

Education for Sustainability in Local Government: Handbook



This handbook was developed as part of the Mentoring Local Government in Education for Sustainability project which was undertaken between March 2006 and March 2007. The project was funded by the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and developed and implemented by the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES).

The handbook served as a resource to support the participants in the local government project. It was intended that, with input from the project participants, it could be used as a tool by others wishing to implement similar mentoring projects. The handbook is a resource that outlines the key principles of Education for Sustainability and provides information on tools for stakeholder engagement.

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Citation: Delgado, L (2007) *Education for Sustainability in Local Government: Handbook* Canberra: Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability.

Acknowledgements

The project was conceptualised by Daniella Tilbury, ARIES, Macquarie University, Sydney and directed by Fil Cerone also of ARIES, Macquarie University.

Thank you to members of the Key Informant Group for their valuable input to the review process of the document (Dan Garlick, Kathleen Vella, Rose Read, Angela Shepherd) and to Jenny Tomkins of the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for her valuable feedback.

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Abbreviations

ARIES	Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability
DEC	NSW Department of Education
DEWHA	Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources
DEST	Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training
EE	Environmental Education
EFS	Education for Sustainability
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
KIG	Key Informant Group
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LGA	Local Government Association
NEEC	National Environmental Education Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSESD	National Strategy for Ecological Sustainable Development
PAR	Participatory Action Research
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
UN	United Nations
UNDESD	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Summary

This document formed part of the Mentoring Local Government in Education for Sustainability project which was undertaken between March 2006 and March 2007. The project was funded by the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and developed and implemented by the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES).

The Mentoring Local Government in Education for Sustainability project sought to build the capacity of local government within Australia to use Education for Sustainability (EfS) as a learning-based strategy for change towards sustainability. The Handbook was developed as a resource to support the local government employees who participated in the project. It was intended that, after input from the project participants, it could be used as a tool by others wishing to implement similar mentoring projects.

Education for Sustainability (EfS) approaches are increasingly seen, at both the international and national level, as key to equipping people with the skills necessary to leads and engage during the change process towards sustainability¹. EfS approaches seek to involve and motivate individuals to reflect on how they currently live and work, what their value systems are and how they can bring about changes in the way they do things, leading ultimately towards a more sustainable future. It is also about developing a more politically informed citizenry which can actively participate in decision-making processes and lend support to enlightened policies and government initiatives for sustainability².

¹ UNESCO (2005) *United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development: Draft International Implementation Scheme*
<http://www.aries.mq.edu.au/portal/keydocs/undecade.htm> [Accessed 26 July 2006]

² McKeown, R. *The Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit- What is ESD?*
<http://www.esdtoolkit.org/discussion/whatisesd.htm> [Accessed 5 July 2006]

