IATL SUMMER 2013

CHANGE?

WHAT CAN SUSTAINABILITY TEACH Us ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Humar induced climate change is already affecting the lives of today’s undergraduates, perhaps in obvious ways. The extent of these changes and their effects is uncertain, and is subject of heated debate. Despite the uncertainty it seems clear that political decisions, international treaties and technological development are needed to prevent the worse consequences of climate change. An interdisciplinary approach is needed to equip undergraduates to face its challenges.

Students will be invited to consider three different aspects in a series of lectures by academics from Economics, Law, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Politics and International Studies. The hope is that they will emerge better informed and participate in the debates of the future, and also, perhaps, to contribute to the development of new responses to the technological challenges posed by a changing climate, and to the political processes involved in shaping climate change.

In the end of 2012, Warwick added a new Energy Trail to its campus following months of work by both staff and students. The trail showcases the environmental research that takes place here and the high efficiency standards of our buildings.

The Energy Trail is supported by a group of students taking part in Green Steps – an innovative programme designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge they need in order to create a positive environmental change for their community.

The students worked together to gather environmental information about several sites on campus including the new CHP building, the Combined Heating and Power plant, the Solar Tracker behind the Maths and Stats building, and many more. They also visited Royal Shakespeare Company, which allows the students to visit the site where the Shakespeare gardens are planned.

University staff have arranged the trails at a around campus, complete with maps, and worked to include the information in the trail designs and have them installed at all sites. The University finished this before the end of 2012, publishing an online version of the trail to go with it.

The Students’ Union has worked closely with IATL in the piloting of the Green Steps programme, a Monash-based initiative, which will run for a second year at Warwick in 2013.

More broadly, a recent IATL survey found that students believed sustainability skills would be important for their future careers and a majority thought universities should be responsible for preparing them for that employment.

Newlyweds, more and more universities are developing innovative EfS programmes, while the most inspiring take a holistic approach, embedding it throughout their institutions. This involves considering the existing curriculum, developments in research and activity, and any plans to place sustainability at the heart of the campus, the Estates department and its resources.

My research reveals a smorgasbord of EfS related activity across the universities as diverse as Exeter, Environmental Policies, Food Security, Green Chemistry and engineering, and effective Business practices for sustainability. Across the board, both staff and students are enthusiastic about the development of EfS throughout the international collaboration with Monash, which has already enabled the partner institutions to support both developments.

The time has arrived for us to educate our students in creating a sustainable future, as world leaders met in the Summit 20 years ago and global temperatures continue to rise. One more step is to engage students on the development of CRF’s curriculum throughout the university. There is still a lot to be done, but students and staff can play a key role in creating a sustainable future.

SUSTAINABILITY

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Since October 2012, IATL has been overseeing the development of Education for Sustainability (EfS) at both Warwick and Monash Universities, through the IATL Monash Alliance. IATL was inspired by the enthusiastic students that had done CRF during the piloting of the Green Steps programme, an innovative and enthusiastic initiative, which will run for a second year at Warwick in 2013.

More broadly, a recent IATL survey found that students believed sustainability skills would be important for their future careers and a majority thought universities should be responsible for preparing them for that employment.

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MONASH ADOPTS AN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In 2012, the Monash Warwick Alliance introduced Green Steps @ Warwick, a hands-on training and internship programme for Warwick students. The programme was developed in response to the growing environmental change in the workplace. Green Steps has been running in Monash, about 300 miles to the south of Sydney, Australia, and Monash is the first university internationally to benefit from this exciting initiative.

The programme is open to all students who want to work in an environmental change role after they graduate, but also for those who want to change their career path after they graduate.

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MONASH ADOPTS AN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The strategic initiatives will build on a project undertaken to embed sustainability in units they teach. The program involves a blended programme for Monash academic staff has been developed to assist them in the Hills. Participants undertook a waste audits as part of the Academic Staff Professional Development programme on Sustainability. The employer-based internships were based at:

- An environmental House.
- Auditing water of halls residence;
- Auditing Switch-Off of facilities;
- Experience professional context;
- LEK Consulting: building current development team on their Eco-Schools project.

The programme is not just for students who want to work in an environmental field but also for those who want to develop their skills and knowledge of sustainability in their future career., and I would say that the Green Steps programme is the best student experience I have had so far. Two of us from Warwick held our internships at IATL. We worked with IATL Summer 2013 Sustainability

WARWICK’S GREENER GRADUATES

In 2012, the Monash-Warwick Alliance launched Green Steps @ Warwick, a series of training and volunteering programmes for Warwick students to develop the skills required to create environmental change. Green Steps has been running in Monash about the range of initiatives across Australia, and Warwick is the first university internationally to benefit from this exciting initiative.

The programme is not just for students who want to work in an environmental field but also for those who want to develop their skills and knowledge of sustainability in their future career. Our final report was presented to the Education Working Group of the Warwick Alliance launch at the Australia High Commission, London, and the Mayor of the City of Hill Borough Metropolitan Council:

- Bee Campaign;
- Organic improvements;
- Farming ideas and information,
- LEK Consulting:
- Building current development team on their Eco-Schools project.

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MONASH UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Monash adopts an education for sustainability strategic framework that will take time. That's why the tactical education renewal approach will take time. That's why the strategic education renewal approach will take time. That's why the strategic education renewal approach will take time. That's why the strategic education renewal approach will take time.

