Can the UK ever be sustainable?

Teachers’ notes

Lesson 2: Solutions for the UK

Lesson 2 is designed to examine the success of business and government initiatives to promote sustainability.

Starter – Campaign messages

The starter is designed to capture the interest of the students. The content is a little risque and therefore it is worth viewing the video clip. Alternative campaigns can be found on a number of environmental and sustainability websites.

Main activity – An evaluation of UK initiatives

The activity has been created to encourage students to synthesise information and then communicate their findings effectively. The students should work independently to create a presentation (PowerPoint would be ideal).

The activity promotes choice in the way in which students learn and materials have been differentiated to allow different learning styles to be accommodated.

Guidance should however be given on the structure of the presentation.

- Introduction – The aim of the initiative, location, costs etc.
- The achievements of the initiative – How successful was it?
- The limitations of the initiative – What still remains to be done?
- Conclusions – Overall evaluation

If pressed for time, students could be allocated different parts of the information sheet and then share findings (or record findings during the presentations).

Plenary – Debate

‘Businesses and government are not doing enough to ensure sustainability’

The objective is for students to critically evaluate their learning from the lesson. It promotes peer learning and communication skills.

It would be of benefit for the teacher to either show some clips from the 21st Century Challenges event http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/challenges/can-the-uk-ever-be-sustainable/ or watch them in advance of the debate.

If time pressures are a constraint it could be set as a homework task to argue the debate in writing.