wales in HE. Presentations from these and other speakers are available: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/21\\_May\\_2008\\_ESDGC\\_Welshevent\\_Millenniumcentre](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/21_May_2008_ESDGC_Welshevent_Millenniumcentre)

To join a new networking list of people in Wales interested in ESDGC in HE: please complete the form at: [http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/wales\\_f.htm](http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/projects/esd/wales_f.htm)

For a full report on ESDGC in HE activity in Wales, please download the article in its entirety from:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/tla/sustainability/walesJune2008.pdf> (PDF 68KB).

## **OTHER NEWS IN THE SECTOR**

### **GREEN GOWN AWARD FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Gloucestershire clinched the award in the continuous improvement category, which saw entries from 31 universities and colleges from across the country. The University was recognised for its breadth of sustained activities in its role as a sustainable and socially-responsible organisation. The judges were particularly keen to see ongoing initiatives that might not deliver benefits in the short term, but create benefits over a longer period of time. The University has been working hard to ensure that its continued commitment to sustainability has gone beyond the management of its buildings and facilities to include curriculum development,

sustainable procurement, staff development and embedding sustainable practise into administrative procedures. For details, see: <http://www.glos.ac.uk/staff/news/gown.cfm>  
To see who else won Green Gown Awards this year, go to: <http://www.heepi.org.uk/>

### **MIND THE SKILLS GAP: A REVIEW OF THE SKILLS WE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

This Arup Report, commissioned by the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC), identifies a significant shortage of skilled professionals able to deliver sustainable communities between now and 2012, and highlights the need for a widespread national programme to address this shortage. Key skills gaps rest within the planning, engineering, surveying, economic development, housing and community development sectors. ASC plans to address these gaps by liaising with professional institutes and education partners to offer a number of initiatives, including careers campaigns, short courses and a foundation degree. For more information, see: <http://www.ascskills.org.uk/pages/research/mind-the-skills-gap>

### **THE GLOBAL UNIVERSITY: THE ROLE OF SENIOR MANAGERS**

The Development Education Association (DEA) and Bournemouth University have published *The Global University: the role of senior managers*, a major new publication to support universities in addressing the challenges of SD, globalisation and internationalisation. Written by senior managers for senior managers, it provides practical examples to support universities in learning from each other's work in this crucial area. This publication is supported by a HEFCE Leadership, Governance and Management grant. It is the companion publication to *The Global University: the role of the curriculum* (DEA, 2007). For more details, see: <http://tinyurl.com/49gqlc>

### **FIRST ECOCAMPUS AWARDS**

As part of the Pilot project of the EcoCampus scheme (funded by HEFCE via the LGM fund), nine universities have already achieved the Bronze Phase Award, with two universities gaining a Silver Phase Award for their dedication and progress towards improved environmental sustainability. For details, see: <http://www.ecocampus.co.uk/presence%20in%20press.htm>

### **A BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOAL: MARKETING UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY CREDENTIALS**

The first Centre for Sustainable Futures (CSF) Occasional Paper appeared in April 2008. Entitled "A Big Hairy Audacious Goal: Marketing University Sustainability Credentials", it was researched and written by David Selby, Paula Jones and Fumiyo Kagawa with research assistance from Centre Fellow, Harriet Sjerps-Jones. It is available on the CSF website: <http://csf.plymouth.ac.uk/?q=marketing>

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS COURSES AT DERBY**

As a new member of the Carbon Trust, whose mission it is to accelerate the move to a low carbon economy by working with organisations to reduce carbon emissions and develop commercial low carbon technologies, the University of

Derby is promoting better education of environmental issues to all. The university, through their “Curriculum Fit for the Future” initiative, has tasked a collaborative team of academics from multiple disciplines to develop a suite of stand-alone environmental programmes. Each award is based on two modules @ 15 CATS credits at Level 4, and these can then be combined to complete a University Certificate. These programmes of study will be accessible through the award-winning Learning Through Work Framework which is dedicated to promote widening participation and an individually-designed approach to learning. Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/4ge5ju>

### **CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES (CSF): MAY eNEWSLETTER**

The latest edition of the CSF Newsletter is now available in electronic form on the CSF website. Articles include information on the upcoming All Our Futures conference (also see above); new student placements; the procurement working group; and health and sustainability. See: <http://csf.plymouth.ac.uk/?q=newsletter>

