

## **Title: Empowering Teachers for Sustainable Futures: Micro-Credentials, Inclusion, and Applied Research in Education**

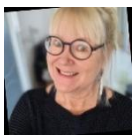
This is the title to my talk and my contribution to the HETL conference presentation in Dubai 2025. The title refers to a set of strategies and research efforts aimed at supporting teachers to become more effective agents of change in the field of sustainable education.

*Empowering teachers for sustainable futures* means equipping educators with the skills, recognition, and support needed to foster inclusive and sustainability-focused classrooms. This is achieved by recognising their competencies through *micro-credentials*, supporting their *inclusive teaching* efforts, and *using research* to inform and improve these practices. Ultimately, these efforts help teachers inspire and motivate all students to contribute to environmental and social change.

Brief explanation of the three main areas:

1. **Micro-Credentials:** These are small, targeted qualifications that teachers can earn to demonstrate specific skills or competencies. Unlike traditional degrees or certificates, micro-credentials are often evidence-based and focus on practical capabilities—such as inclusive teaching methods and sustainability education in all topics and they can be earned through professional development programs or assessed through practical application in the classroom.
2. **Inclusion:** This refers to teaching strategies that ensure all students, regardless of their backgrounds or learning needs, feel valued and can participate fully in educational experiences. Inclusive practices are especially important for learners who may not fit traditional academic models, such as students with disabilities, neurodivergent individuals, or those from diverse cultural backgrounds.
3. **Applied Research in Education:** This involves studying and implementing practical approaches in real-world classrooms to understand how educational methods and interventions—like micro-credentials—impact teachers and students. Applied research helps identify what works best for fostering teacher confidence, effective teaching practices, and meaningful engagement with sustainability themes. Most importantly encourage curiosity among our students.

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### **References:**

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