



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

How to Get Started

For Teacher Educators

Even though universities and colleges across the United States are creating academic programs with a sustainability focus, U.S. teacher-preparation programs have been slow to act. Nevertheless, teacher educators around the world are incorporating sustainability into preservice and inservice teacher-education programs. