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Sustainable Consumption
• Module at Level 4
• For Consumer Studies and Business Management students
• Aims to Facilitate the acquisition of detailed knowledge about consumption and the consumer at an advanced level of discourse
• Foster in students the ability to critically evaluate key issues related to sustainable consumption

Students debate critical issues to influence behaviour change

They calculate their carbon footprint
The link for the carbon calculator is as follows: http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/index.html

They develop ideas for campaigns which will promote sustainable consumer lifestyles for students at QMU.

Email cbrennan@qmu.ac.uk or mschroder@qmu.ac.uk for further information

VALUES

POLICIES

CHOICES

Greening the Curriculum
Popular education for environmental justice

“Popular education has the following characteristics:
• its curriculum comes out of the concrete experience and material interests of people in communities of resistance and struggle
• its pedagogy is collective, focused primarily on group as distinct from individual learning and development
• it attempts to forge a direct connection between education and social change.”

(Popular Education Network)

QMU has used popular education methods with activists in communities experiencing pollution

• Higher education Certificate in Environmental Justice 2000-2009 (with Friends of the Earth Scotland)
• ESRC funded research: learning in environmental justice campaigns (with Edinburgh University)
• MSc environmental justice 2010

Email escandrett@qmu.ac.uk for further information

Relevant Curriculum

Strengths & Opportunities
• Makes intellectual resources accessible
• Learning relevant to those most in need of it
• Contribution to movements for justice

Weaknesses & Threats
• Support for non-traditional students off campus
• Administrative management of non-campus students
• Individualism of university assessment process
• Market-led education

Implications
• Flexibility needed in administration and support
• Accessibility beyond the campus
• Activists’ access to academics outwith validated courses

Greening the Curriculum

Poster produced by Educational Resource Centre, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
Two of the biggest problems of the 21st century are ecological destruction and the persistence of poverty. Universities have a vital role in delivering education to address these.

There have been two main approaches combining concern for the environment and inequality: sustainable development and environmental justice.

Sustainable Development:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Environmental justice: originally used by the First People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in USA, campaigning against environmental racism (the disproportionate siting of toxic facilities beside black communities), subsequently used for any movement against socially unequal distributions of environmental damage. In Scotland, Friends of the Earth led a campaign for environmental justice under the banner “no less than a decent environment for all, with no more than our fair share of the earth’s resources”. Environmental justice movements campaign to change policies which cause the inequalities in environmental problems.

Invited and Invented space in the Curriculum

Greening the Curriculum
Queen Margaret University Sustainability Policy

Curriculum Working Group
• The University recognises and acknowledges the key role it has to play in addressing the impacts of climate change

• The University welcomes the opportunity to harness its academic talents and expand Scotland’s ability to create solutions to the challenges posed by climate change through research, knowledge transfer and the provision of skills, modules and courses.

Students will have the tools to change themselves, their future employers, and their societies

Developing a dialogue between practitioners to generate synergies and identify opportunities for embedding sustainability throughout the curriculum

Through its primary purpose of education and research, the University has the potential to make a significant impact on global warming by equipping current and future generations with the skills necessary for tackling the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change. The principles of sustainable development will be embedded throughout the curriculum and sustainability literacy promoted as a core citizenship and employability skill.

Greening the Curriculum