

Candidate RCE Wales

APPLICATION TO UNU-IAS FOR RCE STATUS FROM CANDIDATE RCE WALES

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VISION STATEMENT

Candidate RCE Wales facilitates collaboration to research, develop and promote Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, so that this learning is central to the emergence of a sustainable Wales.

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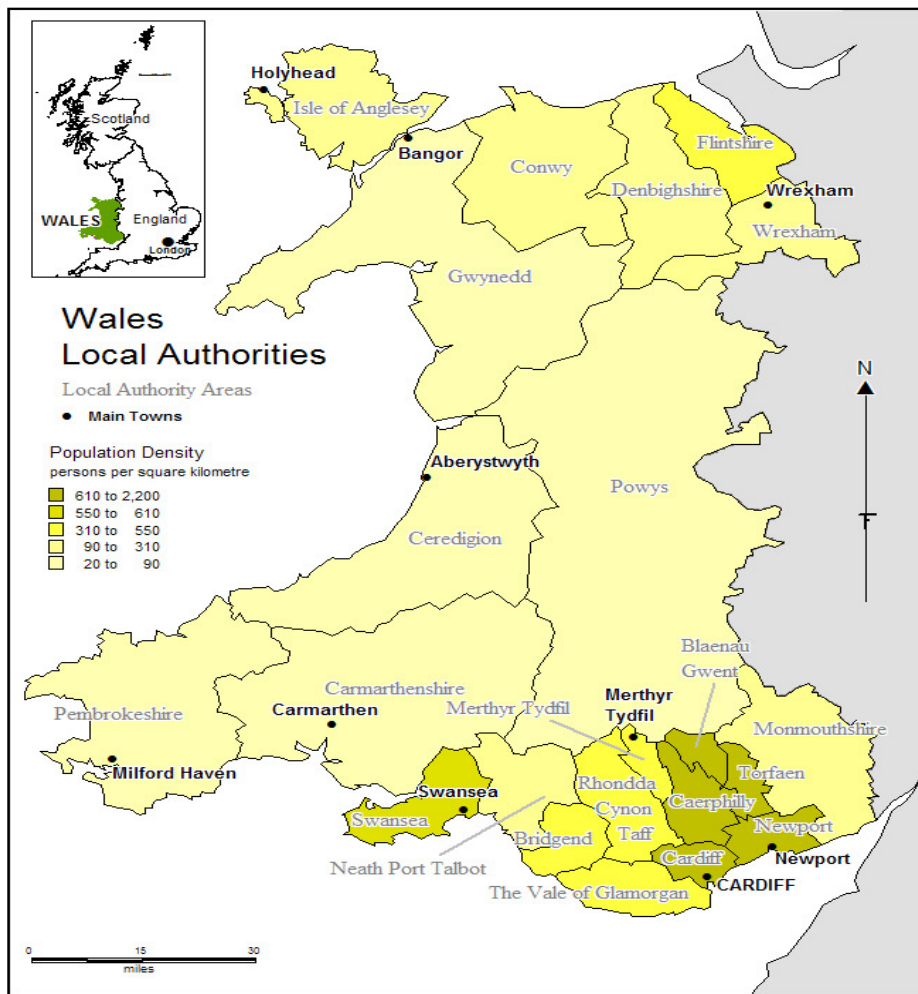
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INTRODUCTION: The Context for RCE Wales

This application proposes the establishment of a Regional Centre of Expertise in ESDGC¹ for Wales.

Wales is one of four countries making up the United Kingdom (the others being England, Northern Ireland and Scotland). It is situated to the west of England, facing the island of Ireland (see Map 1).



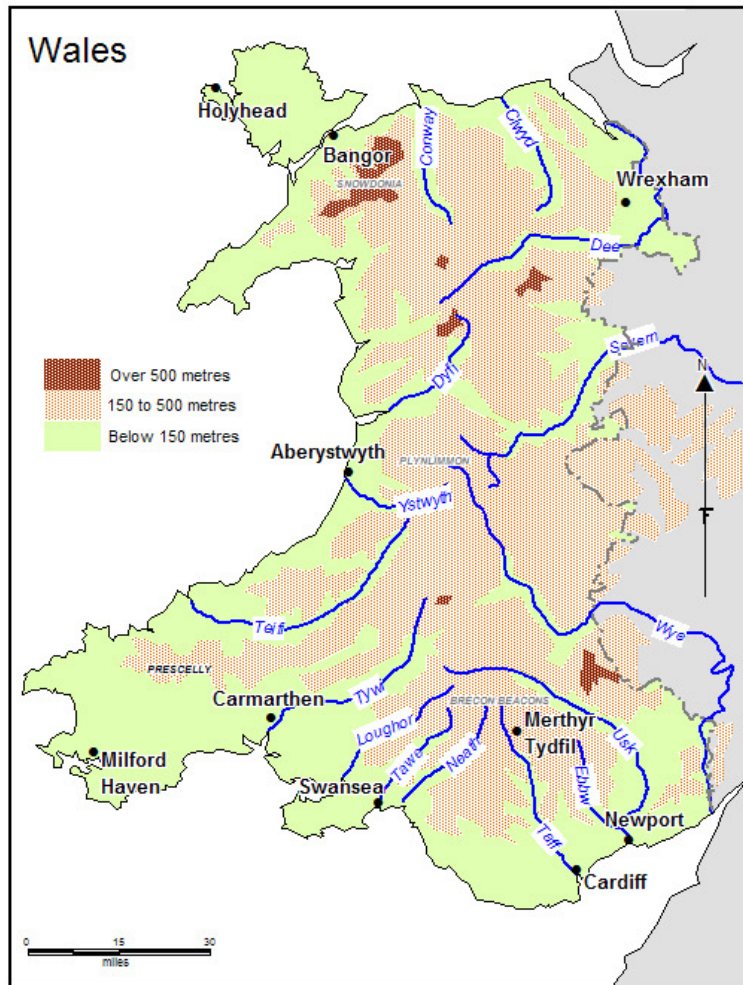
Map 1: Location of Wales (also showing local government boundaries)

¹ In Wales, we use the acronym “ESDGC” in place of the more common “ESD”, to denote ‘Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship’, thus making explicit the inclusion of social dimensions in our ESD thinking.

