



United Kingdom

The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) was launched in the UK on December 13, 2005 at the UK Launch Conference for UN DESD hosted by the UK National Commission for UNESCO at the Institute of Education, London. The Conference was entitled "From Local to Global: The Long Term Vision for the Decade". The conference aimed at:

- Providing ESD practitioners, policy makers, civil society, and the general public with an opportunity to discuss UNESCO's ESD strategy
- Identifying UK's contribution to the Decade's international strategy and how in turn it can help sustainable development practices in the UK
- Showcasing relevant practices and policies of ESD practitioners, Government Departments, the Devolved Administrations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector

Learning to Last: The Government's Sustainable Development Education Strategy for England

The Government's Sustainable Development Education Strategy for England was drafted in February 2003. The main aim of the strategy is to ensure that all aspects of life long learning are fully engaged in provision of effective education for sustainable development. Other key objectives are that:

- All parts of the statutory education system have the remit, the professional capacity and the resources to develop knowledge, skills and aptitudes that enable all citizens to engage in the achievement of the goals of sustainable development.
- All organizations and agencies responsible for vocational, occupational and post statutory education are fully engaged in developing a workforce able to participate in the achievement of the goals of sustainable development
- All parts of the business sector are engaged in developing a workforce able to participate in the achievement of the goals of sustainable development, through production and consumption, and are also keeping their customers fully aware of their policies and practices
- All organizations involved in both local and regional governance have the professional capacity to engage in the achievement of sustainable development and actively involve in improving the capacity of their various stakeholders to engage
- The many aspects of public education, from mass media, through public places to the civil society organizations are fully engaged in increasing the public awareness and understanding of sustainable development

Scotland

In Scotland pockets of what can be seen as ESD are carried out by innovative staff in schools throughout Scotland. Examples of this innovative work are found in development education, global networks, natural and built heritage concerns, outdoor education, the 'pathways' programme of Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and, perhaps most widely, the Eco-Schools programme. The Eco-Schools programme is developing into a success story in Scotland, with some 2,023 schools (63 per cent of Scottish schools) registered with the programme. Two hundred and two of this number have Green Flag status, including six with permanent status, having gained four consecutive green flags. The percentage of schools registered with Eco-Schools is

also a performance indicator in the programme of National Priorities in Education under the Values and Citizenship component of curriculum provision. Local authorities have to report on the number of primary and secondary schools involved in the Eco- Schools programme in their authority area.