

# NEWSLETTER

## News in Brief

*Keeping you up to date on the London RCE for ESD  
and the global RCE Movement*

### Happy Endings and New Beginnings

This year marks a decade of existence since the inception of the global movement of Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs). It also marks the end of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD 2005-2014), upon which the global RCE movement was founded and dedicated. As the year drew to a close, a series of commemorative events were hosted in Japan that brought the global ESD community together. The UNU-IAS held the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) Conference in Okayama, Japan on 4–7 November 2014. It was one of the major stakeholder meetings convened prior to the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), held in Nagoya, Japan on 10–12 November.



Photo Credit: UNU- RCE Network

### Celebrating 10 years of RCEs at the 9<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference

During the course of the 9<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference, meetings and discussions allowed participants to reflect on the successes and challenges the global RCE movement has faced over the last ten years and consider the lessons learnt from the UN-DESD. Discussions also took place around identifying appropriate ways to take the RCE networks forward as part of the post-2015 agenda. The 'Okayama Declaration' was presented at the close of the conference, which reinforced the RCE community's commitment to strategies within the UNESCO's proposed Global Action Programme (GAP).

## Welcome to the first London ESD Newsletter!



Professor Ros Wade

There is a wealth of activity across London by individuals and organisations committed to promoting sustainable living and livelihoods. Much interesting work is going on in education, learning and advocacy – but this is not always effectively disseminated or shared. London is both a collection of villages and also a global city and there is an abundance of national, outward looking and very small local orientated organisations. There is potential for much learning and synergy and ESDLondon is attempting to address this by

- Providing a forum for dialogue and action to empower communities to live out sustainability principles
- Adding value to existing ESD networks and initiatives in London by developing, sharing and applying effective expertise

We hope that you enjoy this first issue of our Newsletter and feel encouraged to contribute in the future.

# News in Brief Continued...

## UNESCO World Conference on ESD: Looking to the Future of ESD

The UNESCO World Conference on ESD brought the global education sector together under the theme 'Learning Today for a Sustainable Future' to celebrate the achievements of the DESD and reflect on the challenges faced and lessons learnt. At the conference, UNESCO presented the final report '[Shaping the Future We Want](#)'. This report assesses the growth of ESD throughout the Decade and sets out to provide an updated picture of ESD at the end of the Decade. The report also features lessons learnt and draws conclusions for future actions on ESD. In addition, the '[Aichi-Ngoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development](#)' was adopted, calling for urgent action to further strengthen and scale up ESD and inviting governments of UNESCO Member States to make further efforts towards achieving the goals of ESD.



Photo Credit: UNESCO

## Post-2015 Agenda: GAP & SDGs

Looking to the future, we witnessed the launch of the 'Global Action Programme' (GAP) at the conference and the release of the '[UNESCO Roadmap for implementing the post-2014 Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development \(GAP\)](#)'. As part of the post-2015 agenda, the goal of the GAP is to accelerate progress towards sustainable development by scaling up and generating action in all levels and areas of learning and education.

The GAP has two objectives:

- to reorient education and learning so that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development – and make a difference;
- to strengthen education and learning in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development.

In addition to the GAP, the 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) will constitute part of the post-2015 development agenda. SDGs are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years. The SDGs follow, and build upon, the millennium development goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments in 2000, and are due to expire at the end of this year, with an aim to converge with the post 2015 development agenda. These will be launched later this year at the United Nations Summit in 2015.

There are 17 proposed SDGs that are established to contribute towards bringing about sustainable change globally by 2030. Out of the 17 SDGs, Goal 4 identifies action to be taken in the sphere of ESD.

**Goal 4: *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all***

Evidently, the UNDESD has acted as a catalyst promoting insight into the necessity of ESD, advancing ESD practices around the world and reinforcing a sense of responsibility for sustainable development through education and learning. However, it is more important than ever before that we look to the future in order maintain the momentum gained in order to scale up and generate action.

## London ESD: The Past, Present and Future

The past year has proved to be an exciting year for the LESD. Looking back at 2014, the LESD hosted an RCE conference under the banner 'Supporting employability, society and the environment: a curriculum for sustainability' at London South Bank University. The conference proved to be a huge success, bringing together members from education, business and community to share expertise and present their work centred on addressing sustainability issues. A major development from the event has been the compilation of some of the papers presented at the conference in a special ESD edition of the journal [Local Economy](#).

