

# Earth Charter Learning Exchange

## **An invitation to join a web-based learning community**

A catalyst for a global on-line network of learning communities

Co-learners supporting each other in social learning applications of the Earth Charter, such as:

- Change management,
- Formal education courses,
- Informal learning circles
- Community development,
- Advocacy, and
- Action research

Contact: Learning Exchange <[office@natsoc.org.au](mailto:office@natsoc.org.au)>

## **Earth Charter Learning Exchange: A web-based learning community**

**Aim:** a global on-line network of learning communities supporting each other in social learning applications of the Earth Charter (for example, change management, formal and informal courses, community development, advocacy, and research).

**Partners:** The Learning Exchange is a community/science collaboration on the human responsibility for the planet. The Nature and Society Forum is host to the Australian chapter of the Earth Charter. [www.natsoc.org.au](http://www.natsoc.org.au)

The Earth Charter Learning Exchange is based on social learning processes and adult learning principles, within a framework of *knowledge plus action* developed with Australian communities over the past five years (Figure 1).

The vehicle for communication is the interactive learning community process developed by EarthTIES. EarthTIES is an arm of The Institute for Educational Studies (TIES) a non-profit organisation offering a Master of Integrative Studies with Endicott College, Massachusetts. [www.EarthTIES.org](http://www.EarthTIES.org)

**Outcomes:** The Earth Charter Learning Exchange will develop:

- Self-supporting learning communities within every country where the Earth Charter has been adopted,
- A web of experienced volunteer co-learners sharing their learning about what it takes to apply the principles of the Charter, and
- Cooperative action research exploring and documenting the experiences of the earth Charter learning community.

**Commitment:** Participating co-learners and their learning communities will be committed to

1. dialogue-based rules for engagement,
2. self-generated activities furthering the aims of the Earth Charter, and
3. a volunteer team willing to join in the support network.

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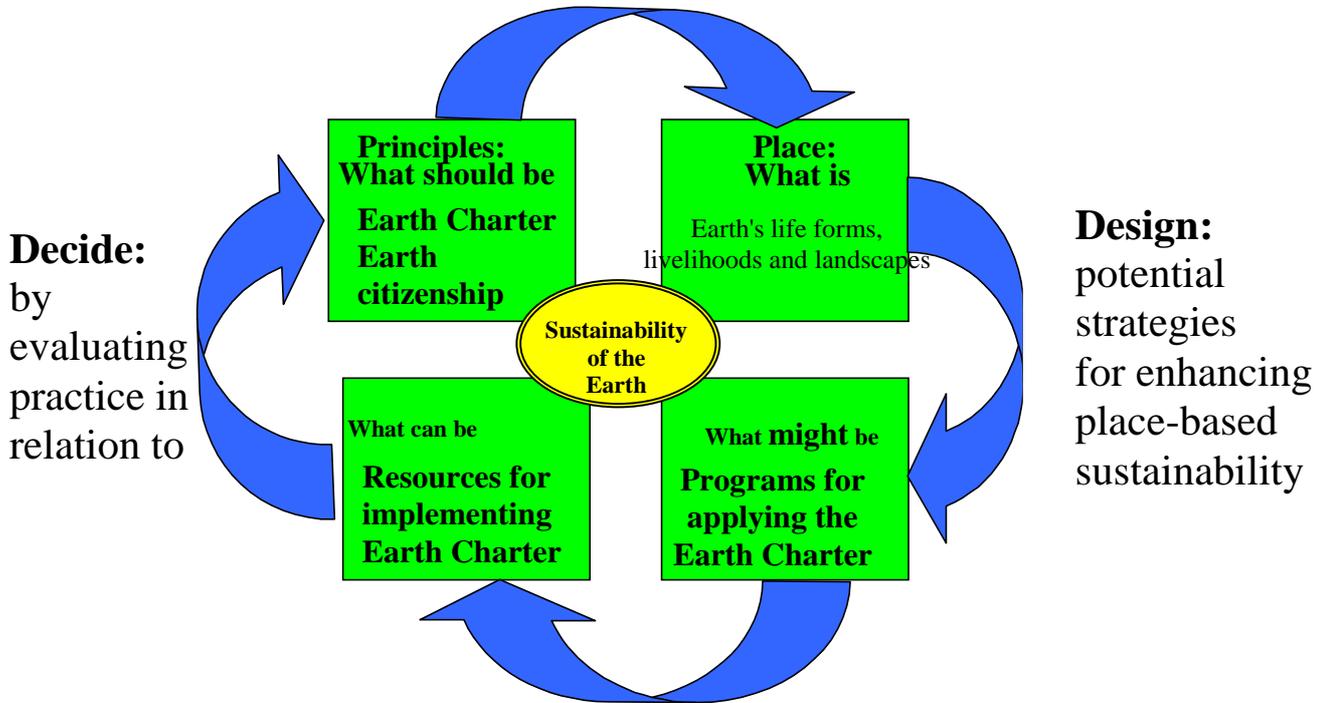
Wendy Rainbird