Wales has a long and highly cultured history. Both its history and its culture, whilst inextricably linked with those of other parts of the UK, are in many respects distinctive from them. Many such distinctions are evident in the local communities, individuals and organisations who make Wales today, and in the many surviving clues to Wales's heritage, in its natural landscapes and man-made features. The people of Wales have seen many struggles over the centuries in local and national efforts to maintain a naturally-rooted continuity with their past, and self-determination.

The Government of Wales Act 1998 provided for devolved government for Wales, and in 1999 the Welsh Assembly came into being. Certain powers are now devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government from the UK Government. (Scotland and Northern Ireland also have devolved government.) Such an arrangement aims to facilitate Wales in its aspirations. With a population of approximately 4 million, and with a long and distinctive national identity, history and culture, Wales has a significant degree of natural and deep-rooted cohesion and at the same time is linked through time to adjoining regions of the UK, Europe and the rest of the world. As such, Wales is a sensible 'Region' to be serviced by an RCE.

Wales is predominantly a rural country, much of which is composed of upland and coastal areas, where, traditionally, fishing and farming have been the mainstay occupations. Wales also has an industrial history that is significant on a world scale, with its slate and copper and coal resources playing prominently on the world trade stage; indeed being key to the industrialisation of the world. The Wales of today is predominantly post-industrial, with primary food production (especially meat, dairy and fish) of continuing importance, and now complemented by tourism, a very important sector of the Welsh economy, based on the spectacular landscape that Wales enjoys, from north to south and from east to west (see Map 2).



Map 2: RCE Wales Region - geographical scope and land relief

This wide variety of historical lineages – the continuity of food production, the changes in industrial conditions and the establishment of new national economic activities – results in a rich array of people, communities, traditions and landscapes. Supporting statistics including those for population, industry and agriculture can be found in Appendix 1. Against this complex and dynamic background, the Welsh Assembly Government has established ‘Sustainable Development’ as the central guiding principle for all of its work, as set out in its statutory ‘Scheme’, *One Wales: One Planet* (see <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en> for full text). The Scheme provides a national overarching framework that guides and fosters coherence between policy areas. Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) is recognised as a cross-cutting theme, and is understood to be a necessity for moving Wales onto a more sustainable footing. ESDGC is written explicitly into the Scheme.

The Government of Wales Act 1988 places a statutory duty on the Welsh Assembly Government to produce the Scheme. *One Wales: One Planet* is the latest such document, published in May 2009, but for a number of years Wales has recognised the importance of ESDGC, and the government has been consulting widely and making arrangements for its strategic development and support, including establishing an ESDGC champion.

We have in Wales a national ESDGC Strategy (full text can be found at <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/081204strategyactionupdateen.pdf>), which currently recognises 5 sectors, each of which are at different stages and have different goals and needs in terms of developing effective ESDGC responses. A suite of practical guidance documents has been produced, drawn up in wide consultation with users and providers, to give help in implementing the goals of the Strategy, and targeted, for example, at Teacher-Trainers, Schools and Further Education professionals. The guidance documents can be found at http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy_strategy_and_planning/sustainabledevelop/?lang=en).

In short, Wales enjoys an advanced position in terms of a strategic framework within which to progress ESDGC across the country.

At the same time, indeed since well before devolution, the people of Wales, individually and collectively through public, private and voluntary organisations, have complemented this government activity. They have practiced ESDGC, continually developing a multiplicity of responses, some considerably sophisticated and advanced, to the challenge of sustainable development in Wales. This endeavour has lost none of its energy, and ESDGC-related projects abound in Wales (see, for example, Appendix 3). The role of the proposed RCE Wales is to provide a supportive mechanism for this complex ESDGC collective, to help increase their individual and collective impact, to help gain more momentum and to raise the quality of the ESDGC we can offer in Wales, within the strong strategic national framework.

It is against this fertile background, drawing on so much experience, skill, energy and enthusiasm, that we seek to establish RCE Wales, as a complementary social agency through which to harness existing ESDGC activity, know-how, potential and aspiration across Wales; to increase the impact of the effort, to raise its quality and to enable us better to learn from, and to share our own ESDGC learning with, others.

REGIONAL CHALLENGES

INTRODUCTION

This document has been distilled from People, Places, Futures - The Wales Spatial Plan, a key strategy document outlining a 20 year plan for the sustainable development of Wales. Originally adopted by the National Assembly for Wales in November 2004 and updated in 2008.

The Update was adopted by the Assembly in July 2008. It aims to bring the Wales Spatial Plan into line with 'One Wales: One Planet', the Welsh Assembly Government's new sustainable development scheme, which was launched in June 2009. The spatial plan will deliver sustainable development through its Area Strategies in the context of this overarching scheme.

The Wales Spatial Plan sets out cross-cutting national spatial priorities. These provide the context for the application of national and regional policies for specific sectors, such as health, education, housing and the economy, reflecting the distinctive characteristics of different sub-regions of Wales and their cross-border relationships.

(see <http://wales.gov.uk/location/spatial/?lang=en>)

All of these policy documents have implications for ESDGC.

EXTRACTS FROM: PEOPLE, PLACES, FUTURES - THE WALES SPATIAL PLAN 2004

In the early 21st century Wales, in common with other nations, states and regions, faces many challenges in the management of our resources and territory. These include issues of globalisation, the implications of technology and the knowledge economy on urban and rural lifestyles, and the potentially enormous impacts of climate change. Coupled with this, are ever rising personal expectations, demographic change and the ease of mobility, particularly of our most talented people. Maintaining balanced communities and countering future population decline are key challenges.

A country the size of Wales has to optimise the use of its public and private resources to create the best opportunities for its citizens in an ever modernising and expanding European Union. We have to look forward in time and outwards, co-ordinating our efforts and building on our achievements, to fulfil our unique potential...