In order to maintain momentum, the LRCE has a number of exciting activities and projects planned out for 2015. We started off the year by designing our first ever newsletter, which will help us stay in touch with you and keep you up-to-date on any new ESD initiatives and developments. Our website is also in the process of being updated with lots of new, interesting material.

What is more, we have been busy setting up a new communi-

ty-based ESD initiative working with Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs). With increasing negative coverage of refugees and asylum seekers in the media and public anti-sentiment on the rise, we felt that there was unexplored potential for learning and synergy.

Over the past few months we have been in dialogue with several RCOs to identify how we could best support them and the refugee communities they support. After careful consideration and discussion, a new event is currently in the works. This event was inspired by the desire to promote universities as places accessible to all, with the hope of breaking down some of the underlying barriers that prevent refugees from seizing learning and educational opportunities in the UK. The event will be hosted at London South Bank University on the 9th of June under the banner 'Lifelong Learning: Sustaining Educational Journeys'. Fifty refugee participants will be invited to attend our event, centred on sharing educational experiences and celebrating refugee resilience through storytelling. Several refugee speakers will tap into the power of storytelling to share their inspiring educational journeys with our audience.



Photo Credit: Asitha Jayawardena

## International RCEs in the Spotlight

### New Members

Today, the global RCE network comprises of 135 RCEs! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome six new RCEs, namely Central Kenya, Mount Kenya, Central Semenanjung (Malaysia), Iskandar (Malaysia), Black Forest (Germany) and Greater Western Paris.

### Congratulations to RCE Saskatchewan!

RCE Saskatchewan has been a long-standing partner of the LRCE and was one of the first RCEs to be accredited by the UNU. At the 9th Global RCE Conference, RCE SK received global recognition awards for two of its projects in ESD: the *Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative* and the *RCE SK K-12 ESD Website*.

### RCE Greater Sendai : ESD and Disaster Risk Reduction

RCE Greater Sendai has organized the forum 'Fostering DRR through Education for Sustainable Development' at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) hosted in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan, on 16th of March. DRR education has grown as a major component of ESD, particularly since the March 2011 earthquake in the Tohoku area. As leading promoters of ESD, the organizers presented practical DRR educational programs from local elementary, junior high and high schools. Practitioners were invited to explore the contribution of ESD to DRR and develop a framework from their common ground for a better future for children.

### RCE Severn: New Steering Group Members

A warm welcome to RCE Severn's new members!

# Members' Matters

Spreading ESD Through Sharing

## London ESD

### Curriculum Group

By Ros Wade

Over 80 educators from the HE and FE sectors came together with interested participants from the business sector and community organisations for a conference at London South Bank University (LSBU) on June 10th 2014 to share ideas and present the work they have been doing in addressing issues of sustainability through the curriculum. We were also pleased to welcome members of several European RCEs.

A wide range of areas were covered from a wide variety of perspectives. Focusing on interdisciplinary appreciation and learning, Nicola Kemp (of Canterbury Christ Church University) examined an interesting approach in relation to 'Connecting Children and Nature Network' by reminding us that knowledge transfer starts with the young and their interactions with wider networks of formal and informal networks. Further up the age scale, Maria Xypaki's assessment of the Green Dragons' project in City University (London) described the role that students can play in influencing behavioural change within the academic community and others by crossing boundaries and promoting sustainability through practical solutions that promote learning. In relation to product design, Deborah Andrews, of

London South Bank University (LSBU), investigates the creativity involved in "Design Thinking and Education for Sustainability" and discusses the extent to which disposable models of consumption are embedded in world economies and calls for the alternative 'circular economy' to be taken from theory to production

This conference was the result of a collaboration between London RCE with the not-for-profit conference organisation, 4All of us. A selection of the best papers will be published in June 2015 in a special ESD edition of the journal [Local Economy](#).

Another conference is planned for June 2016 to try to address 'today's interconnected global challenges .. that are rooted in the spirit of our collective humanity. The risks and opportunities we face call for a paradigm shift that can only be embedded in our societies through education and learning' (Irina Bokova, UNESCO 2014).

Keep a look out for further information on the [London ESD web site](#).



Photo Credit: Asitha Jayawardena

## ESD and Politics

### Working Group

By Hugh Atkinson

#### New book published

2015 saw the publication of Hugh Atkinson and Ros Wade's edited book *The challenge of sustainability: linking politics, education, and learning*, published by Policy Press. The book argues that if we are to meet the complex challenges of combating climate change and building a more sustainable world, we need a fundamental change in the way we do politics and economics, embedding a lifelong commitment to sustainability in all learning.

#### London ESD in the USA

Hugh Atkinson and Ros Wade presented a joint paper at the American Midwest Political Studies Association annual conference in Chicago on April 16 on the importance of the role of education in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs (which are still in draft form) are the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which come to an end in 2015.

#### London ESD at the UK Political Studies Association

Hugh Atkinson and Ros Wade ran a panel at the annual UK Political Studies Association in Sheffield on March 30 discussing the key themes of their recently published book *The challenge of sustainability: linking politics education and learning* (Policy Press, 2015)

# Members' Matters Continued...

## ***Up, up and away... LSBU awarded First Class in the Green League Table***

By Daniela Nofal

People & Planet's University League, also referred to as the 'Green League', is the only comprehensive and independent league table of UK universities ranked by environmental and ethical performance. In January, the 2015 league table was published. Surprisingly, 69 out of the 151 universities decided not to take part this year, resulting in a total of 82 universities taking part, down from 143 last year and 146 the year before that.

On a more hopeful note, despite these dwindling numbers, universities are clearly becoming greener than they have ever been, with Plymouth University topping the charts in first place, and many other universities reinforcing their commitment to the environment. London South Bank University has been one of them displaying a remarkable improvement. This year, it was awarded a first class and was ranked in 17th place. This impressive result is an increase from the 2012 league table, where it was ranked in 68th place and awarded a 2:1. This clearly showcases the university's longstanding commitment and determination to reducing its environmental impact and making the campus a greener place for all.

## ***Education for Sustainability Comes of Age!***

By Ros Wade

The MSc Education for Sustainability at London Southbank University is 21 this year and celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> cohort of students in 2016. During this time, alumni of the course have been at the forefront of change for sustainability in every corner of the globe, from Chile to New Zealand, from China to the UK. This flexible distance learning course is available globally for anyone interested in promoting sustainability through learning and education. Check out our [web site](#). Applications are open for 2015-2016 – why not join this global movement for change and become part of the sustainability solution for our planet? For a discussion or further information contact Ros Wade on [wader@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:wader@lsbu.ac.uk).

## ***Go Green Week***

### ***Deep Learning in HE***

By Rrita Recica

This is the first time my role – Behaviour Change Coordinator – or any role principally focussed with student engagement has been open at the university, so my approach has been experimental to begin with.

Generally speaking, it is understood that student engagement is far more difficult a feat in inner-city universities like South Bank, where buildings are disparate and much of the student body is part-time and mature compared to campus-based universities where a sense of belonging, and therefore connection to the university, is more easily achieved.

Go Green Week was an opportunity to introduce LSBU's more visible sustainability efforts and allow the newly registered Sustainability Society – the Green Beans – to drive events and support activities. The programme was a fun, light-hearted approach to explor-

ing sustainability and encouraging small behavioural changes.

With several events exploring sustainability, over 500 students and staff were engaged in activities laterally and directly linked to encouraging sustainable living from urban farming workshops to cycle safety events and an 'offline gaming night'.

Games and competitive learning emerged as the most exciting and engaging tools for engagement over the week. The Great Carbon Footprint Game was designed by Green Bean and Environmental Engineering student Anja Fischenich and materialised by the Sustainability Team. It attracted over 100 students and staff and inspired deep, meaningful learning in a brief 5-minute window. Similarly, a simple low-tech recycling game was received warmly by scores of students. Feedback from both games revealed that students were more likely to remember messages learned through games than any other method.

## ***This is Rubbish: Edible Education***

### ***The Educational Value of Food Waste***

By Poppy Flint

This is Rubbish (TiR) is a community interest company that aims to communicate the preventable scale of food wasted in the UK, through policy research, community and arts led public events, and now education. Their new project Edible Education which has been officially endorsed by the London ESD on RCE has just completed a six month pilot programme. TiR is dedicated to taking a values-led approach to awareness raising and behaviour change. The Edible Education coordinators are participating in a research group on Food Values which is a collaboration between Aberystwyth University, Organic Centre Wales and PIRC (Public Interest Research Centre). You can read our reflections on Food Values [here](#).

