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What is Education for Sustainable Development ?

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is an interdisciplinary approach to learning that covers the integrated social economic and environmental dimensions of the formal and informal curriculum. ESD is a pedagogical approach that can help staff assist graduates who wish to develop the skills knowledge and experience to contribute to an environmentally and ethically responsible society and pursue a career that reflects those values. (taken from Advance HE).

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LD Sustainability: Crib Sheet 1

Sustainability in Module Design

What is the aim/focus of the resource?

This resource has two main aims:

- To raise awareness with teams about the possibility of embedding sustainability and sustainability principles in module design.
- To encourage teams to seek support or have a conversation with a Learning Designer or Sustainability Lead to understand how sustainability could be embedded in modules.

Link / QR code to PDF



[Resource](#)

How could I use the resource with a module team?

You can use the resource prior to a LD Workshop or meeting to start the team thinking about sustainability and how it might relate to their module.

You may find the following prompts useful to initiate conversation. Each prompt links with a resource on crib sheet 2 or 3:

- Do you want certain sustainable skills and competencies woven into the student journey? (**See Crib Sheet 3**).
- Do you want to use Student Voice to help drive sustainability focused content design? (**See Crib Sheet 3**).
- Do you want to know more about the current resources on the OU's platform Open Learn? (**See Crib Sheet 3**).
- Do you want more information about what the Higher Education sector is doing more broadly? (**See Crib Sheet 2 and 3**).
- Do you want practical ways to make learning outcomes connect to sustainable skills development? (**See Crib Sheet 3**).

Possible additional action

- You may wish to signpost teams to relevant sustainability leads or representatives.

Sustainability Resources in HE

What is the aim/focus of the resource?

- To provide teams with some initial resources grouped by theme to expand their knowledge about Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Link / QR code
for PDF



Resource

How could I use the resource with a module team?

- Share if teams have responded positively to the Stage 1 resource, or if there is a follow up about sustainability after the Stage 1 resource has been engaged with.
- Share if conversations about sustainability have come up organically and they are looking for resources or ways to include it.
- Share when discussing design opportunities and challenges of a module. The resource may support discussion and inform design recommendations going forward.
- Share when discussing a specific activity or design session with a team to help narrow the discussion.
- If the team have not yet established their learning outcomes, you could explore ways to connect sustainability with these.

Elements to consider:

- The team may not have time to look at all the links to items on the resource. Help them focus on a select few areas to engage with.
- It may also help to narrow the focus of the discussion by providing the 'Where to begin?' resource. (**See Crib Sheet 3**).

Sustainability - Where to Begin?

What is the aim/focus of the resource?

- To lead on from interest generated from the 'Sustainability in Module Design' resource. It helps colleagues narrow their focus and directs conversation by providing four suggested routes to take to engage with sustainability in module design.

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Resource

How could I use the resource with a module team?

- Share if teams have responded positively to the 'Sustainability in Module Design' resource, or if there is a follow up about sustainability after this resource has been engaged with.
- Share if conversations about sustainability with teams come up organically and they are looking for resources or ways to include it.
- Share when discussing design opportunities and challenges of a module. The resource may support discussion and inform design recommendations going forward.
- Share when discussing a specific activity or design session with a team to help narrow the discussion.
- If the team have not yet established their learning outcomes, you could explore ways to connect sustainability with these.
- Share if you are having discussions about Student Voice.

Support for your conversations with the four areas:

- **Learning Outcomes / Skills for Sustainability:** See Crib Sheet 4.
- **Student Voice:** See Crib Sheet 5.
- **Existing resources on Open Learn:** See Crib Sheet 6.
- **The Role of HE in Sustainability:** See Crib Sheet 7.

Key Competencies

Link / QR code for PDFs

What is the aim/focus of the resources?

This resource has three main aims:

- To visualise the key sustainability competencies developed by UNESCO.
- To encourage teams to consider how their content already supports sustainability competencies, and provide language to articulate this.
- To demonstrate that the inclusion of sustainability doesn't have to be through content specifically focused on sustainability.



[Resource 1](#)



[Resource 2](#)



[Resource 3](#)

How could I use the resources with a module team?

- When teams are developing learning outcomes to consider language used.
- In 'Storyboarding' sessions when considering the skills that support or make up the student journey.
- When in discussion about specific activities and the skills linked to them (e.g. If the activity relates to critical thinking there would be a clear link to the resources).
- Along with the LD sustainability skills cards developed with Student Voice input. The skills cards are specifically designed to sit alongside the competency resources linked on this crib sheet. They support teams to consider language that could be used in learning outcomes or activities. They also show how existing frameworks like employability connect with the skills.

Possible additional actions

- Remind teams that they don't have to use the exact words from the competency resources, synonyms are fine.
- Support teams to consider how skills link with internal frameworks e.g. employability. You may find it useful to connect with the module employability contact.

Student Voice

What is the aim/focus of the resources?

This resource has three aims:

- To provide a snapshot of student views on sustainable development and the role of higher education.
- To spotlight the use of Student Voice in module design.
- To encourage teams to use Student Voice in the co-design of learning experiences.

Link / QR code for PDF



[Resource](#)

How could I use the resources with a module team?

- In discussion with teams about possible focuses for Student Voice input in the design of learning experiences.
- When considering the development of activities or learning experiences that relate to sustainability.
- As a way to promote students as equal partners in Education for Sustainable Development.

Possible additional actions

Support teams to reflect on the following:

- If you plan to use Student Voice consider the requirements of that process and how Student Voice might be connected with?
- Be explicit with the impact that students have had on the design of sustainability related elements and share this with future students and other members of staff.

Existing Resources on OpenLearn

What is the aim/focus of the resources?

This resource has three main aims:

- To spotlight the articles and free courses available at the Sustainability Hub on OpenLearn.
- To promote OpenLearn and provoke curiosity to explore resources.
- To support awareness and knowledge of sustainability issues and actions.

Link / QR code for PDF



[Resource](#)

How could I use the resources with a module team?

- In discussions with module teams about student induction.
- To encourage OpenLearn resources to be linked to from within module content where appropriate.
- As examples of OU material related to sustainability that can be reused/adapted.
- To develop your own knowledge.
- In discussion about sustainability topics with teams.

Possible additional actions

Reflect with teams about the possible application of each area explored in the OpenLearn Sustainability Hub i.e.

- **Explore:** an introduction to sustainability issues.
- **Empower:** examples of others taking action in different areas of sustainability.
- **Do:** examples of how you can start taking action.

The role of HE in Sustainability

What is the aim/focus of the resources?

This resource has two main aims:

- To highlight existing frameworks and guidelines for HE providers that advise how to embed sustainable development and education for sustainable development in curricula.
- To encourage teams to explore the QAA website for further guidance, resources and examples.

Link / QR code for PDF



[Resource](#)

How could I use the resources with a module team?

- To explain that this is reference material to be explored in more detail outside of discussion or sessions.
- You can refer to this if you want to find more in depth information about Education for Sustainable Development.

Possible additional actions

Direct readers to the QAA/AdvanceHE guidance on education for sustainable development by following the link below:

- **[Education for Sustainable Development Guidance](#)**

The team may not have time to look through all of the guidance. You could signpost a few areas for them to start with.