Devolution has given us the opportunity to shape distinctively Welsh answers to Welsh questions, with more power to guide action, both directly and indirectly. To do this we need to co operate across traditional boundaries and compartmentalised thinking – whether sectoral or geographic. We recognise that

'one size' solutions do not fit all parts of Wales. We need to identify the most suitable approach for each individual area within our overall strategy. Differing structures may also be needed as those that work in, for example, health, may not be suited to addressing another issue, like transport.

There is a need to;

- Sustain our communities by tackling the challenges presented by population and economic change
- Grow in ways which will increase our competitiveness while spreading prosperity to less well-off areas and reducing negative environmental impacts
- Enhance our natural and built environment for its own sake and for what it contributes to our well-being
- Sustain our distinctive identity.

Wales enjoys a strong sense of community in both its urban and rural areas. But the long-term future of our communities depends on how they respond to present and future pressures.

The first challenge is tackling deprivation and particularly concentrations of poverty and worklessness. Although deprivation exists to some degree across all parts of Wales, including rural areas, the largest concentrations of deprivation are found in the upper South Wales Valleys, in parts of our major cities and towns, and in port and (former) industrial communities. These are areas that will need concerted, creative and focused investment if they are to make significant progress in tackling problems of poor health, worklessness, lack of commercial investment and low skills. Communities First, (<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/communitiesfirst/?lang=en>, the Welsh Assembly Government's flagship programme to improve the living conditions and prospects for people in the most disadvantaged communities across Wales), has been designed to assist many of these communities to identify how they can move forward. Some 30-40% of the most deprived people live in the Communities First areas. Targeted area regeneration work is also being pursued through European funding and support for Housing Renewal Areas. Children living in deprived communities face particular challenges as they are much more likely than children from similar social backgrounds outside these areas to underachieve in school and to suffer poor health. Targeted work with very young children in deprived areas can significantly improve their chances in life.

We need to ensure that mainstream health and education support meets the needs of less well-off communities. Poor health follows similar spatial patterns to other aspects of deprivation: there are particular concentrations of poor health, long-term illness and unhealthy lifestyles in the South Wales Valleys. The work on *Narrowing the Gap* from an education perspective and the *Health Inequalities Fund* has shown what can be achieved through applying best practice and

ensuring health care provision and education policy addresses local requirements.

The second challenge to sustaining communities is population change. In the upper parts of the South Wales Valleys and Neath Port Talbot falling birth rates combined with very low inward migration results in declining population. This trend is reducing the balance of the social mix in the population which in turn increases the problems of deprivation. Anglesey, too, has been experiencing population decline. The issue is different in rural areas. In modern society, younger people typically move out of all but the largest towns to pursue work or further education opportunities, whilst a significant number of middle-aged people move into or back to rural areas. These population trends are found in most areas and figure 2 shows the change in age distribution in Wales between 1983 and 2003, while figure 3 shows the settlement patterns in Wales.

In 2002 there were fewer than 31,000 children born and over 33,000 deaths. In-migration is therefore needed to sustain the vitality of our communities. This is a particular concern for our more rural areas where many services would become increasingly unviable without inward migration. In-migration has the potential to contribute very positively to an area's culture and identity, but can also pose challenges to communities and their cultural and linguistic identity and needs to be managed sensitively.

The challenges therefore are to:

- Ensure that inward migration enhances rather than reduces the population age balance and mix
- Ensure that the mix of housing available supports that balance and does not exclude young people from local housing
- Sustain the distinctiveness of local culture.

<http://wales.gov.uk/location/spatial/documents/2004wsp/?lang=en>

THE WALES SPATIAL PLAN 2008 UPDATE.

(Full text of the Wales Spatial Plan Update 2008 can be viewed at, <http://wales.gov.uk/location/spatial/documents/wsp2008update/?lang=en>)

This sets out the key issues and challenges facing Wales as a whole under the five themes.

- Building Sustainable Communities
- Promoting a Sustainable Economy
- Valuing our Environment
- Achieving Sustainable Accessibility
- Respecting Distinctiveness

Building Sustainable Communities

Our future depends on the vitality of our communities as attractive places to live and work. We need to reduce inequalities between communities whilst retaining their character and distinctiveness.

The key challenges we face in building sustainable communities are to tackle deprivation – and particularly concentrations of poverty and worklessness – and to bring about improvements in public health and the eradication of child poverty. As the Communities First programme moves into its Communities First Plus phase, improved engagement between Spatial Plan Area Groups and local partnerships will help develop initiatives which tackle child poverty, employability, skills deficits and economic inactivity, as well as environment, health and wellbeing and community safety. Figure 4 shows those populations which are in the overall 10% most deprived areas in the country.

Promoting a Sustainable Economy

We need an innovative, high value-added economy for Wales which utilises and develops the skills and knowledge of our people; an economy which both creates wealth and promotes the spreading of that prosperity throughout Wales; an economy which adds to the quality of life as well as the standard of living and the working environment.

The economy in Wales has a spatial dimension. Some areas adjoining the English border have economic performance characteristics fairly similar to the UK average while the more western areas and the former coal-mining areas lag behind. The Valleys are characterised by levels of economic inactivity above the UK average, and a skewed population distribution with very small proportions of the population in white collar occupations. Low pay, seasonal work and lack of diverse opportunities are more of an issue in rural Wales, given its small settlement size and sparse population.

Wales has seen a partial resurgence of the birth rate following the sharp fall in the 1990s. Wales is a net gainer of population in every age group except for those in their 20s, which reflects the absence of a metropolis. Due to the popularity of Wales as a retirement area, Wales has a higher dependency ratio than England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.

One Wales the new Sustainable development Scheme for Wales makes a commitment that an all-Wales approach to economic development should be adopted, guaranteeing investment in all regions within the framework of the Wales Spatial Plan. This approach will include:

- Development of vibrant urban and networked city regions in the South East, Swansea Bay and North East Areas
- Development of key settlements with complementary roles to support a prosperous economy in rural areas

Valuing Our Environment

The quality of our natural environment has an intrinsic value as a life support system, but also promotes wellbeing for living and working and contributes to our economic objectives. Safeguarding and protecting our natural and historic assets, and enhancing resilience to address the challenges of climate change, will enable us to attract people to our communities and provide the wellbeing and quality of life to encourage them to stay and preserve the foundations for the future.