The strategic initiatives will build on a project undertaken to embed sustainability rather than needing to undertake a major overhaul of new education initiatives in the sustainability space. The MSI and IATL have been using a blended learning approach to embed sustainability in the university as it already features in its research, teaching and campus operations. Recently, Monash was awarded commitment to the Sustainability 2012 by establishing strategic frameworks to embed sustainability in the educational programmes.

Drawing on insights from Monash and experience gained from initial implementation projects undertaken at Warwick (also part of the Monash-Warwick Alliance) in a combination of strategic and tactical education renewal strategies, we believe that Monash can build on its foundations and take a lead by developing a comprehensive strategic framework to enhance the university experience.

The workshop will highlight an area that the strategic education renewal approach has a role to play in. The workshop will demonstrate the strategic initiatives that are being made by both alliance partners.

Participants undertook a waste audits as part of the Academic Staff Professional Development programme on Sustainability.

The Green Steps programme aims to provide students with:

- Skills and knowledge to be able to engage in green initiatives across a wide range of organisations, industries and professional contexts;
- Increased confidence and effective approach to opening up a professional context;
- Experience and opportunities within the energy sector;
- Engagement of the first-hand individual passion about creating change;
- The campus projects the students undertook included:
  - Development of Energy Policy
  - Student Engagement Forum
  - A green homes hall of residence
  - Auditing water consumption in halls of residence;
  - An environmental assessment of the hall of residence

The employer-based internships were based at:

- Centre for Community Engagement of the motor fleet carbon footprint;
- UoR Consultancy auditing current green policies and making recommendations for improvements;
- Green staff association developing a green work practice; and
- The term plan for Green Steps as well as developing ways of integrating Education for Sustainability initiatives into their own departments in both institutions. During this internship, we reviewed case studies, collected feedback and also to increase awareness and sustainability across the university. The internship also affected the platform of public engagement, by speaking with the Monash-Warwick Alliance about the Warwick-Monash Alliance.

Our final report was presented to the Education Working Group of the Monash-Warwick Alliance.

I would like to enquire about the immediate impact that Monash-Warwick Alliance has on my future career, and I would say that the Green Steps programme is the best I have ever had.

Monash University

2nd Year PhD Student

School of Engineering

WARWICK’S GREENER GRADUATES

In 2012, the Monash-Warwick Alliance introduced Green Steps @ Warwick, a scheme to train and support students on the Warwick campus to work on environmental change in the workplace. Green Steps has been running in Monash about 50% of the range of courses across Monash University, and Warwick has been the first university internationally to benefit from this exciting initiative.

The programme was set for students who want to work in an environmental change role after graduation but also for those who want to work in a future organisation in which, wherever their career path they follow.

The 12 students selected for the 2012 Green Steps pilot programme, delivered by Mark Boulet, the Manager for Education Programmes at Monash, and David Robertson who is a Green Steps graduate himself and currently works in the UK.

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The employer-based internships were based at:

- Centre for Community Engagement of the motor fleet carbon footprint;
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Since October 2012, I have been researching the development of Education for Sustainability (EfS) at both Warwick and Monash Universities, through the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL). This work has been inspired by the enthusiasm students had shown for EF during the piloting of the Green Steps programme, a collaborative initiative, which will run for a second year at Warwick in 2013. More broadly, a recent IATL staff survey revealed that students believed sustainability skills would be important for their future careers and that successful universities would be responsible for preparing them for that employment.

Nowadays, more and more universities are developing innovative EF programmes, with the most appealing taking a holistic approach, embedding EF throughout their institutions. This involves considering the existing curricular, development, co-curricular, extracurricular, activities and community and place-based sustainability initiatives together, thereby creating a strong and supportive network that supports both top-down and bottom-up development.

At the end of 2012, Warwick added a new Energy Trail to its campus following months of work by both staff and students. The trail showcases the environmental research that takes place here and the high efficiency standards of our buildings.

The trail was set up as part of a group of students taking part in Green Steps – a modular programme designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge they need to contribute to a positive environmental change for the wider community.

The students worked together to gather environmental information at several sites on campus including the new £18 million building the Combining Heating and Power, the Solar Tracker behind the Maths and Stats building, and many many others. They also visualised what educational intervention could be made at the sites.

University staff then arranged the sites into a trail around campus, complete with a map, and worked to finalise the information board designs and have them installed at all 16 sites. The University finished this before the end of the year, with a map, and worked to finalise the information board designs and have them installed at all 16 sites. The University finished this before the end of the year.

The trail started life as a project for a group of students taking part in Green Steps and it became clear that an interdisciplinary approach is needed to equip the next generation with the knowledge and skills to address the pressures on our planet. Let us know if you want to be involved.
Human-induced climate change is already affecting the lives of today’s undergraduates, perhaps to a degree that the nature of these changes and their effects is uncertain, and so the subject of heated debate. Despite the uncertainty it seems clear that political decisions, international treaties and technological developments come in the next several decades will completely fail to nip on any serious measures to reduce emissions. In effect, climate change has political overtones as one of the causes, and an understanding requires not just atmospheric physics but also the social sciences. Add to the thinking on climate change is the importance of human activity and human activity and the importance of human activity to our climate change.

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