

# THE DRIVE FOR CHANGE

Enabling The Future We Want: Education for Sustainable Development in the UK  
– a manifesto for dialogue, collaboration and action Post Rio+20

**THE MANIFESTO WAS** officially launched at the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday 17 December 2013 at a lively event, hosted by Environmental Audit Committee chair Joan Walley MP. Guests at the launch included Shadow Schools Minister Kevin Brennan MP and over 80 people from all aspects of education, including tertiary education bodies, environmental charities, business people, teachers, lots of school pupils and older students.

This wide range of sector individuals, all of whom are directly affected by the issues raised in the manifesto, took part in a challenging, yet inspiring round-table discussion asking 'what is and what isn't working, and what can I do to make change happen?'

Initiated and led by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) with support from The Education Dialogue Group, the manifesto is the result of a UK-wide consultation with NGOs, government funded agencies, government departments, politicians and formal and informal education sectors, which took place between November 2012 and May 2013. This was in response to the UN Earth Summit Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want*, with organisations from across the tertiary and sustainability sectors submitting evidence. This consultation into the future of education for sustainable development and the manifesto



**ABOVE: More than 80 people, including school pupils, attended the launch event**

itself acts on the UK's Rio+20 commitments, both taking account of the global context.

The most thought-provoking part of the event was the 'witness accounts' which saw key players and young learners expressing what is and isn't working from their part of the sector and what is or could be done to make change happen. Witnesses included Dom Anderson NUS, Ann Finlayson SEEd, Caroline Lucas MP, Steve Egan HEFCE, Mark Drewell GRLI and Miranda Jupp Conservative Future.

We also had representatives from RSPB Youth, Ashling Tierney a student from the University of Bristol, Katie Washington Plan UK Youth Ambassador, pupils from Ashley Church of England Primary School and pupils from Mulgrave School who expressed their message to music.

As the UK's sustainability champion for tertiary education, the EAUC is committed to providing a voice to its members – representing them on both the UK and international stage. Following the launch event, Iain Patton, CEO of the EAUC, said: "The achievements of our global Rio+20 Earth Summit work and the resulting Manifesto highlights the international reputation the EAUC has now developed.

"By working together with partners such as Ann Finlayson at SEEd, the EAUC is able to highlight the current and future needs of its members and other education stakeholders. The success of this launch event shows the drive the sector has for change and

## The manifesto is calling for:

- ✦ Better coordination of efforts and collaboration between governments and across government departments on formal and informal learning for sustainable development.
- ✦ Improvement of dialogue between the education sector, civil society and government departments.
- ✦ Enabling education sectors to develop an appropriate curriculum to meet current and future sustainability challenges through a realignment of funding with 'The Future We Want' in mind.
- ✦ Curriculum change.
- ✦ Institutional change.
- ✦ Increased collaboration between NGOs and formal education providers.
- ✦ Increased collaboration between governments, NGOs, business and education sectors to ensure young people are sufficiently prepared for the opportunities and challenges of a green and fair economy.

demonstrates the need to engage with government and other key organisations to make our voices heard."

This manifesto calls on governments, education sectors, NGOs and civil society in the UK to work closely together to strengthen the role of education, particularly further and higher education, as an enabler of sustainable development.

This launch event successfully brought together key thinkers who, over mince pies, pledged to continue the dialogue long after the event and to collaborate on future actions. 

**To learn more about the manifesto and the EAUC's collaborative work on Rio+20, please visit [www.eauc.org.uk/campaigns](http://www.eauc.org.uk/campaigns) or email [info@eau.org.uk](mailto:info@eau.org.uk).**