The land, marine and historical environment of Wales is fundamental to our cultural heritage, values and quality of life. Protecting, regenerating and enhancing these assets is essential for its own sake, for health and wellbeing, and for economic opportunities.

Climate Change:²

Climate change is an urgent and compelling issue which will have a fundamental impact on our communities and working environments, our way of life, and our health and wellbeing. We must act now to protect our communities from the unavoidable consequences. For example, most of Wales' population lives close to either rivers or the sea. Current and future changes in rainfall patterns and sea levels require us to have engaged people in flood risk issues. There will also be climate change consequences for land use, water resources, biodiversity and wildlife. All our communities – both living and working environments – need to be addressing these adaptation issues. Equally, we need to act now to minimise the contribution that we will make to future climate change, through rethinking where and how we live, work and move around, reducing the energy and other resources that we require. Spatial Plan Area Groups can take a number of actions which will help us all tackle climate change, but also promote a healthy and enjoyable environment in which to live and work, including by:

- Encouraging more walking and cycling as part of people's daily lives
- Providing safe and clean open spaces with more opportunities to enjoy wildlife
- Improving air quality, for example through an integrated approach to traffic management

² The Universities UK publication Greening Spires makes clear Universities are playing their part. The document showcases the contribution of higher education institutions to the climate change agenda by highlighting a range of initiatives, research programmes and projects from across the UK HE sector. The selection of case studies included in the document demonstrates the energy and vision that is going into scientific research into some of the most challenging and unknowable issues of our age. The research, and the extensive links Universities are forging with industry, as well as their international collaborations, signal their leading role in the global search for solutions to environmental problems.

www.UniversitiesUK.ac.uk

- Managing waste, water and soils more sustainably, with Spatial Plan partners
- Enabling the development of enhanced provision for the re-use and recycling of waste

Protecting and enhancing the environment:

Each Spatial Plan Area is supported by an environment working group to provide expert advice and assist in delivering the Environment Strategy for Wales at an Area level. Building on our partnership work with the Sustainable Development Commission Wales, each Area Group will develop practical plans to move towards becoming a low-carbon region, in addition to reducing their wider 'eco-footprint', going beyond the impact of carbon emissions alone. Figure 5 shows the differences in the ecological footprint data for local authorities in Wales.

Challenges:

- Define the concept of low-carbon regions and how this can be achieved in each Area.
- Develop a response to climate change through each Area Group's delivery framework, by setting out how each Area will respond to its particular climate change challenges. This means identifying the key interventions to achieve agreed greenhouse gas reduction targets in each region, and adaptations to the effects of climate change.
- Develop a strategy to reduce each Area's ecological footprint across the range of its activities, and set this out in the Area's delivery framework.
- Implement coastal management in such a way as to link spatial planning on land with spatial planning at sea to ensure the best protection and use of.

Achieving Sustainable Accessibility

We will develop access in ways that protect the environment, encourage economic activity, widen employment opportunities, ensure quality services and integrate the social, environmental and economic benefits that travel can have.

Citizens must be able to access job opportunities and public services – health, social services, education, etc – if equality of opportunity is to be successfully promoted in Wales. This is of particular concern for those who face barriers to accessibility, such as people on low incomes, young and old people, disabled people and those living in rural areas. Likewise, businesses need improved access to markets to create new job opportunities and secure these in the longer term.

Access to services:

Major public service providers such as the NHS should, at an early stage in preparing redevelopment or relocation proposals, engage with those responsible for transport planning. The transport implications of proposals should be fully explored before binding decisions are made.

Travel and climate change:

In the context of responding to and mitigating the effects of climate change, the Wales Spatial Plan supports the development of spatially targeted responses. These include reducing the need to travel, by co-locating jobs, housing and services, for instance, and changing behaviour towards more resource-efficient and healthy modes of travel, such as encouraging car sharing, public transport, walking and cycling.

Information and communications technology (ICT):

The development of improved electronic communications and improved access to information and services through electronic means (including support for local access points and face-to-face contact) can reduce the need to travel while improving service delivery at the same time.

Challenges:

- Work within the national and regional transport planning frameworks to improve the quality and sustainability of connections between key settlements, within and between the Wales Spatial Plan Areas.
- Integrate sustainable transport solutions with community and development planning to improve access to services and facilities, recognising the role of the third sector in hard-to-reach places.
- While continuing to invest in the transport infrastructure and services, ensure that transport in Wales contributes to mitigating the effects of climate change by achieving a reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improve the quality of ICT networks in Wales as well as reducing barriers to accessing ICT, such as skills.

Respecting Distinctiveness

A cohesive identity which sustains and celebrates what is distinctive about Wales, in an open and outward-looking way, is central to promoting Wales to the World, as well as to our future economic competitiveness and social and environmental wellbeing

We have done a lot of good work with our partners to develop a sense of place through the Spatial Plan Area Strategies, and as we move to the delivery phase we will focus on rolling out good practice and involving new partners. This needs to be done in a manner which is sensitive to the culture, language and historic environment.

Innovative communities:

Across Wales there are many examples of how communities can flourish by creating a distinct identity and character through innovative leadership and partnership working. We need to learn how these communities have succeeded, talk to the people involved, monitor their progress and support the roll-out of this good practice in more of our settlements. This can provide a sustainable boost to local economies, enhance our environment, identify more opportunities to promote Wales and develop the wellbeing and cohesiveness of our communities.

The built and natural environment:

Conserving and celebrating the unique heritage of each area is important. Key settlements need a high quality environment with quality buildings and spaces, nurturing a sense of identity and community.

The Welsh language:

The Welsh language has a significant role to play in our communities and should be promoted as a positive attribute to the area. A key priority will be to develop the Spatial Plan Area in accordance with Idris Iwan's vision of creating a modern bilingual society.

Culture:

Culture, the arts and sport have a key role in creating cohesive communities and a sense of local identity. They also promote individual wellbeing and can be an important economic driver, either through festivals and events or by giving a unique cultural character which stimulates tourism and niche markets.

