



PATHWAYS TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Recognising lifelong-lifewide learning on behalf
of nature, the environment and sustainability

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2023



Image credit - <https://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2022/04/21/microsoft-and-partners-are-building-a-more-sustainable-future/>

“lifelong learning is a journey of lifelong becoming, which is nothing other than learning how to live and be on this tiny planet”¹
Unfortunately, as a species, we are not doing very well in achieving this goal and this initiative is for those who want to try to do better!

Context

Science tells us that our resource intensive consumptive and wasteful habits (we are using nature 1.8 times faster than our planet’s biocapacity can regenerate), and continuous economic growth, are causing us to exceed key planetary boundaries². Economic/ technological prosperity for some parts of the globe, has been achieved at the cost of destabilising the systems – like our climate and oceans, that enable all forms of life to flourish. We need to change the way we live if we are to have a future and that involves changing the way we think about ourselves in relation to everything else and achieving this difficult transition is a key challenge for lifelong-lifewide learning and education.

We can look at our current situation in despair – why have we brought ourselves to the edge of destruction? Or, we can look at our situation with optimism – the transition we have to make is a necessary part of our evolution as an intelligent species. A significant part of the wicked problem of our future survival is framed by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ which sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Education has it’s own goal – SDG#4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”⁴. SDG#4 gives education a new role – to

encourage behaviors that will support the achievement of a sustainable future. An important part of this new role is to educate ourselves into new ways of understanding and behaving, which actively embrace learning as the core regenerative enterprise of living our life. The idea that *lifelong learning is the integration of learning and living*⁵ must underpin a new culture of lifelong learning⁶. It also underpins our experiential inquiry into how we might learn to live a life that is more likely to help nature and the environment and contribute to a future that is more sustainable.

Action and Learning for Nature, the Environment & Sustainable Futures

The basic proposition is that we can all do better in learning to live on this tiny planet in ways that are less harmful to the living and non-living systems that sustain life and we can achieve this by being more aware of the effects we are having on the world around us, and mediate those effects, as we live our life each day. We can also go further by adding new projects to our life through which which we are able to make a positive, regenerative, difference to the world around us.

Finding inspiration

Without ‘will’ nothing will happen but we all need to discover the motivations to change what we do or add new activities to an already busy life. Sometimes we are inspired by the very idea of trying to help someone or something, sometimes the something inspires us or perhaps there is something in the

process, our relationships or what emerges that sustains our actions. Perhaps also simply by interacting with other people who share our beliefs and values can be helpful. Our aim is to understand the nature of the motivations that encourage and enable us to participate in our pathways to a more sustainable future.

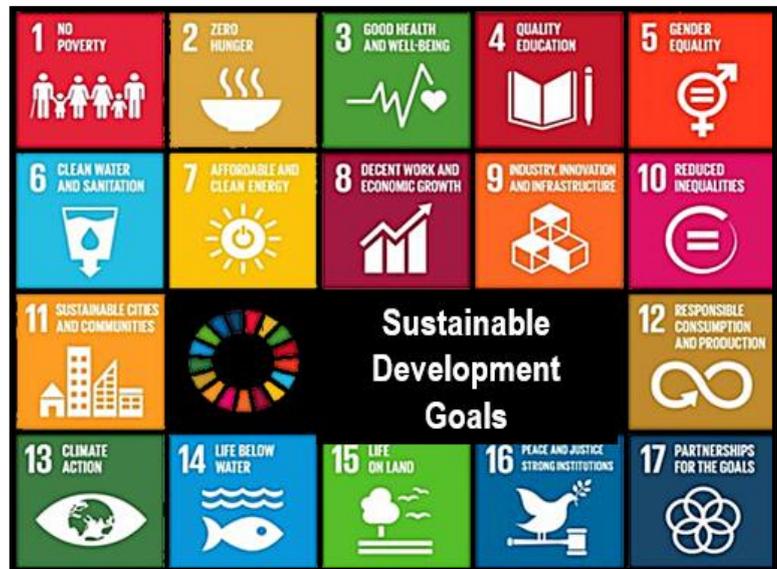
Invitation to Join the Pathways Initiative

Lifewide Education is an open and inclusive society and we are seeking volunteers of any age to participate in our lifelong learning experiment with the aim of developing a means to recognise the efforts and commitments of people who want to take action on behalf of nature, the environment & sustainability. The pathways initiative is intended to demonstrate how lifelong-lifewide learning that is undertaken on behalf of nature and the environment could be supported, valued and recognised.

