

- The richest 20% of the world's population consumes 86% of its resources

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Swansea Institute and Swansea University Living Sustainably Together

Recognising that not every programme developer has the time or expertise to develop or deliver a sustainability module, Swansea Institute of Higher Education and Swansea University have jointly developed an easily adaptable taught module, *Living Sustainably*. This is offered to students at both institutions in addition to, or as part of, a degree programme, as well as to staff and the general public.

Elizabeth May, Environment Manager at the Swansea Institute, believes that: "the module provides a cost effective way of providing high quality education for sustainable education for students who don't have the opportunity to do this within their subject area. For students themselves, it provides a deep level, experiential, means of applying its ideas to their main subject, work, educational institution or personal life."

The module is offered at different times in each institution and is open to students from either. A comprehensive range of sustainability topics are delivered by a group of enthusiastic practitioners. There are also field trips with an emphasis on real-life applications, and an assignment tailored to the student's personal circumstances and interests.

In the three years since it was developed the module has raised awareness of sustainability issues in both institutions, led to the 'greening' of additional courses and achieved considerable local publicity. An abbreviated version *Lecturing Sustainably* has also been developed for use in 'training the trainers'. The course won a certificate of good practice from the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)/Cyfanwyd in 2006, and featured in the winning entry for the Swansea Environmental Education Forum Higher Education Group for the Cyfanwyd/NIACE award in 2007.



Course students have included fine art undergraduates, PhD researchers, Swansea University's head of catering, and the general public. For many, it has been a springboard to further study and action, ranging from enrolment on more specialised sustainability courses, dissertations on the topic, and joining or initiating campaigning groups. Ken Harding; Facilities Manager of Neath Port Talbot Council, says that "the course has changed the way in which we now think, and this is also coming out in our every day working life."

Dr. Michael J. Isaac, Dean of Health and Human Sciences at Swansea University, also believes that "by creating a network of ex and current students, the course has increased the critical mass of environment champions in both institutions, resulting in greater pressure for improvement."

Lucy the pig - highlight of a field trip to a local organic farm running a box scheme

Judge's Comments on Course Content - Vocational (continued)

The sustainable development course created by the Swansea Institute of Higher Education and Swansea University provides a very replicable example of how sustainable development can be integrated into the curriculum. The course covers all aspects of the topic and is clearly attractive to learners, staff and the general public. It also provides an excellent demonstration of how different kinds of educational institution can work together effectively for the good of the community, and the environment.