Prompts to help you use our research to further your ESD practice

The ETF's research into the attitudes and experiences of education for sustainable development (ESD) amongst the FE workforce drew five broad conclusions:

1. Sustainability as a concept is broadly well understood
2. There's a widespread belief that the sector is well placed to lead on sustainability solutions
3. Diverse subject specialisms all have a role to play
4. Different FE providers are at different stages of their ESD journey
5. The FE workforce have had very little training on how to deliver quality, impactful ESD

If you'd like support, have questions or ideas, please get in touch with charlotte.bonner@etfoundation.co.uk

#ESDinFE

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Our findings show that organisational approaches to ESD are really varied. You may be at the beginning of your journey, may have been committed to ESD for a number of years, or may not have started yet.

Regardless, you can share the results with colleagues and/or organisational leaders as an entry point to discuss what current practice looks like for you, where the gaps are, and how you could improve.
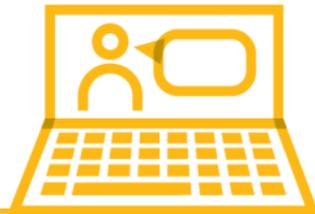
You could focus on one particular area of the survey (embedding ESD in the curriculum, organisational approach, staff CPD etc) or take a whole-institution approach – looking to embed ESD across your curriculum, campus (or estate), community and culture.

These prompts can help you use our research to further your ESD practice and could help you get conversations going amongst your colleagues too.

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Prompts for you:

- Do the research results resonate with you or do you have a different experience/opinion?
- If you were rating your own practice against the research findings, where would you rank your practice?
- Have you explored the relevance of sustainability to your subject area?
- Can you make space to discuss/explore sustainability with your learners?
- Can you include sustainability examples in any teaching materials?
- Can you use sustainability as part of projects or assessments?
- How do you role model sustainable practice for your learners?
- Can you engage any existing groups or networks you are part of in ESD?
- Have you undertaken sustainability training to familiarise yourself with the basic principles of ESD?
- Who within the organisation can you work with to progress sustainability/ESD uptake?

What other questions are you asking yourself? What have you discovered whilst using these prompts? Let us know on social media using #ESDinFE.

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Prompts for you and your colleagues :

- How can we best use these research results to progress our organisational approach to sustainability and ESD?
- If you were rating your own practice against the research findings, where would you rank your practice?
- What can you do to collect your own staff and learners' opinions about sustainability and ESD?
- Have we undertaken a sustainability review in our curriculum area(s)?
- How can we make sure learners get a comprehensive sustainability education whilst they're studying with us?
- Can we support/encourage our team to undertake sustainability training?
- Can we share or signpost good ESD practice with our team or across the organisation?
- Have we discussed sustainability with employers, the local LEP/local authority, awarding organisations and relevant sector bodies? Are there opportunities to collaborate?

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Prompts for you and your colleagues :

- Is sustainability built into our institutional ambitions?
- Have the SLT and Board undertaken sustainability training?
- Is sustainability on our risk and/or opportunities registers?
- Is sustainability built into formal reporting mechanisms across the organisation?
- Do we report our carbon reduction progress?
- How can we best foster a culture of sustainability action across the organisation?
- What are the ways we can make a positive contribution to sustainability in our workplace and community?
- How can we best support our learners, colleagues or others to take sustainability action?
- What are the opportunities to embed ESD within our co-curriculum (enrichment, careers advice, tutorials etc.)?
- How can we build sustainability into relevant policies or processes?

What other questions are you asking yourself? What have you discovered whilst using these prompts? Let us know on social media using #ESDinFE.