### **PUBLICATIONS ON SYSTEMS THINKING AND SD**

The Open University hosts papers on systems thinking and many of them are relevant to ESD. In particular, “Systems Thinking and Practice for Action Research” by Ray Ison (2008) and “Learning Participation as Systems Practice” by Ray Ison, Chris Blackmore and Rosalind Armson (2007). See: [http://oro.open.ac.uk/view/faculty\\_dept/tech-sd.html](http://oro.open.ac.uk/view/faculty_dept/tech-sd.html)

### **THE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AT BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY (BU)**

The centre, headed up by Chris Shiel, will have a key role to play in developing BU's holistic approach to global perspectives – an approach which aligns global citizenship and SD but also embraces many of the activities that are undertaken in HEIs under 'internationalisation'. The centre is tasked with substantially developing the 'internationalisation at home' agenda – as more needs to be done to develop the global perspective of UK students and to secure greater cross-cultural learning. For more information, see:

[http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/newsandevents/News/2008/may08/global\\_centre\\_unveils\\_new\\_director.html](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/newsandevents/News/2008/may08/global_centre_unveils_new_director.html)

### **ESD DRIVERS AND DIRECTION: A SHORT REPORT**

The England position paper submitted at a February 2007 international meeting in Amsterdam to discuss the implementation of ESD within HE curricula in Western European countries, documented the authors' views of the positive and negative activities and processes affecting the embedding of sustainability in the curriculum. (See: [http://www.eauc.org.uk/first\\_international\\_meeting\\_on\\_implementation\\_of\\_e](http://www.eauc.org.uk/first_international_meeting_on_implementation_of_e)). Now a new mini piece of research, entitled “Sustainability in the HE Curriculum: the Drivers and Direction”, has been conducted 14 months later to reassess the situation and this short summary outlines the results, focusing on current drivers and the direction of the ESD agenda. Download at: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/tla/sustainability/csf\\_drivers.pdf](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/tla/sustainability/csf_drivers.pdf) (PDF 72KB).

## **ECOVERSITY AT UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD UPDATE**

The University of Bradford ESD project, Ecoversity StuDent, is coming to the end of its first phase of activity. Since hosting the HE Academy's July 2007 ESD conference, Bradford has been setting up their three curricula model of ESD delivery. The ESD academic pioneer strand is nearing the end of the first curriculum review cycle and each of the seven academic schools are bringing forward their three-year ESD action plans. The informal curriculum activity, led by Sheri-Leigh Miles, has developed a series of student engagement projects and activities, most recently supporting the final-year student party on the AMP which featured: a fair trade, second-hand clothes fashion show, Bag It Up; a student-led recycling initiative freecycle; and a green move-out promotion. The first Ecoversity newsletter has just been issued, which seeks to develop two-way educational exchanges between the staff and students and the University around SD. This forms the basis for the first Ecoversity newspaper – led by Christine Sefton – coming out at the end of June, which is written by staff and students and includes honest reflection on the Ecoversity project to date. An Ecoversity briefing paper series on project activity to inform staff and students has also just launched. The longitudinal research project, led by Lou Comerford-Boyes, is starting to gather data on the impact of Bradford's activities on students. This will form the basis of the research paper series. Estates work is also beginning to develop and a number of new projects are developing in response to requests from staff and students. This work is led by Ben Tongue and Jamie Sullivan. There is a lot more happening as well. If you are interested to learn more go to: <http://www.brad.ac.uk/ecoversity/> or contact Dr Peter Hopkinson, Director of ESD at [p.g.hopkinson@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:p.g.hopkinson@bradford.ac.uk)

## **SUSTAINABILITY AND EDUCATION: TOWARDS A CULTURE OF CRITICAL COMMITMENT**

This special issue of the *International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development* is now available. Guest edited by Dr Stephen Sterling and Dr James Gray-Donald, it includes articles by researchers and staff at the Centre for Sustainable Futures at the University of Plymouth, as well as other familiar names in the HE sector. For details, see:

<http://www.inderscience.com/browse/index.php?journalID=33&year=2007&vol=2&issue=3/4>

## **WORK, LEARNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Subtitled Opportunities and Challenges, this new book is the first that provides a comprehensive overview of the way countries, education systems and institutions have responded to the call for an integration of learning for work, citizenship and sustainability. For details, see:

<http://www.springer.com/education/professional+&+vocational+education/book/978-1-4020-8193-4>

