Cradle 2 Cradle for Engineering Students

See the 'Activities Report Form' for a report on the delivery of C2C teaching on the 7th May this year. This day long course was delivered to students on the Extended Diploma in Engineering (Manufacturing) as we felt that the C2C concepts are particularly applicable to engineering fields.

Outputs and Learning

The intention of the teaching on the 7th May was to introduce the students to C2C concepts with the hope that they would integrate them into their 'Engineering Project' for the coming year. The students have now started the project module and are coming up with their own ideas to study over the course of the year: we are hopeful some of them will use C2C concepts.

Module Creation

A key output of the teaching and the day itself is that, although all the students enjoyed the day and found it very interesting, this kind of teaching will not be able to continue past the Leonardo C2C project. In order to integrate C2C or sustainable design thinking into the curriculum on a regular and assessed basis, it must form part of a nationally recognised module that can be included on the QCF framework. *It is our recommendation therefore that a next step for the project is to write a unit for certification that can then be taught at any College.* Without a recognised unit, it will be very difficult to teach such concepts with our current teaching structure.

Belfast Met have written units in the past for inclusion on such frameworks and they can take 6-18 months to be approved so perhaps it is worth doing this soon. I dont think such a unit should be limited specifically to C2C; perhaps include other concepts in the module as well such as the Circular Economy and any other concepts of a similar nature to ensure the focus is on improving the way we make things.

Businesses

Over the past number of months, we have looked at how to implement C2C within businesses. Indeed, we sold the concept at a display at government buildings during May 2013. We have also discussed the concept with a number of creativity lecturers, all of whom are enthusiastic about the idea. We have mentioned the idea of doing some projects with a local industrial manufacturer,

however the uptake has not been forthcoming. We would be very interested to look at how others have tried to disseminate the information to businesses in the locality.

While the students we taught were very interested in the concepts and teaching material, when we talk casually with businesses, we feel one particular weakness is the lack of technical project examples; *perhaps as a group we could look to develop some technical product case studies*. Following our discussions with engineers, for example, they are interested in the concept but always wonder how it could be applied to parts in critical structures, such as the aerospace industry for example – maybe the best way to convey the message is by developing case studies?