

STEAM EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT and FUTURES LITERACY

SGD13 Climate Action and Sustainable Development



Programme Phase: Action Project

Leaving Certificate Support: Passion to Purpose CASD

SUBJECT AREAS: CSPE/ SPHE, Design, English and
Communication, Environment, Science, Sustainability, Technology



SDG 13 Passion to Purpose

Climate Action and Sustainable Development



Passion to Purpose

Climate Action & Sustainable Development

Action Project

Lesson 1: Discovering Passions & Gifts

Module Summary: Passion to Purpose CASD

Passion to Purpose CASD is a values-driven programme tailored for students and teachers completing the Climate Action and Sustainable Development (CASD) Senior Cycle subject.

By nurturing key 21st-century skills, Passion to Purpose CASD supports students working on their Action Project through sustainable, innovative, and socially responsible design practices. The programme enables learners to explore their passions and consider purposeful action, while developing essential skills that ignite innovation, foster empathy, and inspire change.

Aligned with the NCCA's vision for Senior Cycle—which emphasises student agency, values-based learning, and active citizenship—the programme offers a structured yet flexible pathway that complements the CASD specification. Students are guided through some of the design thinking stages empowering them to investigate local and global challenges, critically evaluate possible solutions, and co-create practical, meaningful responses.

For teachers, Passion to Purpose CASD provides scaffolded resources and professional learning support, helping them to facilitate student-led inquiry while embedding reflection, mindfulness, and peer collaboration into the classroom. For students, it is an invitation to connect passion with purpose—transforming ideas into impactful projects that respond to urgent environmental and social issues.

Passion to Purpose CASD bridges curriculum and action, offering a values-based framework that cultivates not only knowledge and skills but also confidence, resilience, and hope—qualities that are essential for young people to thrive as ethical leaders in a rapidly changing world.



The 7 lessons and resources are:

Lesson 1: Discovering Passions and Gifts

Begin with self-awareness. Students explore their own interests, strengths, and motivations.

In line with CASD's emphasis on student agency and identity, this lesson helps learners see themselves as active participants in shaping sustainable futures. By connecting personal passions to wider issues of climate action and sustainable development, students begin to uncover where their unique gifts can make a meaningful contribution.

Resources: Worksheets: What are your Passions and Gifts?, Teacher's Notes

Lesson 2: Understanding Values and Character

Help students articulate their personal values and understand how these influence their choices and actions. Through guided reflection, learners consider the relationship between their values, their behaviours, and the kind of change they wish to see in their communities.

Resources: Worksheets: Traits, Character, Virtues & Values

Lesson 3: Introduction to Design Thinking

Introduce the 5-stage design thinking process (Empathise, Define, Ideate, Prototype, Test).

This creative methodology gives students practical tools for problem-solving and innovation, closely linked to the Action Project's cycle of research, planning, and implementation. In the context of CASD, design thinking encourages learners to approach sustainability challenges with empathy, systems thinking, and openness to experimentation.

Resources: Worksheet: Introduction to Design Thinking, Worksheet: Wicked Problems

Lesson 4: Defining the Problem

Support students to define a meaningful, actionable problem linked to SDGs and their own values. This stage connects directly to the CASD learning outcome of analysing local and global issues through the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. By framing their challenge in values-driven and achievable terms, students learn to balance ambition with feasibility—skills that are central to effective action planning in CASD.

Resources: Worksheet: Problem Tree Support Sheet: Define the Problem

Lesson 5: Empathy

Students engage with stakeholders, peers, or community voices to understand diverse perspectives on their chosen problem. In CASD, empathy is central to participatory citizenship and to exploring how climate and sustainability issues affect different groups in unequal ways. This lesson develops intercultural awareness, systems thinking, and ethical responsibility, helping learners ground their projects in lived realities rather than abstract ideas.

Resources: Worksheet: User Profiles Worksheet: Empathy Map

Lesson 6: Generating Ideas + Remix & Improve

Encourage creative and collaborative ideation, remixing personal and peer ideas for innovation. This aligns with CASD's focus on collaboration and creativity as critical 21st-century skills.

Students learn that innovation often comes from building on each other's contributions, testing multiple pathways, and refining ideas to better reflect sustainability principles and community needs.

Resources: Worksheet: Ideate Remix worksheet, Worksheet: Remix SWOT

Lesson 7: Prototyping and Pitching Your Idea

Build out project ideas and learn how to communicate value to an audience.

In CASD, the Action Project requires not only planning but also communicating solutions in ways that inspire change. This lesson equips students with the confidence to prototype their ideas, test feasibility, and develop compelling narratives that highlight the ethical, social, and environmental value of their projects.

Resources: Worksheet: RSB Rapid Response Prototyping, Concept Statement

Using the Resources:

If you wish to use these resources, we can offer an induction and online support throughout the module to help you plan integration into your projects and timetable. To register for this option, please contact us e:hello@futurefocus21c.com For more information on the resources please visit www.muinincatalyst.com

Setting up an online learning environment for the lessons on this module:

Our lessons integrate the use of virtual learning environments. To ensure seamless use of our lessons, a module should be setup on your school's virtual learning environment such as Teams, Google Classroom, etc. Learners are encouraged to upload documents to share with their peers. If your virtual learning environment does not support document sharing, we recommend OneDrive or Google Drive.

You can also use Google Sites or Microsoft Sway to encourage learners to present their work over the year - this can easily be set up to reflect the aims of TY and provide a showcase for their work as well as assessment tool.

Setting up a Canva Education account:

As our lessons integrate design, our lessons also refer to Canva. Educators and schools can open a free Canva for Education account by registering [here](#). Canva for Education provides primary and secondary school teachers and students with premium features and templates. You can then also set up lessons and invite your learners to the class.

External Expertise: Bianca Peel Consultancy and Education

Adaptations: Dr Anita McKeown and Rebecca White

- Dr Anita McKeown, FRSA, FIPM, MEI - is an award winning artist|scholar and STEAM educator, co-designing values-based leadership through education and community processes at the intersection of art, equitable placemaking, Open Source Culture and Technology (ethical and ecological implications),
- Ms. Rebecca White: UCD - is an educator, consultant, trainer and curriculum developer, focusing on STEAM education, project-based, student-led learning and professional development for place-based learning.

For more information or to access online support in integrating the programme into your existing teaching please contact: hello@futurefocus21c.com

Full references for this programme can be found in the Full Passion to Purpose Module Overview [HERE](#) which forms part of a seven-module programme on the Future of Innovation and Enterprise.