## **CALL FOR PAPERS: MEDIATED CROSS-CULTURAL LEARNING IN THE PURSUIT OF SUSTAINABILITY**

A special issue of the *Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension* aims to explore a range of carefully designed education and extension programmes that can be characterised by 'learning on the edges' or the kind of learning that

emerges when researchers from seemingly unrelated fields (such as social psychology, business management, education and ecology) interact around issues of sustainability. Deadline for manuscripts is August 1st 2008. For more information, contact Nadarajah Sriskandarajah:

<http://www.sol.slu.se/environ/staff/sriskandarajah.asp>

### **VACANCY: CO-DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME**

London South Bank University is seeking a well-qualified and experienced person to work with the existing Co Director, Ros Wade, in developing this exciting and cutting edge international programme in education for sustainability (EFS). For details, see:

[http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/php4-cgiwrap/efs/studentintranet/bb/jobcontent.php?id=1841&thread=867&bb\\_wgroupid=78&theme=38](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/php4-cgiwrap/efs/studentintranet/bb/jobcontent.php?id=1841&thread=867&bb_wgroupid=78&theme=38)

### **TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE HIGHER EDUCATION: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CONVENTIONAL CAMPUS, PRINT-BASED AND ELECTRONIC/OPEN LEARNING SYSTEMS**

This paper, written by Robin Roy, Stephen Potter, and Karen Yarrow, reports the results of a study that forms part of a wider project called *Factor 10 Visions*, which itself builds upon previous research on eco-design and work conducted for an Open University course. The project explores the potential for radical changes in selected product-service systems to address climate change and other global environmental issues. The paper is available from:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/tla/sustainability/towards\\_sustain\\_roy.pdf](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/tla/sustainability/towards_sustain_roy.pdf) (PDF 208KB).

### **CPD IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY?**

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) has a BSc course in Sustainable Environmental Management producing the first batch of Honours graduates this July. Subject matter covers a wide range of environmental, economic and social subject areas with the aim of producing broad-based, confident communicators capable of working in a variety of environmental vocations. The HNC is now delivered by distance learning and John MacDonald of SAC would be interested to hear your opinions on whether a CPD Qualification containing a suite of six flexible SQA HN units, done over one or two years after initial teacher training, might help solve the provision of information, certification and progression in SD for recently qualified teachers. Units in Environmental Awareness, Sustainable Transport, Ecology, Resource Economics, Waste Management and Environmental Management would go a long way to addressing the needs of teachers in SD. Each unit is worth eight SCQF credits, with learning materials being a mix of presentations, readings, sound files and case studies. If this idea interests you, please email: [john.macdonald@sac.ac.uk](mailto:john.macdonald@sac.ac.uk). Further information on the courses can be found at <http://www.sac.ac.uk>

### **SURVEY ON SD CONTENT IN AGRICULTURAL COURSES**

Would you be willing to respond to a survey about SD content in agriculture courses in Scotland? As part of an MSc project, John MacDonald is seeking individuals from a wide range of stakeholder groups who would be willing to fill in

a questionnaire or be interviewed about their views on what would be appropriate SD content in agricultural qualifications. Email: [john.macdonald@sac.ac.uk](mailto:john.macdonald@sac.ac.uk).

### **TRANSITION UNIVERSITIES?**

If you listen to the radio, watch TV, read newspapers or magazines, chances are you will have heard of the Transition Movement. Transition Communities are villages, towns, and cities that are looking peak oil and climate change squarely in the eye and unleashing their collective genius to find answers to these big questions. As part of this movement, the University of Bristol hosted a Transition Town Research Workshop on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008. Around 20 academics and post-graduate students attended this event, whose mission was to build links between the Transition Movement and academia. There are three areas where academia and Transition Towns overlap:

1. University of Transition: A network of courses and institutions relevant to transition
2. University in Transition: How universities adapt themselves to a low carbon future
3. Collaborative Research: research which benefits both the researcher and the transition movement/initiative

An account of the day is available from: <http://totnes.transitionnetwork.org/node/930> and the current guidelines for collaborative research can be found at: <http://totnes.transitionnetwork.org/central/research>. Additionally, a Transition Town JISCMail email list has been set up for those who are interested in keeping up-to-date with this area. To subscribe, email: [jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk) and in the body write: 'join TRANSITION-TOWNS your\_first\_name your\_surname'. If you require any further assistance please email [paul@lqm.co.uk](mailto:paul@lqm.co.uk).