Challenges:

- Develop and promote distinct identities for key settlements and landscapes by encouraging sustainable design initiatives that respond to existing and anticipated climate change impact, reflect local distinctiveness, and protect the historic environment. Partners in the Spatial Plan Areas will work with the Design Commission for Wales and Cadw to encourage best practice in creating distinctive, clean, safe and

- sustainable development through the design process, including the use of sustainably sourced materials.
- Work with Visit Wales and the regional tourism partnerships to re-define the spatial dimension of tourism destination management areas and tourism marketing areas in Wales.
 - Ensure that the delivery of the Cultural Tourism Action Plan is spatially aligned and that local sense of place and distinctiveness is reinforced.
 - Encourage local authorities, the private and third sectors to promote cultural activities and work in partnership to deliver high quality cultural experiences for communities.

Associated challenges for ESDGC in Wales

The following challenges have been identified from the documents shown below.

Loss of traditional industries such as coal mining and manufacturing (especially steel) has meant that Wales is concentrating on attracting 'Green Jobs', and increasing the tourism sector.

1. Deprivation/poverty, unemployment, loss of industries, low-skilled workforce

(Welsh Index of Multiple deprivation, 2008, WAG Rural Development Plan, WAG Communities First Guidance, WAG Green Jobs for Wales, One Wales: One Planet, action 12)

Ways to address

- Developing systems-thinking and sustainable training activities to up-skill rural workforce
- Supporting community regeneration groups, using targeted activities and training
- Link in to Green Jobs for Wales by acting as an information-sharing hub, sharing research findings in ESDGC and new technology.

2. Poor understanding of ESDGC

(Review of EU Sustainable Development Strategy, 2006, WAG One Wales: One Planet, actions 10+11)

Ways to address

- Agree on definitions of ESDGC & related terms
- Seek to embed ESDGC into teacher training at all levels
- Support research on methods of changing understanding & behaviour

3. Welsh language, promotion, education, lack of ESDGC training materials

(WAG One Wales Document, Welsh Language Policy, 2007, One Wales: One Planet, action 15)

Ways to address

- Communicate and produce all RCE information in both Welsh and English

- Promote the use of the Welsh language by supporting Welsh-interest groups
- Developing Welsh-language training materials in ESDGC
- Develop research into Welsh materials and teaching and learning strategies

4. Bio-diversity, protection of sites/habitats, climate change

(WAG One Wales: One Planet, action14)

Ways to address

- Ensure representation in RCE of groups working in these areas
- Support community groups, e.g. Transition Town groups, seeking to educate public in these issues
- Produce/disseminate materials for schools for these issues

5. Rural economy, agricultural changes, transport, poor infrastructure

(WAG One Wales: One Planet, Summary, action 8)

Ways to address

- Develop/disseminate e-learning materials, to up-skill people in ESDGC
- Train Welsh businesses in more sustainable practices
- Act as a communication & information hub for new learning on these issues
- Inform & advise local & national government on these issues based on research

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/consultation/081119oneplaneten.pdf>

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF RCE WALES

The notion of a Regional Centre of Expertise in ESDGC for Wales is a development in thinking rooted in a time that predates Brundtland, the Decade for ESD and the establishment of our devolved government in Wales. Despite this pedigree, it is possible to identify changes in pace, scope, direction and achievement in relation to ESDGC following such significant international milestone events, felt in Wales as much as elsewhere across the globe.

As noted in the introductory section of this application, there is a plethora of ESDGC-related activity across Wales, in many guises, undertaken by many disparate groups and sectors, and with different levels of change and particular subject as their focus. On occasion, we have recognised a ‘confusion born out of enthusiasm’ (a phrase introduced at one of our ESDGC Higher Education meetings and immediately striking a chord), and we look to the RCE initiative to help address this situation and to improve the quality and impact of our disparate, valid and legitimate contributions.

There is not one, but many, paths leading to the submission of this RCE Wales application. They have their respective origins at different times and in different sectors, as part of various agendas. The make-up of our Steering Group is designed to ensure that these different histories, perspectives and knowledge-bases are drawn on and cohered. In Wales, the voluntary sector could be argued to have the longest lineage in respect of Education for SD and GC. Our Steering Committee includes, for example, UNESCO Cymru-Wales, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (established 1889) and the Centre for Alternative Technology (established 1973), all of which have evolved through ongoing dialogues with their members and supporters into internationally recognized leaders in their fields, and they bring a wealth of voluntary-sector ESDGC understanding and knowledge into the proposed RCE Wales. Other paths are shorter. The private sector, for example, has engaged with SD and GC more recently, but significantly, for example through environmental management systems, sustainable procurement and corporate social responsibility, and more recently the sector has increasingly sought specific education and training to support institutional embedding of these more recently recognized aspects of their work. The public sector is variously placed along the RCE Wales development timeline. For example, Higher Education and Further Education Institutions in Wales have engaged with environmental, social and economic dimensions, and have to differing degrees followed the development of ESDGC in the content of the qualifications they offer and, more latterly, in their estate management. In Wales, the FE and HE sectors have active ESDGC networks to identify common aims, challenges and opportunities in this area, and to assist the strategic development of ESDGC in their sectors. These networks are a relatively recent development, having been convened over the past 3 years. They meet regularly, bringing the views from that sector and feeding them into policy development and project identification and collaboration. Elsewhere in the

public sector, the Welsh Assembly Government is playing a leading role in taking our ESDGC work forward, directly in its own right and by working towards higher visibility, better understanding, and embedding of ESDGC across all sectors of Welsh society. For example, the regional challenges outlined in this application, and which the proposed RCE Wales will address, have been identified through extensive public consultation directly invited by the Welsh Assembly Government. A milestone along the Assembly's path to this application was the appointment, in 2006, of a dedicated 'ESDGC Champion' within their Department of Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, who is responsible for drawing up and ensuring implementation of national ESDGC strategic action plans, based on sectoral consultations. The role of the Champion has been instrumental in moving us to this point. The ESDGC path of Local Government in Wales is less clearly defined; developments and contributions can be traced through education and training support for grassroots community and environmental projects, and through many schools programmes and other initiatives spanning the range of local government responsibilities. It is a further challenge for RCE Wales to support the development of a more visible and coherent local government contribution, for example through the national Work-based Learning agenda. We are currently establishing, with Assembly Government support, an RCE project which aims to develop an *inter-sectoral* ESDGC communication network to address an immediate need to facilitate effective planning for, learning about and sharing of good ESDGC practice.

