AUSTRALIA AS A CASE STUDY

Leadership dialogue for sustainability
Green Skills Networks: How US and Australia are pioneering new collaborations

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Objectives of presentation

• Policy context - Federal Government
  • The Green Skills Agreement

• Australia as a case study

• Dialogue on Green Skills

• Collaborations – opportunities and benefits
Policy key areas

- Commonwealth of Australia Government (COAG) targets – on education, on sustainability
  - Focus on education and training – linked to sustainability and the low carbon economy
  - National drive to lift productivity - OECD benchmarking showing Australia slipping in productivity performance
- Links between productivity, sustainability and innovation are critical to a thriving economy
- The Green Skills Agreement was endorsed Nov 2009 – four Commonwealth policy areas influencing Vocational Education and Training

Address by Federal Secretary of Treasury – Dr Martin Parkinson asserts that the theme of sustainability must shape the approach to policy development of this generation - 2011
Policy Context

Commonwealth Government

Four policy areas
1. National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability
2. National VET Sector Sustainability Policy and Action Plan
3. The Green Skills Agreement (GSA)
4. Clean Energy and Other Skills Package

The Green Skills Agreement

- Develop national standards in skills for sustainability within the requirements of the national regulatory framework.
- Review and revise Training Packages to incorporate skills for sustainability
- Up-skill VET practitioners so they can provide effective training and facilitation in skills for sustainability
- Implement strategies to reskill vulnerable workers in the transition to a low-carbon economy.
National uptake of Green Skills

Green Skills/ energy efficiency training enrolments (Aust 2008 – 2010)
Source NCVER Students and courses database
Australia as a case study

• The International Green Skills Network
• Seed funded through Australian Federal Government funding – The Skills for the Carbon Challenge
• Based on a strict set of criteria for membership developed with an Advisory Panel
• Launched September 2012
• 25% of TAFE in Australia are members and more each week
• Setting up links with other international networks

Purpose of IGSN:
‘transition to best practice green skills integration in learning and teaching’
• Benefits for members in Australia:
  • Use of the Green Skills Network logo to promote and brand their green credentials
  • Access to resources and teaching materials associated with greening the curriculum from the Australia and USA
  • Assisted access to Workforce Development Funds through industry training programs and the Industry Skills Councils in Australia
  • Professional development opportunities with a range of providers including the VET Development Centre
  • Teacher, management and students exchange opportunities with the USA, China and others
International activities at TDA

- Have hosted a number of American visitors including Mindy Feldbaum through an Endeavor Scholarship and a delegation on Green Skills in 2011
- Recently hosted an American delegation on renewable energy funded through CREATE and NSF with the Collaboratory
- Establishing important links with SEED and AACC through Leadership Dialogue events around Education for Sustainability
- Strong links with China Education Association for International Exchanges CEAIE in China
- TDA is represented on an internal committee in China through CEAIE to set up a ‘Green Skills’ Network in China
- Indonesia - continuing relationships with 32 Polytechnics through a mentoring program called Vocational Education Leadership Education Leadership and Training (VELT) including Green Skills
Dialogue on Green Skills

- The development of USA and Australian collaboration

Significant for Australia:
- US/AU collaboration on course materials for a larger virtual community of practice associated with the renewable energy delegation funded through NSF/CREATE
- NTER resources customized for the Australian market to be explored
- Exchange opportunities being followed up by individuals
- AACC and SEED collaboration on a Leadership Dialogue for sustainability in Aug/Sept 2013
- The issues for Education for Sustainability not bounded by geography but in common

A 2012 study by the Renewable Fuels Association found that ethanol production supported 401,600 jobs in 2011 – Bureau of Labor Statistics USA (Jan. 2013).
Benefits of the collaboration

- Learn from each other - innovate
- Share resources/ideas/projects
- Analyze differences and similarities and gain from this
- Development of a virtual community - low cost
- Broader benefits such as exchanges of faculty staff and students
- Attract industry to participate
- Bring international communities together
In conclusion

- The Green Skills Agreement has had a significant impact on the VET sector
- Productivity, innovation and sustainability are closely linked in a thriving economy
- TDA, TAFE and Government recognize the importance of the collaboration between ourselves and USA networks
- Australia and the USA have much to gain from collaboration
- ‘Green’ is a great vehicle for change and innovation
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THANK YOU