

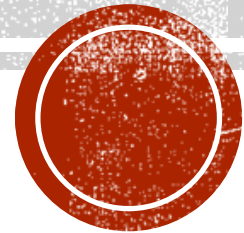
# GREEN SHOOT'S IN ESD — SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES

National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development

Dermot O'Donovan,

Head of Centre, GMIT Letterfrack,

The National Centre for Excellence in Furniture Design and Technology





# GMIT

INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE-MAIGH EO  
GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# Letterfrack

# **GMIT LETTERFRACK - CONTEXT**

- One of five campus of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
- Approximately 210 registered students
- 25 staff
- Courses specialise in
  - Furniture Design
  - Wood-based Manufacturing
  - Advanced Technology
  - Initial Teacher Education
- Based in a village in a rural community

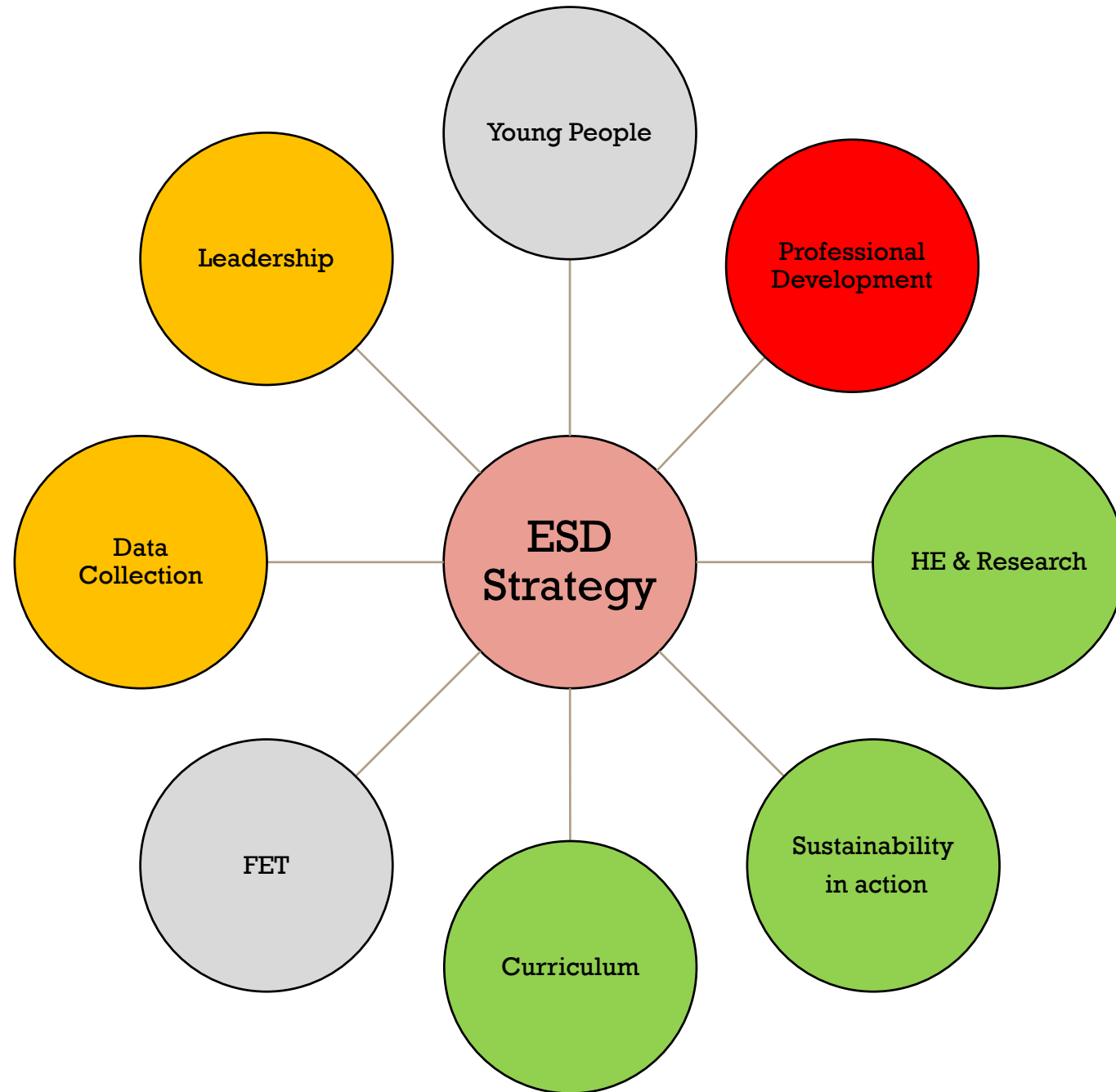








# NATIONAL STRATEGY ON ESD



**SUCCESS**





# SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

- Green Campus committee comprising of students, staff and community members
- Accredited by An Taisce
- Green Flag for Waste
- Green Flag application for Biodiversity
- Other themes include Travel, Energy, Water



# CURRICULUM

- Import approximately 95% of our hardwood timber materials for manufacturing
- What questions do we need to ask?
- Where does it come from?
- Why does that matter?
- EU Illegal Timber Regulations
- Certification (FSC / PEFC etc.)
- Ethical Procurement / Corporate Responsibility

# COMMUNITY NATIVE WOODLAND



**Collaboration**

**Community focused**

**Embedded in curriculum**

**Sustainable materials**

# RESEARCH

- Adding value to Irish-grown timber through ***collaboration*** and the adherence to
  - ***Quality***
  - ***Innovation***
  - ***Design***
  - ***Technology***
  - ***Sustainability***



# COFORD — GMIT LETTERFRACK

- Investigating utilisation potential of Irish-grown timber
  - 6m<sup>3</sup> steam kiln
  - Portable saw
  - Timber drying shed
- Particular focus on hardwoods
- Building capacity for research
- Small-diameter timber



# LOG CONVERSION



# AIR-DRYING





**MECHANICAL  
DRYING**



# COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH



Irish Distillers

Production Technology



Year of Gastronomy 2018

Design



UBUNTU Network

Biodiversity



# COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH



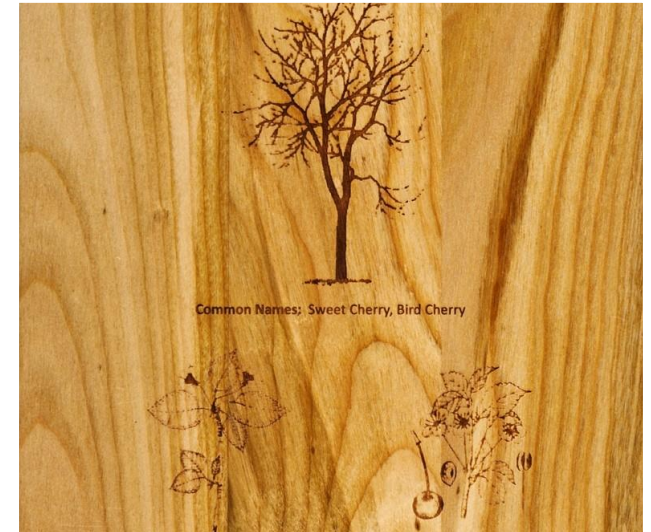
Local Brewery

Production Design



Cycling club

Sustainable Design



Connemara National Park

Education on timber



i am energy efficient

The world's first ecologically sustainable computers

Read more...



**INTERNATIONAL**

**COLLABORATION  
WITH EVE BRANSON  
FOUNDATION**

**SUPPORTED BY TUI  
THIRD WORLD FUND/  
UBUNTU**



# CHALLENGES



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide platform for collaboration and sharing
- Not all lecturers feel comfortable teaching on ESD
- Applicability of ESD to some disciplines not clear
- Lack of awareness of ESD Strategy
- Lack of resources
- Need to empower academics



# DATA COLLECTION

- Needs time, resources
- People need to see progress
- Improvements require investments in capital / equipment
- Management need to see efficiencies
- Costs of non-compliance must be considered



<https://factualdude.deviantart.com/art/Water-Wastage-359634584>



# LEADERSHIP

- ESD not considered a priority
- Marginalised activity
- Leadership required at all levels
- Leaders need training / workshops / support
- Policy needed to guide HEIs / support staff / legitimise champions





**OPPORTUNITIES**



# CHOICE ARCHITECTURE

- Thaler and Sunstein (2009)
- UK Behaviour Insights Team
- Can we Nudge HE toward ESD?
- How can we design policy implementation tools to help move ESD from the margins to the mainstream?

refers to the practice of influencing choice by changing the manner in which options are presented to people. For example, this can be done by setting defaults, framing, or adding decoy options.

[www.behavioraleconomics.com/mini-encyclopedia-of-be/choice-architecture/](http://www.behavioraleconomics.com/mini-encyclopedia-of-be/choice-architecture/)





[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=21&v=2lXh2n0aPyw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=21&v=2lXh2n0aPyw)

# GREEN DEFAULTS

- In two towns in Germany, 90 percent of the people use clean energy (wind, solar, etc.) because that is the default. If you want the less-expensive, less-clean power, you have to do something. You have to tell them to change it for you

(<https://notebookm.com/category/energy>)

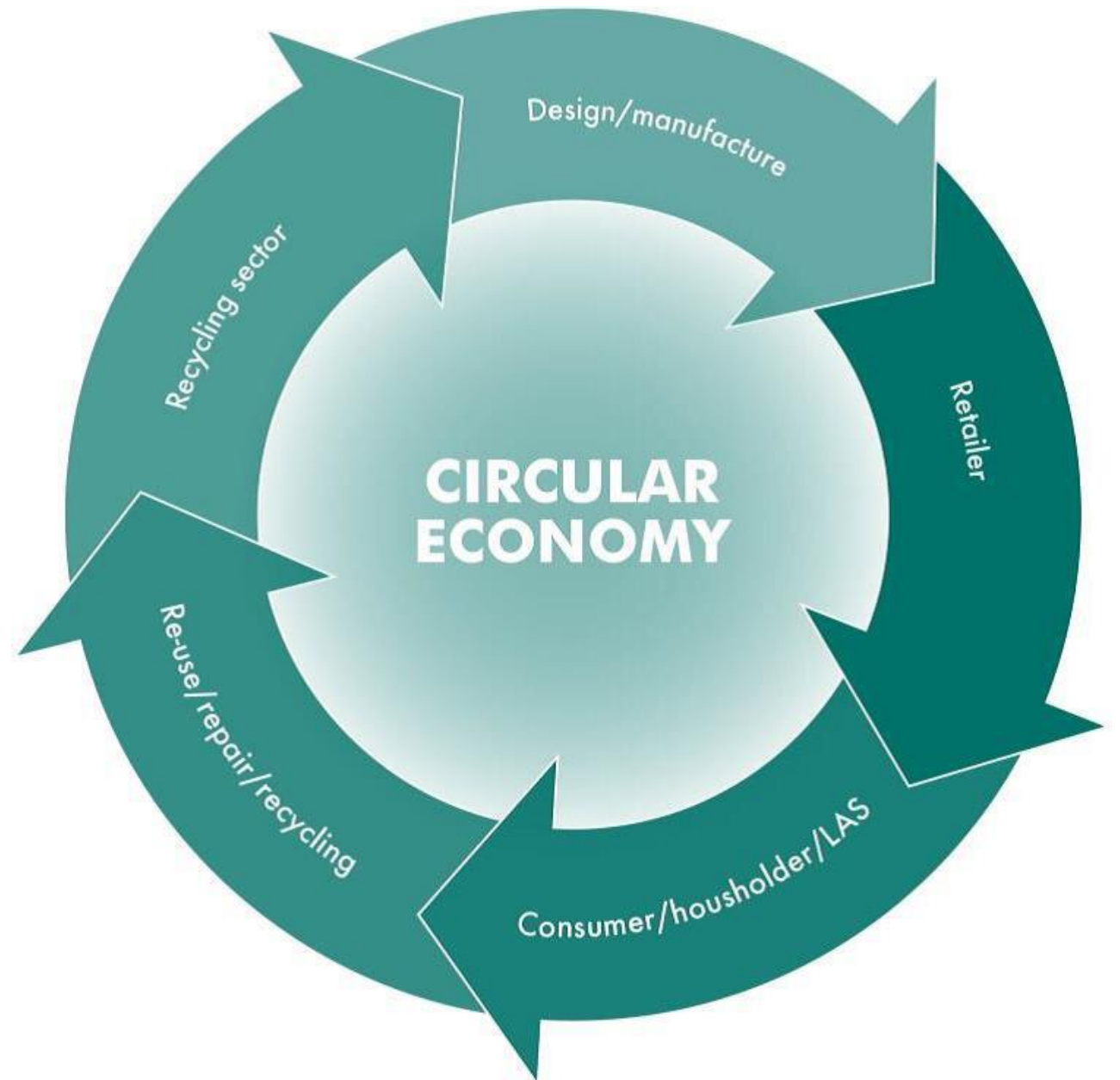
It doesn't restrict freedom. It just points everyone in the right direction. If they choose, they can turn around and go the other way.

(<https://notebookm.com/category/energy>)



# LOOKING FORWARD

- Ensure graduates have skills required for industries of the future not of today
- HE sectoral policy needs to reflect ESD and align with goals of Strategy
- Stronger links needed between ESD and climate change policy



# REFERENCES

- van Oorschot, K. (2014), *Simple(r), the future of government* by Cass R. Sunstein  
New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013, ISBN 978-1-4767-2659-5 .
- Thaler, R. H., and Sunstein, C. R. (2008). *Nudge: Improving decisions about health, wealth, and happiness*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press

