

RCE SEVERN

REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE IN SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY



REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED BY



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

at Cheltenham and Gloucester

RCE SEVERN NETWORK

RCE Severn is a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) for Sustainability Education, hosted by the University of Gloucestershire and acknowledged by the United Nations University.

The RCE Severn network spans a diverse group of counties across the West Midlands and the northern part of the South West of England.

Its members range from NGOs, community organisations, businesses, Higher and Further Education Institutes, to schools, local government and public sector groups.

It connects local organisations with the university, to collaborate on learning and change that advances local and global sustainability goals.



RCE Severn - based at the University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham



What are the aims of RCE Severn?

- » **COLLABORATION** - on multi-sector and cross-regional learning and change for sustainability
- » **CAPACITY BUILDING** - sharing learning, developing projects, exchanging best practices
- » **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** - creating ways for people to gain practical experience in sustainability
- » **SUPPORTING INNOVATION** - transformative learning and real world research for sustainability
- » **INFLUENCING CHANGE** - acting with local, national and global partners to inform policy and practice

RCE GLOBAL NETWORK

RCE Severn is part of a learning network of over 150 RCEs across the world. The global RCE network is co-ordinated by the United Nations University's Institute for the Advanced Study (UNU-IAS) in Japan.

Established in 2003, the RCE movement supported the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), and now supports the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development launched in 2014.

RCEs now focus on action that helps to implement the GAP and to deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), known as the Global Goals.

What is Education for Sustainable Development?

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is more than informing people about sustainability issues, or running sustainability campaigns. It is about building human capacity to meet the challenges of sustainability, through learning activities that aim to bring about change in workplaces, communities and families.

It uses both formal and informal learning, to equip people in all areas of life to challenge current practices and bring about real transformation for sustainability.

What are the UN Global Goals?

In September 2015, 193 world leaders agreed to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Together these goals express shared priorities and an integrated agenda for advancing social progress, economic growth and environmental protection, the 'triple bottom line' of sustainability.



RCE SEVERN

LEARNING AND TRAINING

Capacity building and dialogue activities offered by the RCE network and partners:

- Annual RCE Forum event
- Special workshops and seminars
- Placements and internships

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Transformative projects that link university academic teams and students with RCE partners:

- Student-community learning
- Applied research
- Joint funding bids



COMMUNICATIONS

Sharing news and opportunities from the university, RCE Severn region and RCE global movement:

- Regular newsletters
- Social media
- Website
- Global RCE news platforms

UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

RCE Severn implements its vision by working towards strategic goals that are integrated into the University of Gloucestershire's Sustainability Strategy 2017-2022 (Engagement and Partnerships goal). The RCE is also part of the University's wider public engagement activity, supporting its Strategic Plan 2017-2022: "To build partnerships which create opportunity, innovation and mutual benefit for the communities we serve".

www.sustainability.glos.ac.uk/partners

RCE PROJECTS

REGENERATION

Community repair café and design skills outreach

Partners involved: Product Design Course Team with Vision 21 and Gloucestershire County Council's Joint Waste Team.

- » 416 items brought for repair and 80% successfully repaired in first year
- » Over 500 visitors and 40 students actively learning to repair
- » Themed workshops on repair and reuse for IT, technology and clothing.



CHANGING COMMUNITIES, CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Challenging ideas on migration through photography

Partners involved: Photography Course Team with Cheltenham Trust, Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, the African Community Foundation, and Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

- » Students worked in partnership with 5 local organisations
- » Local events and exhibition at Leisure@ Cheltenham seen by over 700 people



THREAD COUNTS

New regional sustainable fashion and textiles forum

Partners involved: Fashion Design Course Team with Atelier Stroud, Katy Bevan The Crafter, SIT Select and Bristol Textiles Recycling.

- » 'Makers Day' launch event and public exhibition and practical workshops at Hardwick Gallery
- » 40 local people joining practical textiles and design workshops



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

RCE Severn provides a platform to link students' studies and interests with the needs and expertise of local organisations.

The University offers students different ways to develop as 'Future Professionals' who can understand and apply sustainability in the real world. RCE partners can be actively involved by learning and working together with students through projects, internships, placements and mentoring.

A student can provide increased capacity, fresh perspective, and links into university expertise. They offer a range of skills including film making, social media, marketing, communications, ICT, research, photography and web development.



Natalie - Green Economy Researcher

Cheltenham Green Doors

Project: Evaluating the value of the Green Economy to Cheltenham.

Location: Cheltenham Green Doors (local sustainability charity).

Result: Research project report for host organisation. Intern of the Year Award for student contribution.



Sophie and Caragh - Waste Reduction Interns

Gloucestershire County Council

Project: Setting up a competition to increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill in student halls.

Location: Gloucestershire County Council and University of Gloucestershire student halls.

Result: Fun and engaging 'Don't Toss for Glos' for students reducing waste for the council and University.

JOIN RCE SEVERN

Joining RCE Severn is free and open to any individual or organisation active in the region who shares its vision.

There are two ways to be involved, depending on your interests:

RCE MEMBERS:

- » Receive newsletters and communications
- » Participate in events, trainings and projects
- » Share relevant news through the RCE Severn network
- » Inform consultations, dialogues and proposals through the RCE

RCE PARTNERS:

- » Lead or help to deliver RCE Severn projects
- » Establish collaborative activities that meet RCE Severn aims
- » Apply for room hire and UNU logo use for appropriate activities
- » Propose relevant projects for annual UNU RCE awards
- » May be part of the Advisory Group to shape the direction of the RCE

To find out more contact our RCE Severn Co-ordinator:

rcesevern@glos.ac.uk

RCE SEVERN

The RCE Severn network is hosted by the University of Gloucestershire:

Office: based at the University's Park Campus in Cheltenham

Staffing: RCE Director and Co-ordinator are members of university staff

Strategy: aligned to the University's Strategic Plan and Sustainability Strategy

Advisory Group: representatives of key sectors across the RCE network

Further Information

RCE Severn

sustainability.glos.ac.uk/partners

RCE Global

www.rcenetwork.org/portal

 **@UniGlosSustain**  **UniGlosSustainability**

Key Contact

Dr Alex Ryan

RCE Severn Director

Miriam Webb

RCE Severn Co-ordinator

e: rcesevern@glos.ac.uk



ACKNOWLEDGED BY



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**



**UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

at Cheltenham and Gloucester