Against this complex background of disparate engagement with ESDGC, the path leading to the RCE Wales submission *per se* has been relatively short. The following timeline highlights selected events and publications (relevant national strategies) that represent important milestones contributing to the development and content of our RCE Wales submission. It includes both longer-term 'background' contributions and RCE Wales-specific events.

Wales Spatial Plan	November 2004
Wales Transport Strategy	July 2006
ESDGC – A Strategic for Action	September 2006
ESDGC Strategic Action Plan – updates	April 2008
Wales spatial Plan - update	May 2008
ESDGC Common Understanding for Schools	July 2008
ESDGC information for teacher trainees & new teachers	July 2008
ESDGC in the Further Education sector	September 2008
One Wales: One planet (Wales' new Statutory SD Scheme)	November 2008
Green Jobs for Wales	November 2008
RCE consultation event – South Wales	November 2008
RCE consultation event – North Wales	November 2008

RCE consultation event – mid-Wales	December 2008
RCE European conference, Limerick, Ireland	December 2008
RCE international conference, Montreal, Canada	May, 2009
RCE Steering Group meetings	March 2009 onwards (3 to date)
RCE email consultations	November 2008 onwards; ongoing

Initially, information about the RCE initiative was picked up independently by a range of stakeholders in Wales, and over a period of several months through their interlinked formal and informal networks, the idea of an RCE Wales took root. From the beginning, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, UNESCO Cymru and the Welsh Assembly Government, along with many and variously-placed stakeholders, were constructive, active and keen to work with partners to establish an effective RCE in Wales.

At this point (2008), a series of consultation events were held across Wales to seek the views and ideas of those active in the ESDGC field, to gauge the level of interest in, and ideas for, establishing an RCE in Wales. The response was an unequivocal: 'Let's do it!'

These open, focused, RCE consultations identified a range of possible roles for the RCE, and a number of possible themes for the work of the proposed RCE Wales. They also raised a series of questions about duplication of effort, precise objectives, priorities, funding, governance, and so on. In other fora, the idea of an RCE in Wales was also mooted, including at the ESDGC Higher Education network group, convened by the Higher Education Academy and attended by all 12 Higher Education Institutions amongst others. An open invitation was issued from the Welsh Assembly Government for a lead body to take forward the preparation of a proposal for RCE Wales. Two Higher Education Institutions (Swansea University and the University of Wales, Newport) offered to take on the role.

Swansea University prepared and circulated a questionnaire to capture the views of stakeholders about key outstanding matters arising at the open consultation events. The consultation findings, and the responses from the questionnaire, have been used to shape the proposed RCE Wales structure and operational arrangements.

Once an application-preparation and drafting group was established, a Steering Group was convened, to assist in guiding the formation of the RCE, and to refine the draft documents. The Steering Group was designed to include key stakeholders from a wide range of constituencies, including the private, public and voluntary sector, and with the intention that its members should have the energy, resources and commitment to actively engage with the RCE Wales process to ensure a successful application and establishment. The Steering

Group members are also expected to liaise with their respective networks to ensure that communication about the RCE process is improved, and that they are able to bring a broad perspective from their constituency, to the Steering meetings. The Steering Group is considered to be interim in nature, taking the RCE Wales application to a successful conclusion, when its membership and Terms of Reference will be reviewed. By this time, the governance of the RCE will have been formalised, providing an appropriate mechanism for the establishment of a permanent Steering Committee.

To date, Steering Group members have met to discuss important matters of principle and operation on which the RCE will be based, and to scrutinize draft application documents. Following submission, their work will continue, with more detailed attention to governance arrangements, the finalisation of other administrative arrangements, and the establishment of systems to enable effective RCE project support.

In building the RCE Wales framework, comprising its Vision, Objectives, ESDGC Criteria, Strategies, Milestones and Indicators, consultation has been essential. Incorporated into the final model are results from the recent, focused, stakeholder and sector-specific consultations and discussions referred to above, plus a distillation from formal all-Wales strategic and guidance documents, themselves the products of broad and lengthy public consultation, which set out key tenets relevant to ESDGC in Wales, both in terms of its interpretation and provision. From these documents we have identified common understandings and criteria across sectors, hence providing a coherent framework for all stakeholders that is consistent with the current national ESDGC strategic context. These are built in to the fabric of the RCE Wales we propose.

Key principles adopted for the RCE include:

- a) no duplication of effort with existing activity – the RCE must be designed to complement and enhance existing ESDGC activity
- b) One Wales: One RCE – Wales is small enough to enjoy the luxury of having just one country-wide RCE
- c) The application for, and establishment of, an RCE will not guarantee additional resources
- d) In common with other RCEs, HEIs might be considered as the organisations best placed to facilitate RCE establishment and provide ongoing operational support for RCE activity.

We have derived and clarified a precise interpretation of 'ESDGC' in relation to the RCE, and we have clarified the criteria which will mark out RCE work from other ESDGC activity in Wales. Very importantly, our consultations have identified a key gap in relation to ESDGC, which is one related to ESDGC-specific research, and to rigorous analysis and reflection of our practice, such

that we can recognise and develop good practice, and actively and by design, improve upon it and share it.

Finally, we have sought to gain commitment to this model for our RCE as it moves from a concept through establishment and into its operational phase. A list of those who have signed our letter of support to date is provided at Appendix 2.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN WALES

Top level policy frameworks provided by the Welsh Assembly Government ESDGC panel, which includes sectoral leads e.g for HE, FE, Lifelong Learning, Youth work et al, exist in Wales. Therefore the Wales RCE aims not to duplicate but complement existing activities and organisation. This RCE understanding of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) is therefore developed from and is fully consistent with a series of national strategic framework documents drawn up by the Welsh Assembly Government through extensive consultation over a period of years.

