

Regional Sustainability Advisers 2012-13

Collaborative project report for the North West Region: Embedding the Circular Economy within the Curriculum



Project leader	Helen Cutts, LSIS Regional Sustainability Adviser for the North West	
Organisation	Wigan and Leigh College	
Contact details	Email: h.cutts@wigan-leigh.ac.uk	Phone: 01942 761570
1. Aims of the project	To include sustainability, specifically the concept of the circular economy, within the Fashion and Catering curriculum. To develop transferable resources that can be used across the learning and skills sector.	
2. Situation: Identify the situation or issue that faced you	<p>Working with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to develop curriculum materials surrounding the circular economy for the learning and skills sector. It was felt that through providing tutor training and resources we would be able to embed the circular economy within existing lesson plans and schemes of work.</p> <p>The Ellen MacArthur Foundation offered to support the project and provide training and guidance via email. This presented a unique opportunity to develop dedicated resources for the sector.</p>	
3. Task: Define the outcomes you needed to achieve	<p>The project goals were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To train tutors from Fashion and Catering in the circular economy.• To develop an introductory presentation explaining the concept of the circular economy.• To develop transferable resources for each curriculum area.• To provide circular economy training to the members of the North West regional sustainability group.• To raise awareness of the teaching resources available on the Ellen MacArthur Foundation website.	

<p>4. Actions that you took in order to achieve your plan, and your approach</p>	<p>Firstly, I contacted the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and gained their support for the project, including presenting at a North West regional sustainability event and providing training for partner organisations.</p> <p>I then made enquiries with other colleges within the North West to find partners to collaborate with for the project. After many discussions the Catering department at Blackpool & the Fylde College and the Fashion department at Liverpool Community College expressed an interest in participating.</p> <p>Representatives from each of the colleges attended a half day training event at Wigan and Leigh College with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. During the training session areas in which the circular economy could be included within lesson plans were discussed.</p> <p>The tutors then returned to their organisations and used the web links and information provided during the training to embed the circular economy concept within their lessons.</p>
<p>5. Results that you obtained</p>	<p>The outputs from the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study – Fashion and the Circular Economy. Embedding sustainability within Fashion, using shirts donated by Wigan Hospice. • Circular Economy Resource Sheets – for Fashion and Catering. • An Introduction to the Circular Economy – PowerPoint presentation which can be used in all curriculum areas. <p>Staff from Wigan and Leigh College, Blackpool & the Fylde College and Liverpool Community College received a half day training session with a representative from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.</p> <p>There was also a presentation to the attendees of the North West regional sustainability networking event in November 2012.</p>
<p>6. What made the project a success? What were the key ingredients?</p>	<p>The support that the Ellen MacArthur Foundation gave to the project greatly contributed to its success. The training session with the tutors involved helped to secure commitment and enthusiasm for the project.</p> <p>Engaging with the Principal at Wigan and Leigh College was essential in order to gain commitment from our curriculum areas. It was also necessary to contact Course Leaders at the other colleges and include all the relevant people including Sustainability Officers (if applicable) and Tutors.</p>

<p>7. What were some of the challenges and obstacles you faced in planning and implementing your project? How did you anticipate or respond to these challenges?</p>	<p>Initially it was difficult to secure the commitment from partner colleges. Finding the right person to talk to about such a project within an organisation can be difficult, I would advise contacting Course Leaders or Divisional Managers in the first instance.</p> <p>It was also a challenge to encourage tutors to embed the circular economy within their lesson plans for the current academic year. This was mainly due to lessons being planned so far in advance. We were able to include some aspects of the training within the curriculum during the 2012/13 academic year however; the tutors will further embed the circular economy within lesson plans during the 2013/14 academic year. This has meant that the project has greater longevity, which has increased its overall value.</p>
<p>8. What would you say were the most important things you learned from this project, which you will take forward as an individual or as an organisation in your sustainability journey?</p>	<p>It is important to ensure that there is enough time to adapt lesson plans before completing a project such as this. Allow sufficient time for staff training before the start of the academic year you would like to include the project within.</p>
<p>9. Any resources or tools produced by the project</p>	<p>The resources produced as part of this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Fashion for a Circular Economy' resource sheet; • 'Catering for a Circular Economy' resource sheet; • Fashion case study; • Introduction to the Circular Economy PowerPoint. <p>Useful web links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/education • http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/workrooms/19712



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