

UWTSD

Learning and Skills

An INSPIRED Education

About the project

Summary

This is a University-wide initiative lead by the Institute of Sustainable Practice, Innovation and Resource Effectiveness (INSPIRE) to embed 'Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship' (ESDGC) throughout its dual-sector education programmes.

The results

The problem

How to work across academic and support structures to deliver on the University's strategic priorities and specifically to embed ESDGC across the curriculum.

The approach

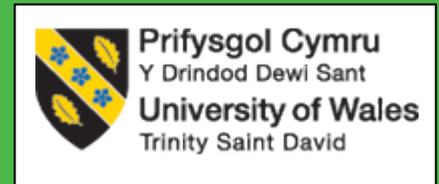
To introduce organisational and resource support at a strategic level to ensure the right policies and procedures for embedding are in place, whilst providing INSPIRE-led support and training for academic staff tasked with embedding ESDGC in their teaching modules and learning programmes.

Our goals

The University's intention is to ensure that it embeds a framework for ESDGC in a way that delivers, where the emphasis is not merely on the content of the modules and programmes of study offered but on the entire learning and teaching experience. Indeed, the University's agreed Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee (LTEC) strategy includes 'sustainability conscious learning' to enable students to have a clear understanding of the impacts of their future actions on the physical, social and economic environments.

Obstacles and solutions

- Demonstrating strategic commitment
- Identifying staff capacity and buy-in
- Evaluating pedagogical approach
- Embedding ESDGC rigorously
- Disseminating best practice in-house
- Disseminating best practice externally
- Introducing faculty sustainability plans
- Conducting university-wide staff skills survey
- INSPIRE validating degree programmes
- Working within existing ESDGC frameworks
- Annual INSPIRE ESDGC conference
- Publishing e.g. Wales Journal of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education



Profile

- HEI
- 11,400 students (includes full and part time students)
- 2,125 staff
- Urban and Rural campuses

Performance and results

The results of a curriculum review conducted in 2014 show that 93% of modules in Teacher Education contained teaching and learning on ESDGC. Other faculties with high scores included Business (77%), Architecture, Computing and Engineering (67%), Art and Design (58%), and Social Sciences (51%).

The future

Lessons learned

- There needs to be continual support for academic staff through a Range of mechanisms e.g. through best practice workshops, drop-in clinics and mentoring schemes.
- There needs to be a consistent approach across the whole university

Sharing your project

The project's successes have been shared internally through all-staff bulletins and INSPIRE is well known throughout the institution and has a visible web presence. Externally INSPIRE's approach to embedding has been disseminated at workshops and through conference presentations both in the UK and overseas.

UWTSD was presented with the first Guardian award for the most sustainable higher education institution in the UK in 2013 and has featured as an exemplar of best practice in the independent Higher Education Academy evaluations of the outcome of the Green Academy work in 2012 and 2014. In 2015 the university was presented with a first class degree from the People and Planet University League Tables, coming 8th in the UK and 1st in Wales.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

'I would be delighted if the University were to win a Green Gown Award. Such a prestigious accolade would acknowledge our commitment to sustainability as one of our core values and most importantly it would celebrate the excellent work and inspiring work of colleagues and students across the University's campuses.'

Professor Medwin Hughes, DL Vice-Chancellor University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Further information

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