



## Futures Institute at Dollar Academy - September 2025 Update

This edition brings you the latest news from across FIDA, including updates on the construction of the Futures Institute, insights from our evaluation of the International Sustainability Diploma pilot, progress on Year 2 of the Diploma, and our latest fundraising efforts. As always, we welcome any questions or feedback. Please feel free to [contact us](#) at any time.

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### Construction Update



Robertson's have made significant progress since our last update, and the Futures Institute is really beginning to take shape.

We've produced a new behind-the-scenes video featuring interviews with the construction team, which we'll be sharing soon. It offers a detailed look at how the build is progressing - and it's certainly looking impressive! Watch this space!

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### Diploma Pilot Evaluation



Following surveys with pupils and interviews with teachers involved in the 2024–25 pilot of the International Sustainability Diploma, we're delighted to share that the pilot was a resounding success.

- 100% of pupils and teachers said they would recommend the Diploma.
- 100% of pupils reported an increase in their knowledge of sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We're thrilled to be moving into Year 2 of the Diploma and look forward to keeping you updated on the journey ahead.

[Click here to read the Evaluation Findings](#)

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### Year 2 of the ISD



At the beginning of September, we were delighted to welcome pupils and teachers from 12 schools across Scotland to launch Year 2 of our International Sustainability Diploma.

In just a few hours, pupils worked together to develop and pitch some fantastic sustainable enterprise ideas, showcasing their creativity and commitment. Meanwhile, teachers took part in inspiring discussions on interdisciplinary learning with guest speakers from Education Scotland, the London Interdisciplinary School, and the University of Stirling.

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### Curriculum Improvement Cycle



Education Scotland is currently leading a systematic review of the school curriculum: the Curriculum Improvement Cycle. FIDA's Director, Jacqueline Smith, is honoured to be part of the core working group focusing on interdisciplinary learning.

Jacqueline says: *"It's inspiring to be part of a committed group working to shape and enrich the future curriculum; and brings opportunities both to learn from innovative practice from across the country and to share valuable insights from our Diploma pilot."*

[Click here to find out more about the CIC](#)

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### Sector Interest in the Diploma Grows



FIDA's Director has also been invited to give presentations at two events this month, at the Scottish Development Education Centre (Scotdec) and Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF).

It is pleasing to see such high levels of interest in the Diploma and exciting to make new connections across the sector.

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## Donor Support Continues



Support for FIDA continues to grow, with another generous 5-figure pledge from a Former Pupil this month.

It's not too late to have your name included on the donor wall inside the Futures Institute. If you haven't yet had the chance to support us and would like to do so, you can find out more by clicking below.

[Support Us](#)

## UNSDG - Goal of the Month

This month saw the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, marking a critical milestone in the global effort to accelerate progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A decade after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, millions of lives have improved through gains in health, education, energy, and digital connectivity. However, **only 35% of the targets are on track** or making moderate progress and **18% have regressed**. The final five years to 2030 are a key moment to scale up action, accelerate change and keep the promise of the SDGs.

[Click here to find out more](#)

## What our donors say...

*"When I first heard about FIDA, it just sounded such an interesting and rewarding exercise – innovative, something completely different. I thought, that's well worth supporting. I can't see it being anything other than a success."*

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