Specifically in Wales, ESDGC is education that seeks to develop a deeper knowledge, understanding and holistic vision of all aspects of Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship. It enables people to be enthusiastic participants in social transformations towards a sustainable society, by giving them the skills to address a changing world, focusing on behaviours and attitudes, and developing values that enable them to take personal action. It should impact on all areas of our lives and all parts of society.

In Wales the guiding ethos of ESDGC encompasses;

- making links between society, economy and environment and between our own lives and those of people throughout the world
- caring for ourselves, for each other and the environment
- recognizing the needs and rights of both present and future generations
- positively influencing the relationships between power, resources and human rights
- understanding the local and global implications of everything we do and the actions that individuals and organisations can take in response to local and global issues
- appreciating our individual and collective role in the local and global communities
- acknowledging histories and perspectives, both our own and those of others throughout the world
- providing skills and exploring issues in ways which will enable us to make up our own minds and decide how to act in both our personal and professional lives

In line with the above, Wales is establishing a Regional Centre of Expertise in ESDGC.

RCE Wales Vision Statement

Candidate RCE Wales facilitates collaboration to research, develop and promote Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, so that this learning is central to the emergence of a sustainable Wales.

OBJECTIVES

Short-term objectives (Establishment Yr 1):

- Apply for and gain RCE Wales status
- Establish RCE Wales governance and administrative systems
- Establish the RCE Wales Secretariat
- Develop an effective communication network for the exchange of information, experience and good practice
- Identify and recognise initial workgroups
- Agree ESDGC criteria for gaining RCE Wales project status
- Develop meaningful links with the RCE global network
- Review composition and terms of reference of steering group following recognition of RCE Wales
- Identify funding to secure RCE Wales Secretariat's ongoing operation
- Review RCE Wales work programme, including operational objectives and milestones
- Initiate projects recognised by RCE Wales

Mid-term objectives (2-3 years):

- Facilitate new work groups
- Promote and facilitate evidence based practice in ESDGC
- Disseminate research findings, knowledge, experience and good practice widely

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES

Objective	Strategy
Short-term objectives (Establishment Yr 1):	
1. Apply for and gain RCE Wales status	Identify resources and dedicate personnel to prepare application, including establishment of the steering group, consultees and drafting team
2. Establish RCE Wales governance and administrative systems	Establish fully operational steering group
3. Establish the RCE Wales Secretariat	Identify resources and establish RCE Wales secretariat
4. Develop an effective communication network for the exchange of information, experience and good practice	Register with RCE Website, secretariat to initiate and all stakeholders to provide input Twin with RCE elsewhere, links with global RCE network to identify suitable and appropriate RCE Set up regular newsletter & disseminate, secretariat to initiate and all stakeholders to provide input
5. Identify and recognise initial workgroups	Work in collaboration with stakeholders in line with existing consultation outcomes to identify and facilitate the establishment of initial work groups
6. Agree ESDGC criteria for gaining RCE Wales project status	Consult with stakeholders and confirm with steering group
7. Develop meaningful links with the RCE global network	Link with global RCE network, including attendance at international meetings
8. Review composition and terms of reference of steering group following recognition of RCE Wales	Establish fully operational steering group
9. Identify funding to secure RCE Wales Secretariat's ongoing operation	Identify resources and dedicate personnel to prepare application, including establishment of the steering group, consultees and drafting team Identify resources and establish RCE Wales secretariat
10. Review RCE Wales work programme, including operational objectives and milestones	Establish fully operational steering group Establish research project and identify case studies
11. Initiate projects recognised by RCE Wales	Work in collaboration with stakeholders in line with existing consultation outcomes to identify and facilitate the establishment of initial work groups

Mid-term objectives (2-3 years):	
1. Facilitate new work groups	Facilitate communication and work programmes. Support funding applications for projects
2. Promote and facilitate evidence based practice in ESDGC	Support the effective operation of an ESDGC research group
3. Disseminate research findings, knowledge, experience and good practice widely	Facilitate work groups to organise the identification, recording and dissemination of ESDGC project work

MILESTONES

			RCE Wales Milestones																	
			Time/months from June 2009																	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Objective no	Milestone no	Description	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10
1		Apply for (a) and gain (g) RCE Wales status	a						g											
2		Establish RCE Wales governance and administrative systems																		
3		Establish the RCE Wales Secretariat																		
	1	RCE established and functioning																		
4		Develop an effective communication network for the exchange of information, experience and good practice																		
5		Identify and recognise initial workgroups																		
6		Agree ESDGC criteria for gaining RCE Wales project status																		
	2	RCE communications and workgroups functioning																		
7		Develop meaningful links with the RCE global network																		
8		Review composition and terms of reference of steering group following recognition of RCE Wales																		
9		Identify funding to secure RCE Wales Secretariat's ongoing operation																		
10		Review RCE Wales work programme, including operational objectives and milestones																		
	3	RCE communicating, functioning and reviewing activities																		
11		Initiate projects recognised by RCE Wales																		
	4	Fully operational and self-evaluating RCE																		

INDICATORS

Objective	Indicator/Evidence
Short-term objectives (Establishment Yr 1):	
1. Apply for and gain RCE Wales status	Application process and documents, communication with UNU IES Approval letter from Ubuntu Alliance
2. Establish RCE Wales governance and administrative systems	RCE work is ongoing, MoUs in place, Steering Group operational Electronic and hard copy admin documents
3. Establish the RCE Wales Secretariat	Identify resources and dedicated personnel to establish RCE Wales secretariat
4. Develop an effective communication network for the exchange of information, experience and good practice	RCE Wales information on the EU Region website Electronic and hard copy newsletter
5. Identify and recognise initial workgroups	Work group meeting notes
6. Agree ESDGC criteria for gaining RCE Wales project status	ESDGC criteria document Record of progress to reach agreement
7. Develop meaningful links with the RCE global network	Conference attendance and collaborative projects established and evidenced
8. Review composition and terms of reference of steering group following recognition of RCE Wales	Steering Group meeting notes and Terms of Reference
9. Identify funding to secure RCE Wales Secretariat's ongoing operation	Funding identified, bids in preparation
10. Review RCE Wales work programme, including operational objectives and milestones	Steering Group meeting notes Revised objectives and milestones documented
11. Initiate projects recognised by RCE Wales	Projects active and evidenced RCE Wales recognition letter
Mid-term objectives (2-3 years):	
1. Facilitate new work groups	Work Group meeting notes and communications
2. Promote and facilitate evidence based practice in ESDGC	Case studies written and disseminated Research Group meeting notes
3. Disseminate research findings, knowledge,	Research conducted, papers written and

CRITERIA FOR RCE WALES APPROVED ACTIVITIES

RCE projects should be about transformative ESDGC, be collaborative and include an element of research. Reflective learning and then sharing this will be a characteristic of RCE Wales recognition of activities/projects. RCE Wales aims to challenge all stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of ESDGC across Wales. To this end RCE Wales will lend its support and guidance to activities/projects that require this.

