

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlaim agus Ionnsachadh Fad-bheatha
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning
Michael Russell MSP/BPA



F/T: 0845 774 1741
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Andrew Chamberlain
Head
EAUC Scotland Office
Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges
Queen Margaret University
Queen Margaret University Drive
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 6UU

6 July 2010

Dear Mr Chamberlain

UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – Learning for Change

I am writing to all college and university Principals and other relevant stakeholders to seek support in realising the ambitions set out in Scotland's Action Plan for the second half of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, *Learning for Change*, which was launched on 26 May.

Learning for Change is unquestionably ambitious. It sets out how we aim to make improvements in education for sustainable development across Scotland, not just in our colleges and universities but in our schools, workplaces and local communities. In the further and higher education sectors, we hope education for sustainable development can be integrated into the core learning experience to help our young people cultivate sustainable literacy and citizenship skills for the future.

In developing the plan, we worked with a range of stakeholders including the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Higher Education Academy (HEA), the National Union of Students (NUS), Universities Scotland (US), Scotland's Colleges (SC), the Sustainable Development Commission Scotland (SDC), HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and many others. I hope we will now all work together to deliver the outcomes set out in our Action Plan and your support in helping us achieve positive outcomes will be invaluable. You can find the Plan at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/05/20152453/0>

There is much to celebrate in the college and university sectors, with positive progress in delivering the outcomes set for the first half of the decade, (and reflected in *Learning for our Future*). This progress is reflected in a recent report from SDC, which graded our progress in education for sustainable development with 4 marks out of a possible 5 and which said “Education is an area in which sustainability principles increasingly underpin policy in Scotland. The education sector in Scotland is becoming more sustainable in terms of its operations and underlying philosophies, though there remains room for improvement.” By working together, I am sure we can build on our existing success over the next half of the decade and achieve even better results.

Learning for Change sets out 9 new actions for delivery in the further and higher education sectors over the next five years. They include:

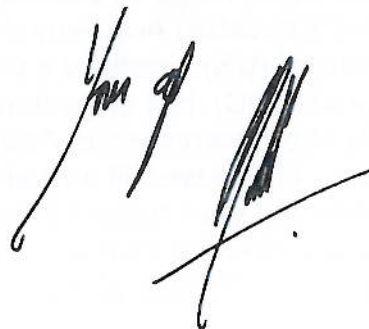
- encouraging our colleges and universities to engage with schools to consider how sustainable development and global citizenship is being embedded through Curriculum for Excellence;
- working with students’ associations and societies to ensure student involvement in estate development and the development of cultural and behavioural change; and
- encouraging the inclusion of sustainable development in expectations of new entrants to vocations and professions where appropriate.

One of the further action points in the Plan is the delivery of the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland (UCCCfS) which is being taken forward by EAUC, with funding from the SFC. I am delighted to note that, to date, 51 institutions have signed up to the commitment, representing over 80% of colleges and universities in Scotland. This is enormously encouraging, and I am sure that - through delivery of their five year climate change action plans - UCCCfS will have a positive impact on our aspirations for carbon reduction and the broader sustainability agenda.

Scotland’s colleges and universities will play a key role in developing knowledge and understanding of sustainable development. Ultimately, the success of *Learning for Change* will depend on you committing to the achievement of our Action Plan.

Over the course of the next five years, as we strive to realise the ambitious targets we have set, I know I can rely on you to work with us, and support the partner organisations involved, to deliver success. I am confident that, with your help, we can ensure Scotland remains a model of best practice in tackling sustainable development and leads the way for the future.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment.



