The Trojan Mouse of Sustainability: Dropping Sustainability into Education

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• Our over-arching approach
• Examples of mouse holes and droppings
Achievements

• 96% of programmes embed sustainability
• 19% of modules engage with sustainability
• But only a small team...

Hearing about new work all the time
Not knowing is good 😊
Our approach to embedding sustainability in education....

- No single large-scale project
- Multiple entry points (mouseholes) at different levels
- Droppings create fertile ground for new developments driven by others
Our journey...
2009 Council adopted ‘Deep Green’ commitment

2010 Embedding sustainability one of six University strategic aims

2009 ‘Greening Business’ elective

2011/12 HEA ‘Green Academy’

University Curriculum Review – embedded sustainability as one of three key themes

Role of Director of Education for Sustainability + 3 x 0.4FTE SPOs

2012 Jonathon Porritt installed as Chancellor

Requirement for all programmes to embed sustainability, and to be key part of co-curriculum offer

2009 BSc Environment & Sustainability MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green technology

2008 Pro-Vice Chancellor for Environment & Sustainability

2009 Course development

2012 Full time permanent SPO

Keele Food Co-op etc…
Some specific ‘mouse holes and droppings’
PGCert for new academic staff

- Working with Education and Learning and Professional Development Unit (now Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence)
- Embedded in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Programme since ~2009
- Taken by all new academic staff
- Inspired several...
ESD ‘consultancy’

- Work with individual staff
- E.g. Supporting sustainability context for generic skills development assessments (Foundation Year)
  - Now Group project for ALL FY students
- E.g. One-to-one discussion with Medical School
  - Now embedded throughout each year
ESD in Green Impact

• Setting own ESD criteria...

• School of Law set up ‘Green’ Student Course Representative
• Scheme adopted by SU
• Now Student Voice representatives receive training in ESD
Student skills development workshops

- Sustainability as context
- Led by Curriculum Development Unit
- Worked with
  - Physics
  - Physiotherapy
  - Chemistry...
Be More...

• Led by Careers and Employability
• Post-exam ‘enhancement’ programme
  • Be More Womble
  • Be More Green
  • Be More Wild and Free
  • Listen More
• Bee More.....
How to release your mice....

• Importance of roles - Director of Education for Sustainability
  • Shows importance/commitment from University
  • Title important
  • Legitimises work
  • Held by academic – understands academics and gains buy-in
  • Curriculum and ‘wider student experience’
  • Plus dedicated Sustainability Project Officer

• Consistent high level messaging
  • From the Vice Chancellor

• Senior Executive team Sustainability Lead
  • The ‘unblocker’

• Make sustainability part of every new initiative – ear to the ground
Thank you for listening!!