

29th November 2022

Dear Professors Carol Campbell and Alma Harris,

EAUC Scotland is the Scottish branch of the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Further and Higher Education. We view this national discussion as a timely opportunity to embed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as a core aspect of our future children and young people's as well as lifelong learning and education.

Scottish learners of the future need to develop skills, attributes, values, and knowledge to support sustainable development to allow them to thrive in our increasingly unstable world and face global, national, and local challenges. Meeting these needs requires a curriculum where themes of sustainability – social, environmental, and economic – are woven within existing content of all courses of study, and where innovative pedagogy is employed to develop learners' competencies for sustainable development (see guidance by [QAA](#), [UNESCO](#)). Doing so produces global citizens that respect the rights of all people, appreciate diversity, live peacefully and care for the environment. This is our learners' right as set out in the United Nations convention on the rights of the child. Embedding ESD also helps Scotland to be prepared for the local, regional, and national changes that lie ahead in terms of economic development, as well as social and environmental challenges and opportunities. Many of these challenges are addressed in the outcomes of the National Performance Framework, and education at all levels, including further and higher education, needs to enable learners to work together to meet these goals.

The opportunity this discussion creates to shape the future of Scottish education should push boundaries by extending requirements for ESD to include the tertiary sector, recognising it as a vital stage in learners' development and lifelong learning. Learners, specifically in further and higher education, carry their knowledge, skills, and values into workplaces through placements and graduate employment, and into wider society through engagement with their social contexts. This creates a ripple effect of learners' values influencing our social, economic, and political systems, which then in turn affects opportunities for people of all ages. To keep Scotland moving towards social, environmental, and economic justice and sustainability, these systems and opportunities must allow young people, and people of all ages, to contribute and be included. This can only be achieved by including ESD and its competencies and values across all stages of education – primary, secondary, and tertiary.

This letter demonstrates that EAUC Scotland and our member institutions see the strengthening of ESD in the tertiary sector as crucial. We urge for this to occur in a manner that fits within the wider educational experience of our young people in

Scotland, as can be decided through this discussion. We would be pleased to meet you both to discuss this further.

Yours Sincerely,



Matt Woodthorpe
EAUC-Scotland Programme Manager

Christine Calder
EAUC Scotland Convenor
Academic Development Lead, Dundee and Angus College