### **AUDIT INSTRUMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

A new book is available, which has been roughly translated from Dutch. Entitled *Audit Instrument for Sustainability in Higher Education* (AISHE), it might be useful for those involved in institutional transformation for ESD. For details, and to download the book, go to: <http://www.dho.nl:80/index.php?mid=130>

### **ESD CONFERENCE PLANS IN 2009?**

Chris Shiel of Bournemouth University sends the following message: "We have held our last two ESD and Global Citizenship conferences in 2005 and 2007, which means we might consider the third next year, in Sept 2009. My concern however, is that, at times, the sector seems overwhelmed by conferences and competing events – what do others think? Or do those of you who have been enjoy the trip to Bournemouth? We have had a delightful group of people to the last two events – is the interest still there for a third event? Is anyone else planning something for a similar time? Should we still keep the theme that brings together the different perspectives? Would someone else like to be involved with us? Any responses appreciated. [cshiel@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:cshiel@bournemouth.ac.uk)" Details about the past conferences are available at:

[http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/the\\_global\\_dimension/global\\_perspectives/news\\_events.html](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/the_global_dimension/global_perspectives/news_events.html)

## EVENTS IN THE SECTOR

### **Learning Journeys towards Sustainability**

London, Friday 20 June 2008

This conference is for anyone who is engaged with education for sustainability.

Conference aims:

- To explore the influences that lead to individual and institutional commitment to sustainability
- To share professional practice of sustainability at individual and institutional levels
- To provide delegates with an opportunity to reflect on how they can develop their own professional and institutional practice.

Everyone involved in education for sustainability is on a journey, and whilst each journey is unique, we can learn a great deal from each other that will help our own journey in this field. The conference brings together examples of journeys from different sectors of education and from different geographical contexts. The conference is not just about sharing experiences, it will also provide an opportunity for all delegates to reflect on their own learning journeys and focus on future actions. See: <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/efs/conference/conf2008.shtml>

### **Giving Voice to the Earth**

London, Thursday 26 June 2008

### **Engaging for a Sustainable Future**

Queensland, Australia, 9-11 July 2008

### **UK ITE Network for Education for Sustainable Development/Global Citizenship**

London, Thursday 10 July 2008

### **All Our Futures: Education Waking to Threat, Hope, and Possibility**

Plymouth, 9–11 September 2008

See above for details

### **Student Volunteering in HE Conference: Transitions and Turning Points**

Wolverhampton, Thursday 11 September 2008

### **Future Ethics: a Workshop Series on Climate Change, Political Action and the Future of the Human**

Manchester, Friday 19 September 2008

### **Novel Approaches to Promoting Student Engagement**

Ulster, Thursday 30 October 2008

### **Climate Change and Violence: Workshop Series Autumn 2008-2010**

Southampton, Friday 14 November 2008

Crisis Forum is convening a series of seven, one-day workshops to explore and interrogate the connections between accelerating anthropogenic climate change and the potentiality for violence in all its forms. Anyone with an interest in this area – whether academics, from NGOs, think-tanks, policy makers in government or business, or independent researchers – are invited, subject to numbers, to participate. The series is directed by Dr. Mark Levene of the University of Southampton. Subsequent workshops will be held at diverse venues throughout the country, and run from autumn 2008 until autumn 2010. The series findings will be made available on a dedicated website, which will be developed into a report for policy makers and the wider public. Crisis Forum currently invites expressions of interest and papers for any of the workshops outlined in the full workshop proposal/programme available at [http://www.crisis-forum.org.uk/CCandV\\_Prop2008.htm](http://www.crisis-forum.org.uk/CCandV_Prop2008.htm) Please contact the project coordinator, Marianne McKiggan, [marianne@crisis-forum.org.uk](mailto:marianne@crisis-forum.org.uk) if you require any further information, would like to attend any of the workshops, have an abstract to submit, or have any other queries, comments, ideas or suggestions.

### **Soundings in Sustainable Literacy**

University of Gloucestershire, Friday 21 November 2008

See above for details

### **The Internationalising of UK Higher Education Learning and Teaching**

Edinburgh, 27-28 November 2008

### **Future Ethics: a Workshop Series on Climate Change, Political Action and the Future of the Human**

Manchester, Friday 16 January 2009

For more details, see:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/learning/sustainability/esd\\_events](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/learning/sustainability/esd_events)

### **CONTACT AND FEEDBACK**

Let us know:

- if you find this e-Newsletter useful (or not!)
- if you have items for our next edition (Deadline: 1 September 2008, Publication: 15 September 2008). We prefer one paragraph with a link to more information.
- if you are receiving this from more than one source and/or would like to be removed

Contact the editor, Heather Witham, at: [sustainability@heacademy.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@heacademy.ac.uk)

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/esd>