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EDUCATION THROUGH POLICY ENGAGEMENT: A Case Study from the Development of the State Sustainability Strategy.

By Professor Peter Newman

Director, Sustainability Policy Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet And
Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University.

A unique educational experiment was conducted in 2001-3 as part of the development of the State Sustainability Strategy in Western Australia. This Strategy is the first by any state in the world and required skills and knowledge not easily available to the public service. Under supervision students were asked to participate in the policy development process directly with all their papers and case studies being published for the Strategy. The innovative nature of the topic and the lack of resources in the public sector thus provided the students with a unique learning experience. Over 50 undergraduate and postgraduate students (mostly from ISTP) were involved in the project. The process will be discussed in terms O'Riordan's idea of 'civic science' and its application to the 'sustainability transition'. The educational benefits and the potential for institutionalising such learning opportunities are pursued.

Professor Peter Newman
Director, Sustainability Unit
Premier and Cabinet
197 St Georges Tce, Perth
92229823; 0407935133