Pathways to a more sustainable future

is intended for anyone of any age or background who is concerned about the damage we have inflicted on our planet and the threat this poses to the future of all forms of life. Our aim is to encourage people to challenge themselves to act in ways that make a positive contribution to nature, the environment and sustainability in line with any of the Sustainable Development Goals³ that they choose.

The outcomes from this process are both personal e.g. learning how to live a life that is more in tune with the needs of our tiny planet and in the process creating a better version of ourselves, and communal e.g. we are a village to help each other learn.



Lifewide Education will award a **Certificate of Participation** to those who would like to receive recognition for their commitment and effort to change the way they live in ways that are more likely to help nature, improve their local environment and live a life that contributes to a more sustainable future.

Ethos & Expectations

We want to nurture a learning community through which we encourage, support and learn from each other. To participate in the Pathways Community we expect you to:

- 1 Join the Pathways Community on the Linked In platform
- 2 Participate in a Zoom launch meeting on Monday April 3rd 19.00 -20.00 UTC.
- 3 Reflect on the life you are living and, with reference to the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), identify aspects of your life where you could act on behalf of nature, the environment and sustainability.
- 3 Select one of more of the SDGs that will form the focus for new ways of living. You can build on something that you are already trying to do. Alternatively, you might challenge yourself by creating entirely new activities. Your focus may be big or small, transformational or incremental, individual or collaborative.
- 4 Keep a diary (eg word, blog, notebook, scrapbook, audio or any other format) and make a weekly entry relevant to your action for nature, the environment and sustainability project describing activities and experiences, and what you have learnt.

- 5 Share what you have learnt by making a post in the last week of each month on the Linked In Pathways initiative by sharing a perspective or insight gained from your experiences.
 - 5 Participate in a once a month zoom event (during first week of every month) to connect to and share with other participants in the pathways community.
 - 6 At the end of the action learning process, create a short digital story to share with the community, that captures the meaning of your experience and what you have gained from it. Guidance will be provided on how to create a digital story.
- The results of our action learning experiment will be shared through an October issue of Lifewide Magazine.

If you would like to participate in our action for nature, environment & sustainability community and contribute to this initiative, please email Norman Jackson lifewider@gmail.com Please pass on this invitation to anyone you feel might be interested.

Norman Jackson, Melissa Shaw, Jenny Willis & Rob Ward - Lifewide Education Facilitation Team

Sources

- 1 Barnett, R. (2022) The End of Learning: Living a Life in a World in Motion. In K. Evans et al. (eds.), Third International Handbook of Lifelong Learning, Springer International Handbooks of Education, Available at: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-67930-9_1-1
- 2 Rockström, J. & Gaffney, O (2021) Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet. DK Steffen, W., Broadgate, W., Deutsch, L., Gaffney, O., & Ludwig, C. (2015). The trajectory of the Anthropocene: The Great Acceleration. The Anthropocene Review, 2(1), 81–98. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053019614564785>
- 3 UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1. (2015) Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Available at: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf
- 4 UNESCO. (2020a). Education for sustainable development: A Roadmap. Paris, France: UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. Paris France UNESCO Available at: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/educationsustainable-development>
- 5 Carlsen, A. (2014) Lifelong Learning UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning Technical Note. Available at: <https://uil.unesco.org/fileadmin/keydocuments/LifelongLearning/en/UNESCOTechNotesLLL.pdf>
- 6 UNESCO. (2020b). Embracing a culture of lifelong learning: Contribution to the futures of education initiative report. A transdisciplinary expert consultation. Paris, France: UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. Available at: <https://www.sdg4education2030.org/embracingculture-lifelong-learning-uil-september-2020>