

OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING COURSE FOR TEACHERS

Day 1

Welcome and Introductions

Participants reflect on their life journey which brought them to be here at this training workshop. Sharing our reflections on current practice in sustainability and outdoor learning.

Why Outdoor Learning and Sustainability

Effective learning starts from our place or community. We will explore our 'sense of place' and the role learning plays in understanding how we 'fit in' to a more sustainable world. We will use the idea of a mandala as a tool to share curiosity and provide a shape for thinking about developing experiential learning outdoors.

Approaches to Outdoor Learning

Through active participation in practical activities, we will explore different approaches to outdoor learning. These will focus on using all the senses and encompass activities from the Forest Schools tradition and field studies.

Day 2

Understanding Sustainability

We will explore our natural environment and local community through hands-on activities; we will discover how the natural world provides a model for sustainability. Throughout the day there will be:

- A series of role play activities to demonstrate cycles and flows in nature: soil cycle, water cycle, air cycle, energy flow building on what the participants will have learnt in a theoretical context at school.
- A practical session exploring how the local environment can be used for learning, focusing on mountains and woodlands.
- A practical session exploring how outdoor learning can be used to develop behavioural change.

Values and Sustainability

Sustainable behaviours are driven by the values we hold. In this session we will explore the value that promote more pro-environmental behaviours and what this means for our teaching and student activities.

Day 3

What can Nature Teach us about Sustainability?

Learning in nature has lots of benefits including improved student behaviour and learning, but what can nature teach us? We will investigate how nature is inspiring business to become more sustainable with concepts such as biomimicry, Cradle-to-Cradle and the Blue Economy, translating nature's operational principles into human systems.

Field visit to share in activities carried out by local schools/NGOs.

Day 4

Models and Best Practice for Outdoor Learning and Sustainability

We will explore current thinking and models for effective outdoor learning, and reflect on which we can use to improve our own delivery of outdoor learning. Through hands-on activities we will discover how the natural world provides a model for sustainability. Using practical activities, we will continue to explore economic, social and institutional models and definitions of sustainability, investigating how we can make human systems more sustainable.

Field visit to share in activities carried out by local schools/NGOs.

Day 5

Whole School Approach to Sustainability and Outdoor Learning

Sustainability and outdoor learning provides an excellent context for inter-disciplinary learning across the whole school. How can we plan sustainability and outdoor learning across the whole school involving all aspects of school life? Using a school visit as a case study, we will develop ideas, plans and activities which bring sustainability and outdoor learning to all aspects of school life.

Planning Education for Sustainability Programmes

We will complete the course by making our own plans based on our learning. We will also reflect on how we can deliver curriculum goals through Education for Sustainability and Outdoor Learning.

More teaching activities or a cultural/natural heritage visit.

Workshop Conclusions. Evaluation and Feedback.