

# 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

<b>ARIES</b>	Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability
<b>DEC</b>	NSW Department of Education
<b>DEWHA</b>	Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources
<b>DEST</b>	Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training
<b>EE</b>	Environmental Education
<b>EFS</b>	Education for Sustainability
<b>EPA</b>	NSW Environment Protection Authority
<b>IIED</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development
<b>IISD</b>	International Institute for Sustainable Development
<b>KIG</b>	Key Informant Group
<b>LA21</b>	Local Agenda 21
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Association
<b>NEEC</b>	National Environmental Education Council
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NSESD</b>	National Strategy for Ecological Sustainable Development
<b>PAR</b>	Participatory Action Research
<b>PRA</b>	Participatory Rural Appraisal
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDESD</b>	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Program
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>WSSD</b>	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 sustainability<sup>1</sup>. 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 sustainability<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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]

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

