GREEN SHOOTS IN ESD — SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES

National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development

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The National Centre for Excellence in Furniture Design and Technology
GMIT LETTERFRACK - CONTEXT

- One of five campus of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
- Approximately 210 registered students
- 25 staff
- Courses specialise in
  - Furniture Design
  - Wood-based Manufacturing
  - Advanced Technology
  - Initial Teacher Education
- Based in a village in a rural community
NATIONAL STRATEGY ON ESD
SUCCESS
**Sustainability in Action**

- Green Campus committee comprising of students, staff and community members
- Accredited by An Taisce
- Green Flag for Waste
- Green Flag application for Biodiversity
- Other themes include Travel, Energy, Water
Import approximately 95% of our hardwood timber materials for manufacturing

What questions do we need to ask?

Where does it come from?

Why does that matter?

EU Illegal Timber Regulations

Certification (FSC / PEFC etc.)

Ethical Procurement / Corporate Responsibility
COMMUNITY NATIVE WOODLAND

Community focused
Collaboration
Embedded in curriculum
Sustainable materials
RESEARCH

- Adding value to Irish-grown timber through **collaboration** and the adherence to
  - **Quality**
  - **Innovation**
  - **Design**
  - **Technology**
  - **Sustainability**
COFORD — GMIT LETTERFRACK

- Investigating utilisation potential of Irish-grown timber
  - 6m³ steam kiln
  - Portable saw
  - Timber drying shed
- Particular focus on hardwoods
- Building capacity for research
- Small-diameter timber
AIR-DRYING
MECHANICAL DRYING
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Irish Distillers
Production Technology

Year of Gastronomy 2018
Design

UBUNTU Network
Biodiversity
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Local Brewery
Production Design

Cycling club
Sustainable Design

Connemara National Park
Education on timber
i am energy efficient

The world's first ecologically sustainable computers
INTERNATIONAL

COLLABORATION
WITH EVE BRANSON
FOUNDATION

SUPPORTED BY TUI
THIRD WORLD FUND/
UBUNTU
CHALLENGES
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide platform for collaboration and sharing
- Not all lecturers feel comfortable teaching on ESD
- Applicability of ESD to some disciplines not clear
- Lack of awareness of ESD Strategy
- Lack of resources
- Need to empower academics

http://affectivelearninglabs.com/professional-development/
DATA COLLECTION

- Needs time, resources
- People need to see progress
- Improvements require investments in capital / equipment
- Management need to see efficiencies
- Costs of non-compliance must be considered

https://factualdude.deviantart.com/art/Water-Wastage-359634584
LEADERSHIP

- ESD not considered a priority
- Marginalised activity
- Leadership required at all levels
- Leaders need training / workshops / support
- Policy needed to guide HEIs / support staff / legitimise champions
OPPORTUNITIES
CHOICE ARCHITECTURE

- Thaler and Sunstein (2009)
- UK Behaviour Insights Team
- Can we Nudge HE toward ESD?
- How can we design policy implementation tools to help move ESD from the margins to the mainstream?

refers to the practice of influencing choice by changing the manner in which options are presented to people. For example, this can be done by setting defaults, framing, or adding decoy options. www.behavioraleconomics.com/mini-encyclopedia-of-be/choice-architecture/
In two towns in Germany, 90 percent of the people use clean energy (wind, solar, etc.) because that is the default. If you want the less-expensive, less-clean power, you have to do something. You have to tell them to change it for you.

(https://notebookm.com/category/energy)
Looking Forward

- Ensure graduates have skills required for industries of the future not of today
- HE sectoral policy needs to reflect ESD and align with goals of Strategy
- Stronger links needed between ESD and climate change policy

www.linkedin.com/pulse/ministers-statement-welsh-circular-economy-tim-hourahine-amciwm
REFERENCES
