

Title: **Greening our Lecturers: support from my sustainability network**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Consider the role of a network of practice in informing the design and development of a sustainable academic development curriculum
- Situate their own academic development activities within the framework of education for sustainable development

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are:

Sharing challenges and successes with a broad network of practice has helped to motivate and inform my efforts to green the curriculum of the Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at the University of Plymouth (PG Cert. LTHE). The network, which includes an individual tutor, researchers of education for sustainable development, former co-participants of a course in sustainability and social change, fellow members of an online community of practice in education, and fellow volunteers working to develop native woodlands, has renewed my enthusiasm for integrating sustainability into curriculum design, development and delivery.

Sustainability is one of several competing priorities for Plymouth's PG Cert. LTHE; other priorities include maintaining a high quality of teaching and learning support whilst accommodating reduced staffing levels, and ensuring that the institutional themes of enterprise, employability and internationalization are evidenced. My activities have followed previous attempts at greening by my colleagues that included discussions with the Centre for Sustainable Futures, attention to the University of Plymouth's Sustainability Policy, and a modest action plan. With the support of my network of practice, I have had some success in making practical and incremental changes towards a greener curriculum for our lecturers.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Please provide an indication of how the session will be structured and how activities and discussion will be facilitated. For discussion papers please include a few indicative questions which will focus the discussion element.

15 minutes – Introduction to session; presentation about the role of my network of practice in supporting my work to “green” the LTHE

10 minutes – As a group, share and record on flipchart examples from participant’s experiences of using a greening network for academic development

20 minutes - Discussion of practical options for developing and leveraging a network of practice to integrate sustainable development into academic development practice (in small groups, and feeding back to whole group)

References

Stirling, S (2001) *Sustainable Education: Re-visioning Learning and Change*, Totnes: Green Books.
University of Plymouth (2008) *Sustainability Policy*, Plymouth: University of Plymouth.