

## **Celebrating ten years of Learning for Sustainability Scotland**

### **Speech by Dr Rehema White, Chair, and Academic, School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews**

This is a moment for celebration where we not only remember our beginnings and recount our stories, but we also take stock of our activities, outcomes, and impacts.

Who is LfS Scotland? We now have almost 1,000 members drawn from all sectors in relation to sustainable development and education, and over 1,000 signed up to the bulletin.

What has LfS Scotland done?

First, weaving connections – and we can see from our membership and from the people here that we connected across sectors and scales. Sustainable Development is a system and need to link the nodes. A big part of this is the bulletin and regular policy updates and gatherings such as the one this afternoon, and many webinars.

Second, we produced new knowledge and curate resources; recently reflecting on the Scottish context and Geddes triads such as ‘heart-hand-head’ in our [‘Frontiers’ paper](#).

Third, we argued passionately and clearly for LfS and we offered strategic advice, even when it was not always welcome, at policy and committee level but also in many talks and meetings. Those endless Zoom sessions! But enabling everyone to attend our webinars.

Fourth, we led and contributed to many projects and programmes, including face-to-face to blended teaching, and some epic MOOCs including contributions to the climate change COPs.

Finally, we have always tried to work well in partnership. We value our collaborations with GTC Scotland, Education Scotland and specific schools. We welcome our work with EAUC Scotland. We love working with communities and community groups. It has also been rewarding to connect with our international friends and to share knowledge – Betsy is a representative on the [Ubuntu group](#) and we have been invited to input to several UNESCO and UN University initiatives. We continue to make successful contributions to the [Global](#) and [European RCEs conferences](#).

These activities and their outcomes have created many impacts. New courses, reports and academics papers. New conceptual understanding. Many connections and release of capacity across ages, sectors and scales. Better policy, we hope. But most of all, we feel we have woven a

community of interest in learning for sustainability. We have tried to do this not only based on achievements and targets, but also deepening connection with our land and culture, reflecting on our relationships with nature and with each other and deepening value-based action.

We have achieved much, but there are still serious challenges before us – we will need to continue to work together to tackle these.

Many thanks to all who have made this possible. To the core staff who always go above and beyond. To past and present members of the steering group. To the University of Edinburgh for hosting us. To our partners, too many to mention here. To our members, for their enthusiasm and creativity. And to the many learners who have been supported, knowingly or unknowingly, by our activities.

Thank you all for coming and please feel free to mingle for a while before making your way safely home.