Future Visioning Activity

**Equipment:** Textas, butchers paper or large scrap paper (A3+), CD player and peaceful music to play in background.

The following activity is known as future visioning. It requires you to concentrate on what you want your sustainable future to look like. You may like to ask your mentor to guide you through the process.

Before beginning the visioning, brainstorm what sustainability means to the group. Record all ideas. This will provide you with a clear understanding what the term means to the people within your group and ensure everyone is on the same page.

An example sustainability definition is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”, United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

A great explanation of sustainability given by a young person is the phrase: “Enough, for all, forever”.

**Personal Visioning (15-20 mins)**

Close your eyes

Imagine 50 years into the future (you can make it less years if preferred). You have lived a full life and you still live in your local area. You have children and grandchildren also living in your area.

Remember this is your vision. It can be anything you want it to be.

- What things from today do you still want to see in your local area in 50 years time?
- If you went to a local river, lake or creek what do you want it to be like?
- What plants and animals will be there for you to show your children/grandchildren?
- How might you be living?
- What will your house be like?
- How do you and your children/grandchildren get from place to place?
- Where does your food come from?

Keep your eyes closed and to imagine your future.

Once you have a clear picture of your sustainable future, draw a picture, mind map or write about it (poem or brainstorm). Your vision can be detailed or very simple.

There is no right or wrong answer. This is how you would like to see your future. You have 10 minutes to record your vision.
Emphasise the importance of no talking. Have some guiding questions and pictures on a board or poster paper to remind students about what to think about in their vision.

Play some peaceful background music.

After 10 minutes of personal visioning:
Share your vision (picture/writing) with the person next to you. Explain why you chose certain things to be in your vision. What similarities and differences are there between your visions? (5 mins)

Shared Vision (10-15mins)
Now we will try to create a shared vision of a sustainable future.
Ask students to volunteer elements of their vision to add to the shared vision. (10 mins)

With outlandish items consider checking in with the rest of the group….or do the ‘sustainability test’. If everyone did this would it be sustainable?

As each student makes their comment make a shared vision of a sustainable future mind map. This can be left on the wall and referred when planning your action projects.

Closing Comments
With this shared vision, and your individual vision what could you do to make this vision a reality.
What might you do that harms your/our vision. The future is what we create in our actions everyday.

Try to keep this vision in mind; the better world we want to leave to our children and grandchildren. What projects might you do around the home/school/university to help achieve this vision?