and Brendan Mackey, coordinator, education network, Earth Charter

**Earth Charter Learning Exchange:  
Knowledge (P4) into Action (D4)**

**Describe:**

place in relation to principles



\*P4D4 Decision-making Framework

**Earth Citizenship action based on Earth Charter Knowledge**

<i>ACTIONS</i> <i>Based on</i> KNOWLEDGE	<i>Decide</i> <i>on</i> Principles	<i>Describe</i> <i>this</i> Place	<i>Design</i> <i>for</i> Potential	<i>Do</i> <i>in</i> Practice
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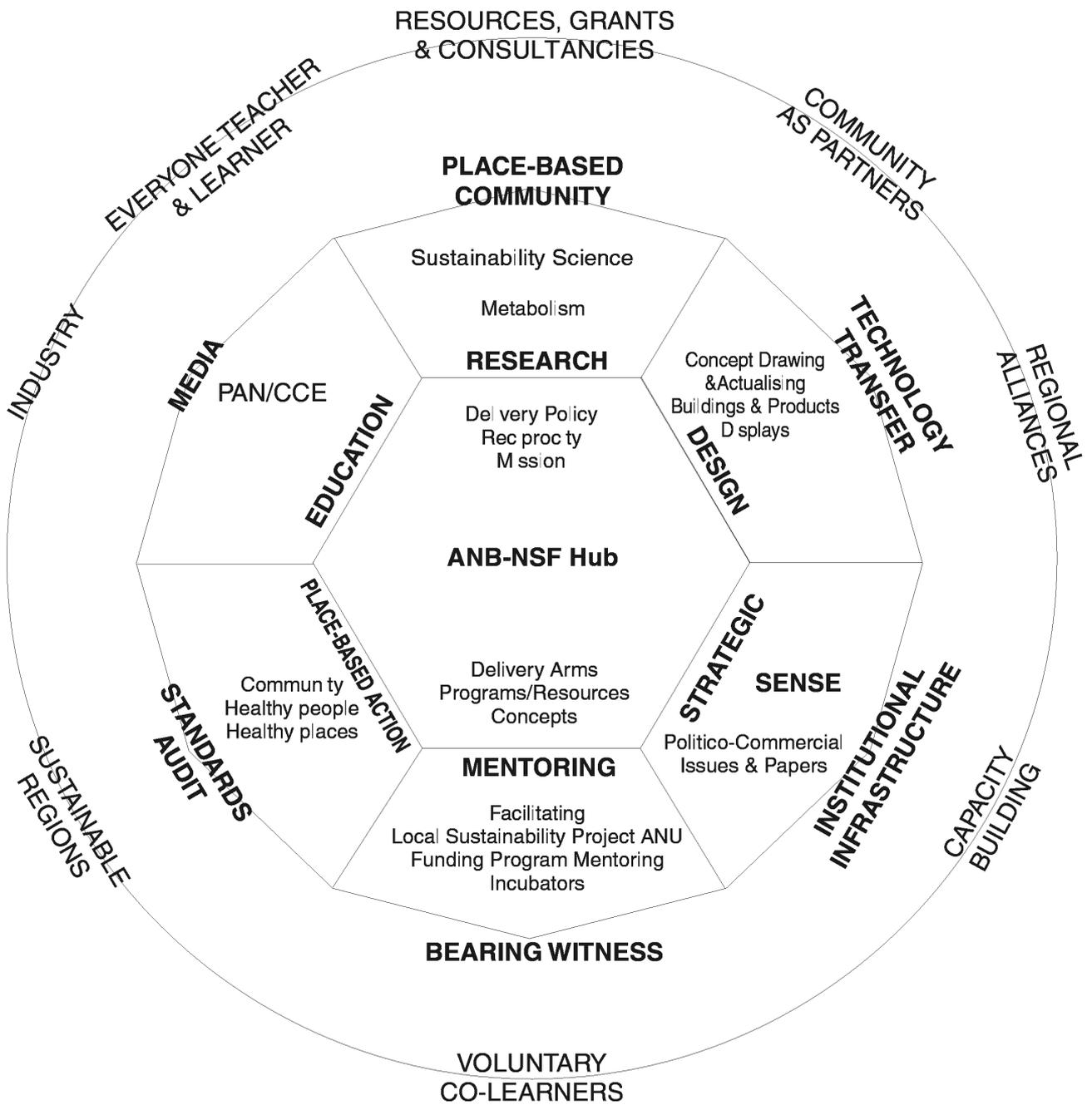
# Educational Policy

**Vision:** An equitable, healthy, and sustainable world

**Mission:** To undertake and promote activities that achieve the vision through applying the principles of the Earth Charter in action

## Educational principles:

- Everyone is both a learner and a teacher
  - Education means sharing the power
  - Education brings social change and transforms understanding of the world
  - Learning brings personal growth and understanding of one's potential in the world
  - Education takes place in a learning community which:
    - crosses generations and cultures; and
    - integrates the perspectives of community;
    - specialists, government and industry
  - Co-learning generates new knowledge through:
    - inspiration and adventure;
    - passion and contemplation;
    - observing and doing; and
    - challenge and safety.
- ◆ **Educational themes:** sustainable development, global sustainability, human adaptability, human health, ecosystem health, sustainable communities.
- ◆ **Educational narrative:** the human journey from the past into the unknown future; a journey towards a dynamic and idealised vision; travelling together, exploring the options and choosing the path.



Organisations, networks: CSIRO, QUESTACON, National Museum, ANU, Environment Australia, UWS, Powerhouse Museum, Earth Charter