

**Terms of Reference**  
**Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development**  
**ESD to 2030 – National Steering Group**  
**(October 2022)**

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### **ESD to 2030**

The overall goal of *ESD to 2030*, Ireland's Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, is to build a more just and sustainable world, by strengthening ESD and contributing to the achievement of the 17 SDGs, in particular Target 4.7.

SDG Target 4.7 aims to ensure that by 2030, “all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development”.

The strategy provides a framework to steer and support the contribution that the education sector is making and will continue to make towards a sustainable future by 2030. It is aligned with UNESCO's Framework for ESD for 2030 and includes five key priority action areas:

1. Advancing policy
2. Transforming learning environments
3. Building capacities of educators
4. Empowering and mobilising young people
5. Accelerating local level actions

### **Purpose of the Steering Group**

The ESD to 2030 National Steering Group will provide a forum to:

- Oversee and monitor implementation of *ESD to 2030* across government and in particular across education in the formal, informal and non-formal sectors;
- Provide policy advice and share information in relation to ESD;
- Support policy alignment and coherence across government in areas linked to ESD;
- Coordinate funding opportunities for ESD/sustainable development related projects, based on identified gaps;
- Build partnerships for ESD across relevant sectors (Education, Youth, Communities, Local Government, Agriculture, Transport, Rural Development, ....)
- Consider inputs from ESD sectoral advisory groups and any ESD task groups established to progress specific objectives of *ESD to 2030*.
- Ensure ESD to 2030 achieves its objectives and contributes to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular Target 4.7.

### **The National Steering Group for ESD:**

- The Steering Group will meet at least twice a year
- The Steering Group will be chaired by a Principal Officer in the DoE/DFHERIS/DCEDIY (in rotation)
- Administrative support to the group will be provided by DoE, DFHERIS, DCEDIY (in rotation).

### Membership

Membership of the ESD Steering Group will be as follows:

Nominee(s) of:

- Department of Education (DoE)
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
- Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
- Department of Enterprise (DETE)
- Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
- Department of Transport
- NCCA
- Higher Education Authority
- SOLAS
- Irish Secondary Schools Union
- Union of Students in Ireland
- Irish Development Education Association
- Teacher Unions

## Appendix: ESD Steering Group Members

DoE (Chair and admin to June 2023)	Curriculum and Assessment Policy unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evelyn O'Connor</li> <li>• Leona De Khors</li> <li>• Aoife McGrane</li> <li>• Daniel O'Gorman</li> </ul>
DFHERIS (Chair and admin July 2023 – Dec 2024)	Higher Education Policy and Research unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lily Lee</li> </ul>
DCEDIY (Chair and admin Jan 2025 – June 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davin Roche</li> <li>• Des Cox / Nicole Kiernan</li> </ul>
DECC	SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiona Mac Manus / AnnaMarie Gaines</li> </ul> Climate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Mooney</li> </ul>
DFA / Irish Aid	Mary Barrett
DRCD	James Kenny
Department of Transport	Sarah Taylor
DHLGH	Orla Joyce
DETE	Alan Power
Department of Agriculture	Harry O'Crowley
NCCA	Aoife Rush
SOLAS	Alan McGrath
ISSU	Róisín Myers
IDEA	Frank Geary
Teacher Unions	Colm Kelly