



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

For Middle School Teachers

Create a fairer, more just world. It starts with you!

Sustainability is frequently mentioned in the news as increasingly evidence suggests that we are living in unsustainable ways. For the last two years, KDP has featured articles and webinars on topics related to sustainability to inform our community of educators about this important topic. New data from the World Economic Forum (Schwab, 2013) warns that the United States shows “middling results in both social and environmental sustainability. . . . The country’s social sustainability score is affected by increasing inequality and youth unemployment. However, it is the score in environmental sustainability . . . that is a concern for the country’s sustainable prosperity” (p. 60). Now it is time for all of us to take action!

Teachers are the change agents who can help their students to understand the many aspects of sustainability—not just environmental—and the many possible roles in creating a more equitable and better society for today and tomorrow.

Source of Data:

World Economic Forum. (2012). *The Global Competitiveness Report 2012–2013*. Geneva, Switzerland: WEF.

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How do I get started?

Your classroom and daily lesson plans/curriculum offer unlimited ways to get children thinking about their decisions and issues in their community that have implications for others and the environment.

We are asking that you **choose one activity, project, or video** from the list on the back to use with your students before the end of the academic year. Through this one action, YOU will be making a difference!

*Please share what you decided to do, the reaction of your students, and other ideas with other KDP educators. Go to the **Sustainability** community in KDP Global!*

Remember, change happens one person at a time. Be that person

Additional Resources

Education for Sustainable Development Sourcebook's brief “**What is Sustainable Development?**” pages 5–7 at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002163/216383e.pdf>

For a **lesson planning tool** to help weave sustainability themes into your lesson plans, see Project Y in the *Education for Sustainable Development Sourcebook's* brief “Reorienting Curriculum to Address Sustainability,” pages 10–14, at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002163/216383e.pdf>

Facing the Future offers free, **high-quality lesson plans and materials** for all grade levels at www.facingthefuture.org

Kappa Delta Pi’s Education for Sustainable Development **Web pages**

<http://www.kdp.org/initiatives/sustainabledevelopment.php>