Edible Education takes students on a learning journey through the food supply chain and uses cross curricular, interactive learning to empower young people with a positive message for change. The pilot toured to five schools and through performances, after school clubs and student assemblies reached an audience of 400+ pupils, teachers and parents. The response was fantastic. The broad range of learning activities enabled young people to explore the values they hold towards food

and the environment.

Students from Lammas Secondary School in the London Borough of Waltham Forest wrote and performed slam poetry and spoken word to spread their message in an event open to parents, teachers and the wider public. Their work made strong reference to the connection between food waste the issues of social justice and food security. The students from different school years worked collaboratively to exchange ideas, create the invites and line up, make decorations and very importantly, learn new cookery skills using food that would have been wasted. Six large boxes of produce that would have been wasted was transformed into exotic, healthy snacks and juices for the event. [could cut this right down if needs be]

The students commitment to their production 'Eat My Words' was duly rewarded as it won third prize in the Think.Eat.Save student challenge [please double check link] to tackle global food waste. The United Nations and

partner organisations, called on students to join the fight to reduce global food waste, estimated at one third annually. Around 470 schools from close to 80 countries took up the call.

This topic is particularly pertinent at a time when the rise and role of UK food banks is being debated. Waltham Forest is home to many families living in poverty and ranks 15th most deprived borough in the country. All the schools TiR Edible Education worked with have the highest proportion of students eligible for free school meals, roughly double the national average.

The TiR Edible Education team has been genuinely inspired by the passionate and thoughtful responses from all the young participants. You can see the summary of the pilot programme [here](#). This is powerful motivation to further these partnerships and we have big ambitions for growing the programme in 2015.



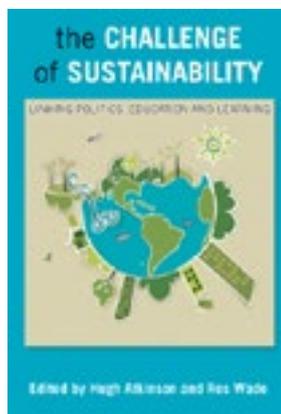
Photo Credit: Eleanora Tozzi

# Hot Off the Press

ESD Books, Publications and More

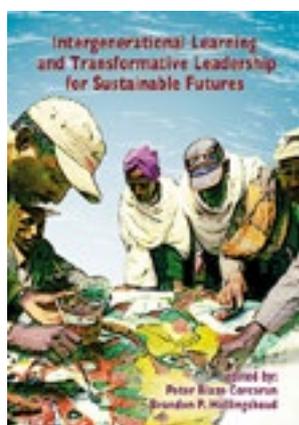
## Books

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The Challenge of Sustainability: linking politics, education, and learning

Editors: Hugh Atkinson and Ros Wade (Policy Press, 2015)



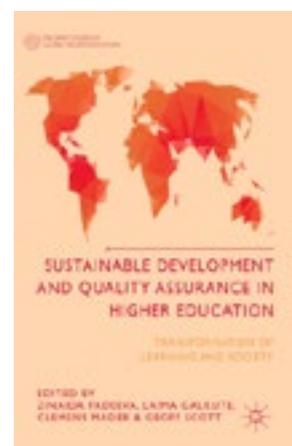
Intergenerational Learning and Transformative Leadership for Sustainable Futures

Editors: Peter Blaze Corcoran and Brandon P. Hollingshead (Wageningen Academic Publishers, 2014)



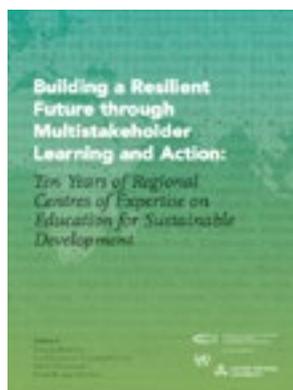
Transforming Higher Education and Creating Sustainable Societies

Editors: Aurea Christine Tanaka and Mario Tabucanon. (UNU-IAS, 2014).



Sustainable Development and Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Editors: Zinaida Fadeeva, Laima Galkute, Clemens Mader, Geoff Scott (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014)



Building a Resilient Future through Multistakeholder Learning and Action: Ten Years of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

Editors: Zinaida Fadeeva, Unnikrishnan Payyappalimana, Mario Tabucanon, Kiran Banga Chhokar (UNU-IAS, 2014).



