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Education for sustainable development: from principle to practice

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Education for Sustainability: from principle to practice

Lyn Hall
&
Emma Salter
People who have learnt about global issues are more than twice as likely to see the point of taking personal action on environmental concerns, get involved in positive social activity or support UK aid efforts, according to research due out tomorrow (2 March 2010)

A flavour of the syllabus

- Concept & definitions
- Historical / political development
- Significant UN summits & policies [1983 to Copenhagen 09]
- National Framework for Sustainable Schools
- Every Child’s Future Matters
- RE & Citizenship syllabus – cross curricular dimensions
- Informal education; eg Oxfam
- Religious & secular values
- Case-studies, eg Alliance of Religions & Conservation
Education for Sustainability: Knowledge

- I understand what it means to live a sustainable lifestyle
- I know how the UK curriculum promotes Education for Sustainable Development
- I can explain the concept of sustainability in detail
Education for Sustainability: Values

- Recycling waste is important

- A responsible society or community is one that promotes the values of sustainability
Education for Sustainability: Behaviour

- Since studying the module I am more likely to recycle waste

- I prefer to choose Fair Trade products where possible
I understand what it means to live a sustainable lifestyle

**Sustainability Students**

- Strongly agree: 8
- Agree: 9
- Not sure: 0
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly disagree: 0

**Students who have not studied Sustainability Module**

- Strongly agree: 0
- Agree: 9
- Not sure: 5
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly disagree: 0
I know how the UK curriculum promotes Education for Sustainable Development in schools

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**Sustainability Students**

- Strongly agree: 8
- Agree: 9
- Not sure: 0
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly disagree: 0

---

**Students who have not studied Sustainability Module**

- Strongly agree: 0
- Agree: 2
- Not sure: 8
- Disagree: 2
- Strongly disagree: 2
I can explain the concept of sustainability in detail

**Sustainability Students**

- Strongly Agree: 7
- Agree: 10
- Not sure: 0
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly Disagree: 0

**Students who have not studied Sustainability Module**

- Strongly Agree: 4
- Agree: 4
- Not sure: 7
- Disagree: 3
- Strongly Disagree: 9
A responsible society or community is one that promotes the values of sustainability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Sustainability Students</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Students who have not studied Sustainability Module</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Recycling waste is important

Sustainability Students

- Strongly Agree: 15
- Agree: 2
- Not sure: 0
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly Disagree: 0

Students who have not studied Sustainability Module

- Strongly Agree: 5
- Agree: 9
- Not sure: 0
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly Disagree: 0
Since studying the module I am more likely to recycle waste. Most of the time I recycle waste.

**Sustainability Students**

- Strongly Agree: 7
- Agree: 7
- Not sure: 3
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly disagree: 0

**Students who have not studied Sustainability Module**

- Strongly agree: 4
- Agree: 5
- Not sure: 1
- Disagree: 4
- Strongly disagree: 0
I prefer to choose Fair Trade products where possible

**Sustainability Students**

- Strongly agree: 2
- Agree: 7
- Not sure: 4
- Disagree: 4
- Strongly disagree: 0

**Students who have not studied Sustainability Module**

- Strongly agree: 1
- Agree: 6
- Not sure: 3
- Disagree: 3
- Strongly disagree: 1
Student comments

- It was ok. Some things were a bit repetitive. Could have done with more time on political side, ie Agenda 21, rather than values. Fair Trade etc was drilled in a bit too much as it was grasped easily by many.

- The module had definitely promoted me to recycle & follow other values for a sustainable future. It is a very good opportunity to an insight on sustainability, as I would not have researched the topic otherwise.
Student comments

- The module was very good and I am able to reflect the teaching of sustainability in my daily life
- I really enjoyed the content – everyone should be taught about sustainability