See Appendix 3 for examples of ongoing projects.

FUTURE PROJECTS

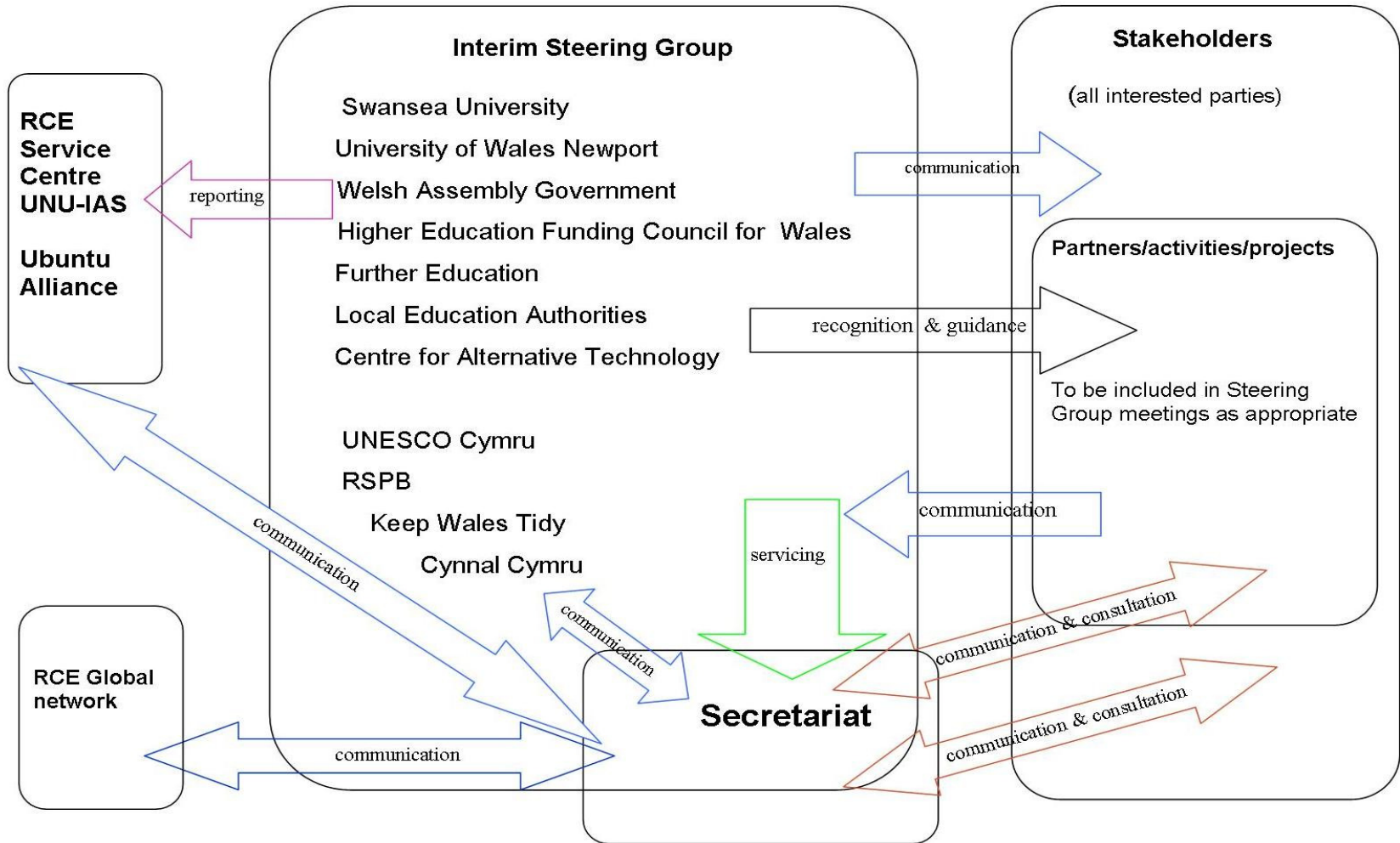
RCE Wales will serve to support ESDGC work and projects in Wales, where the agreed criteria are met. A central aim of the RCE is to challenge us all in Wales to 'raise the bar' and to improve the effectiveness and quality of our ESDGC activities, and to provide the support – directly or indirectly – to facilitate this. With this in mind, the future project work of RCE Wales can be considered as having two, interlinked, components:

- a) ESDGC research projects per se
- b) Assistance to non-research ESDGC projects which fit the criteria and have built in to their design an element of reflective learning, of research and of sharing learning about ESDGC; including activity which will help to improve the quality or impact of ESDGC activity.

To date, the following have been identified as priorities for future RCE Wales projects:

1. Assistance with the co-ordination of the voluntary sector to better support ESDGC activity
2. Research and design of meaningful and practical ESDGC indicators for Wales
3. Design of a base-lining exercise as a contribution to establishing a monitoring framework by which to measure changes in the quality and quantity of effort, outcome and impact
4. The establishment of a number of themed working groups, identified from the consultations and drawing on existing expertise, knowledge and concepts (including, for example, ESDGC relating to food security, and communicating effectively about ESDGC), and tasked with drawing up strategic projects to take their themes forward in a way that can benefit stakeholders across Wales.

Candidate RCE Wales Structure



Candidate RCE Wales Application-June 2009

Governance structure