MICHAEL RUSSELL

ANNEX A

This letter has been issued to the following recipients:

Mr Robert Wallen	Principal	Aberdeen College
Mr Craig Thomson	Principal	Adam Smith College
Mr John C Burt	Principal	Angus College
Mrs Linda McTavish CBE	Principal	Anniesland College
Mrs Diane Rawlinson	Principal	Ayr College
Mr Paul Sherrington	Principal	Banff & Buchan College
Mr Russell Marchant	Principal	Barony College
Ms Liz McIntyre	Principal	Borders College
Ms Susan Walsh	Principal	Cardonald College
Professor Bill McIntosh	Principal	Carnegie College
Mr Paul Little	Principal	Central College of Commerce
Mr Gordon Paterson	Principal	Clydebank College
Mr John Doyle	Principal	Coatbridge College
Mr Martin McGuire	Principal	Cumbernauld College
Mr Tony Jakimciw	Principal	Dumfries & Galloway College
Ms Christina Potter	Principal	Dundee College
Mr Miles Dibsall	Principal	Edinburgh's Telford College
Mr Jim Crooks	Principal	Elmwood College
Mrs Linda McKay	Principal	Forth Valley College
Ms Janet Okten	Principal	Glasgow College of Nautical Studies
Professor Thomas Wilson OBE	Principal	Glasgow Metropolitan College
Mr John Spencer	Principal	Inverness College
Dr Sue Pinder	Principal	James Watt College
Ms Mandy Exley	Principal	Jewel and Esk College
Mr Ian Graham OBE	Principal	John Wheatley College
Ms Heather Dunk	Principal	Kilmarnock College
Mr Graeme Hyslop	Principal	Langside College
Mr David R Green	Principal	Lewis Castle College
Mr Mike Devenney	Principal	Moray College
Mr Hugh Logan	Principal	Motherwell College
Ms Ann Southwood	Principal	North Glasgow College
Dr Gordon Jenkins	Principal	North Highland College
Mr David James	Principal	Oatridge Agricultural College
Dr William Ross	Principal	Orkney College
Dr Thomas B Moore	Principal	Perth College
Mr Joe Mooney	Principal	Reid Kerr College
Dr Boyd Robertson	Director	Sabhal Mor Ostaig
Mr George Smith	Director	Shetland College
Mr Stewart McKillop	Principal	South Lanarkshire College
Mr Brian Lister OBE	Principal	Stevenson College Edinburgh
Mr Robert McGroarty	Principal	Stow College
Mrs Mhairi Laughlin	Principal	West Lothian College
Professor Ian Diamond	Principal	University of Aberdeen
Professor Bernard King	Principal	University of Abertay
Professor Peter Downes	Principal	University of Dundee
Professor Timothy O'Shea	Principal	University of Edinburgh
Professor Ian Howard	Principal	Edinburgh College of Art
Dr Peter Easy	Acting Principal	Edinburgh Napier University
Professor Anton Muscatelli	Principal	University of Glasgow
Professor Pamela Gillies	Principal	Glasgow Caledonian University
Professor Seona Reid	Director	Glasgow School of Art
Professor Steve Chapman	Principal	Heriot Watt University

Ms Lucy Macleod	Acting Director	Open University in Scotland
Dr Petra Wend	Principal	Queen Margaret University
Professor John Harper	Acting Principal	Robert Gordon University
Professor John Wallace	Principal	Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama
Professor Bill McKelvey	Principal	Scottish Agricultural College
Dr Louise Richardson	Principal	University of St Andrews
Professor Gerry McCormack	Principal	University of Stirling
Professor Jim McDonald	Principal	University of Strathclyde
Mr James Fraser	Principal	UHI Millennium Institute
Professor Seamus McDaid	Principal	University of West Scotland
Mr Mark Batho	Chief Executive	Scottish Funding Council
Mr Alastair Robertson	Head	Higher Education Academy
Dr Bill Maxwell	Senior Chief Inspector	HM Inspectorate of Education
Mr Liam Burns	President	NUS Scotland
Dr Janet Brown	Chief Executive	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Mr Bernard McLeary	Chief Executive	Learning and Teaching Scotland
Dr Ray Harris	Chief Executive	Scotland's Colleges
Mr Bill Harvey	Director	QAA Scotland
Mr Andrew Chamberlain	Head	EAUC Scotland Office
Mr Alastair Sim	Director	Universities Scotland