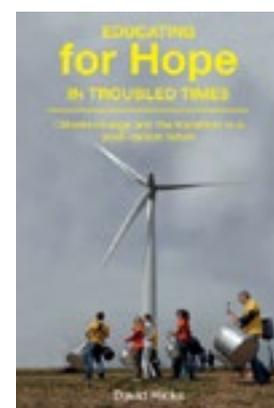
Do We Know What We Are Doing? Reflections on Learning, Knowledge, Economics, Community and Sustainability

Author: Rolf Jucker (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014)



Schooling for Sustainable Development in Europe—Concepts, Policies and Educational Experiences at the End of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Editors: Rolf Jucker, Reiner Mathar (Springer, 2015)



Educating for Hope in Troubled Times: Climate change and the transition to a post-carbon future

Author/Editor: David Hicks (IOE Press, 2014)

# Hot Off the Press Continued...

## *Publications and More*

[Click on the title of the publication to be redirected to the webpage](#)

- [Okayama Declaration](#)
- [Aichi- Nagoya Declaration](#)
- [UNESCO Roadmap for Implementing the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Shaping the Future We Want- UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development \(2005-2014\) FINAL REPORT](#)
- [Review of Targets for the Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective \(2015\)](#)
- [Aiming Higher: Race, Inequality and Diversity in the Academy](#)
- [UN SDSN Report: Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for SDGs](#)
- [UE4SD State of the ART Report](#)
- [UNICEF Report: The Investment Case for Education and Equity](#)
- [The Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness Rising](#)
- [IUCN: Protected Planet Report 2014](#)

**Shared Resources**

**Documentary:**  
**'Schooling the World'**  
on **Films for Action**  
Contribution by Wendy  
Freeman

**Do you want to learn more? Interested in taking an ESD-related course?  
Check out the following courses:**

[\(Click on the name of the course to be redirected to the website\)](#)

**Education for Sustainability  
MSc / PgDip**  
at London South Bank University

**Learning for Sustainability  
MSc**  
at Plymouth University

**Outdoor Environmental &  
Sustainability Education  
MSc, PgDip, PgCert**  
at University of Edinburgh

# Upcoming Events

*Save the Date!*

**27  
May**

## **London Environmental Education Forum (LEEF) Make an Animation Evening 6pm to 9pm at Groundwork London, 18-21 Morley Street, SE1 7QZ**

Groundwork has been running popular workshops involving animation and they have been used successfully by LEEFers to engage teenagers on Climate Change, Litter and Bullying. This short course will give you the information you need to run your own animation workshops, recommending which affordable equipment to buy and giving you the experience of making a short animation in a small group

**19  
June**

## **Empty Classroom Day**

Join schools and organisations from across the UK this summer and celebrate outdoor learning on Empty Classroom Day

**8  
July**

## **London Environmental Education Forum (LEEF) Reading Group and Swapshop: 6pm to 9pm at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, 145 Fleet Street, EC4A 2BU**

In the swapshop suitcase there are some of the most inspiring and interesting books, DVDs and articles that LEEF has found over the years. Come along to this networking event with your own inspirational object and swap it for one in the case. Let everyone know why they should take your inspiration home with them...

**9  
July**

## **Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet), Eighth Annual Conference, at Liverpool Hope University**

This conference builds on the 2014 theme of 'The Role of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship in a Meaningful Curriculum'. The 2015 event will seek to address a priority action area in UNESCO's Global Action Programme on ESD and the 'global call for more and better global citizenship education', to focus on the knowledge, skills and values required by educators to make this vision for the curriculum a reality.

**21  
July**

First course start  
date

## **Avalon Sustainability School Programme**

Avalon School 2015 programme (12 days, Spain):

21st of July to 1st of August **or** 1st to 12th of August **or** 12th to 23rd of August **or** 23rd of August to 3rd of September

Avalon School 2015 programme + Transition Training (23 days, Spain):

21st of July to 12th of August **or** 1st to 23rd of August **or** 12th of August to 3rd of September

Avalon Sustainability School aims to help young people develop the skills, freedom and creativity to take part in the journey towards a more resilient and peaceful society. We believe young people can change the world and our experiential, intercultural and nature based programs help prepare them to do so.

**Would you like to make a contribution to our next newsletter?**

If so, then send us an email at [efs@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:efs@lsbu.ac.uk) to share your projects, stories and ideas. Interested to find out more? Then please do get in touch with us. We welcome any feedback and suggestions for improvement.