## Things to consider when incorporating sustainability into your professional practice

Peter Buckley: peter.buckley@ed.ac.uk







































#### **Outline**

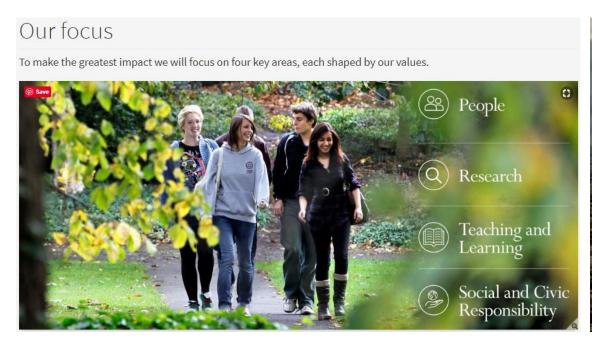


- Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh (UoE)
- My Sustainability 'journey'
- Sustainability and my teaching context
- •Incorporating Sustainability 2 considerations
- •4 'take-home' pieces of advice
- Useful resources

#### Sustainability at UoE



- The University of Edinburgh's 'Strategy 2030'
- The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 'Zero by 2040' and many other initiatives





#### My Sustainability 'journey'



- The Department of Social Responsibility & Sustainability (SRS)
- 'Be Sustainable' online course
- Sustrans 'Active Travel Champion'
- 'Be Sustainable Advanced' –> personal project
- UoE's 'Sustainability Awards' (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
- Learning for Sustainability Scotland (LfSS)
- Continued involvement with these schemes and others (e.g. Friday coffee, 'Teaching Matters' blog, THE Campus, guerrilla gardening, lunchtime walks, etc)







#### Sustainability and EAP



- EAP Teaching Fellow for English Language Education (ELE) as part of the Centre for Open Learning (COL).
- (Mostly) students who speak English as a second language.
- 'AGE Online' from April to June 2020. Used 'Develop EAP: A Sustainable Academic English Skills course'.
- Essay tasks based on a variety of sustainability issues (e.g. impact of meat consumption on climate change, taxing the use of single-use disposable cups, etc).
- Students consider recent issues, select sources, and describe and evaluate potential solutions. Each stage involves critical thinking skills.
- Seminar Discussion Skills using the SDGs as a prompt.
- Practice listening test Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh.

#### **Incorporating Sustainability**

Two questions to consider (following this session):

- 1. Think about ways that you *already* refer to **issues** addressed by the SDGs in your teaching/work (directly or indirectly).
- 2. Do you refer to the SDGs **directly**? If so, which ones? If not, are there ways in which you could? Which ones would you choose and why? What challenges might you face?

#### 4 'take-home' pieces of advice



- You cannot realistically become an expert in every SDG.
- 2) Find out if your place of work has a dedicated sustainability department or individual.
- 3) Speak to your Line Manager about your interests.
- 4) Find things happening at your place of work relating to sustainability.

#### **Useful resources**



- 1. The UN SDG Homepage: <a href="https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/">www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/</a>
- 2. The University of Edinburgh's 'Strategy 2030' overview and detail: <a href="https://www.ed.ac.uk/about/strategy-2030">https://www.ed.ac.uk/about/strategy-2030</a>
- 3. The Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) homepage: <a href="https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability">https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability</a>
- 4. Institute for Academic Development (IAD) 'Teaching Matters' blog: <a href="https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/">https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/</a>
- 5. Times Higher Education (THE) Campus (Key topic = SDGs): <a href="https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/keywords/sdgs-0">https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/keywords/sdgs-0</a>
- 6. Learning for Sustainability Scotland (LfSS) homepage: <a href="http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org/">http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org/</a>
- 7. Resources related more specifically to teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP): <a href="https://developeap.weebly.com/resources.html">https://developeap.weebly.com/resources.html</a>



### Thank you for listening.

# I would be interested to hear your thoughts, comments, and sustainability stories.

peter.buckley@ed.ac.uk