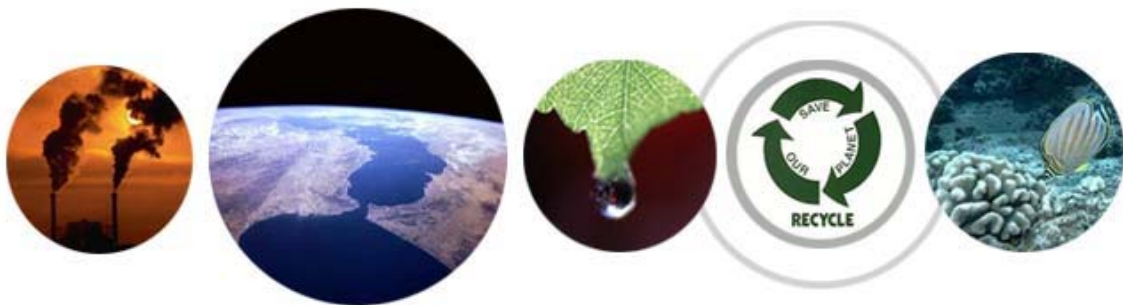


Introduction

Professional Development Kit for Teachers and Trainers



Developed by

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Why was this toolkit developed?

A New Vision for Education

Education for sustainability is an emerging but dynamic concept that encompasses a new vision of education that seeks to “*empower people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future*”

- *There is a need to refocus many existing education policies, programs and practices so that they build the concepts, skills, motivation and commitment needed for sustainable development.*
- *Lifelong learning, including adult and community education, appropriate technical and vocational education, higher education and teacher education are all vital ingredients of capacity building for a sustainable future.”¹*

This vision of education emphasizes a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to developing the knowledge and skills needed for a sustainable future as well as changes in values, behaviour, and lifestyles.

Education will shape the world of tomorrow — it is the most effective means that society possesses for confronting the challenges of the future and is the primary agent of transformation to move to a more sustainable world. Progress increasingly depends upon educated minds: upon research, invention, innovation and adaptation. While education is not the whole answer to every problem, in its broadest sense, education must be a vital part of all efforts to imagine and create new relations among people and to foster greater respect for the needs of the environment.

Education not only provides scientific and technical skills, it also provides the motivation, justification, and social support for pursuing and applying them. Improving the quality and coverage of education and reorienting its goals to recognize the importance of sustainable development must be among society’s highest priorities.

There are over 60 million teachers in the world, and every one is potentially a key agent for bringing about the changes in values and lifestyles needed for sustainable development. But, education is not confined to the classrooms of formal education. As an approach to social learning, education for sustainable development also encompasses the wide range of learning activities in basic and post-basic education, technical and vocational training and tertiary education, and both non-formal and informal learning by both young people and adults within their families and workplaces and in the wider community. This means that all of us have important roles to play as both ‘learners’ and ‘teachers’ in advancing sustainable development. Consequently, innovative teacher education is needed to tap this potential.

It is hoped that teachers will be able to use this toolkit to engage with this important challenge and that these resources will assist teachers to act as agents of change for a better world in the future.

How to use this resource

This toolkit is designed for teachers to be able to deliver the concepts of sustainability into their everyday teaching regardless of the type of discipline they are teaching. It

¹ UNESCO (1997) *Environment and Society: Education and public awareness for sustainability*, Background Paper prepared for UNESCO International Conference, Thessaloniki, 7.

has been designed to be delivered in **more than one session**, so educators should consider introducing sustainability into a series of sessions. It is sectioned into

Module 1 – What is sustainability?

- An introduction to the concept - listed as resources and activities and set out in a lesson guide with each of the following provided:
 - *Introduction*
 - *Outcomes*
 - *Workshop outline*
 - *Materials required*
 - *Resources*
 - *Additional reading*
 - *Activities*
 - *Sustainabingo*
 - *Why is sustainability an issue?*
 - *Interpreting sustainability and sustainable development (lecture + group activity)*
 - *The challenge of balancing interests (group activity)*
- Information within the resources can be cut and pasted and adjusted for your particular environment
- A series of PowerPoint slides can also be used either the way they are or be manipulated for customization
- Additional resources are listed at the end of the kit

Module 2 – Sustainability and the Role of Education

- An introduction to the application of sustainability in teaching through:
 - *Introduction*
 - *Outcomes*
 - *Workshop outline*
 - *Materials required*
 - *Resources*
 - *Additional reading*
 - *Activities*
 - *The role of education in sustainable development*
 - *Sustainability training and the VET sector*
 - *Supporting sustainability training through good practice*
 - *Integrating sustainability into your training*

Module 3 – Applying Sustainability in Practice

- An introduction to the application of sustainability in teaching through:
 - *Introduction*
 - *Outcomes*
 - *Workshop outline*
 - *Materials required*
 - *Resources*
 - *Additional reading*
 - *Activities*
 - *The framework for engaging students on sustainability*
 - *Your ecological footprint (on-line activity)*
 - *Approaches to sustainable practice (lecture)*
 - *Sustainability and you (group activity)*

- *Consolidation*
 - *Resources*
 - *1.1 Sustainabingo*
 - *1.2 Learning from the past*
 - *1.3 Why is sustainability an issue?*
 - *1.4 Case study – one can of Cola*
 - *1.5 Key environmental issues*
 - *1.6 Definitions of Sustainability*
 - *1.7 Concepts relating to sustainability*
 - *1.8 Case study – coral reef*
 - *1.9 Coal Reef – role playing scenario*
 - *2.0 Implementing Sustainable Practices*
 - *2.2 Twelve case studies*
 - *2.3 Sustainability and you*
 - *Appendix of references and additional resources*
- Under activities, a recommended framework for delivery has been developed which is based on work undertaken by Forum of the Future UK.²
- Activities also include a wide range of resources (as listed above) which can be used to generate a dynamic learning experience for students which again can be modified to suit the particular group of students
- A series of PowerPoint slides are also associated with the activities which can be customized

² Forum for the Future - www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/