

# HIGHER EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A model for curriculum renewal

*Cheryl Desha and Karlson 'Charlie' Hargroves*

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## OUR ONE-MINUTE PITCH

This book is for colleagues who have seen the need to act, and who are looking for guidance on what to do next. For any colleague who is still considering whether to embark on a journey of curriculum renewal towards education for sustainable development, here is our 'one-minute pitch'.

There is an unprecedented urgency for capacity building for sustainable development. Employers are looking to new graduates with sustainability competency to help them address the challenges and opportunities in the 21st century. We now have a much better understanding of our predicament, with sufficient technology to address the most serious of challenges within the next 2–3 decades. However, there is a gap in capacity to apply these knowledge and skills, and action is too slow. The time has come for the education sector to create this capacity, moving beyond high-level action (declarations and big-picture visions), to transform curricula. Students need to learn the intricacies of how to address these challenges, including technical and enabling knowledge and skills. This transformation needs to be across undergraduate and postgraduate education and continuing professional development. Students will look to academically rigorous and technically challenging courses that they can trust, beyond 'warm and fuzzy' conversations or 'green-wash' content. Professional bodies themselves are also looking to universities for guidance on how to make the transition. If education institutions don't meet this need, then companies will find it elsewhere through in-house/professional development.

With this in mind, the stage is set for an action-oriented, reader-friendly tour of possibilities in curriculum renewal towards sustainable development – let's begin.