Education for Sustainable Development - creating the next generation of change makers

About

Dr Karen Brickman is dedicated to advancing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), believing that one of the most impactful contributions a university can make toward a sustainable future is to produce graduates who are not just sustainability literate but sustainability change makers. She has championed numerous initiatives to support this mission, driving change within the university and across the academic community globally.

Work

In 2023, she established the university's first ESD working group within the Business School. This group actively promotes sustainable development and integrates sustainability principles into teaching practices and curriculum design. Among its notable achievements is the development of a Carbon Literacy module and certification, designed to equip staff with critical knowledge and practical tools to educate students on carbon impact and sustainability fundamentals. With a "train the trainer" approach, this module empowers staff to scale the programme, enabling more students to become sustainability changemakers.

Previously, in the School of Accounting, Finance and Economics, Karen led a successful initiative to align all school programmes with Sustainable Development principles. This effort garnered the prestigious CFA ESG affiliation for several undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

In 2022, she also founded and continues to run the 'Innovate for a Sustainable Future' Hackathon. This event trains academic staff on sustainable development, integrating sustainability principles into curriculum development, research and engagement practices, further fostering a culture of sustainable learning across disciplines.

The project aims to expand its reach by embedding sustainability literacy and changemaking skills across all university programmes, creating a culture where every graduate is equipped to drive sustainable practices and empowering a new generation of sustainability leaders. By broadening the scope of initiatives like the 'Innovate for a Sustainable Future' Hackathon, the university can position itself as a leader in Education for Sustainable Development, influencing both local and global academic communities.

SDGs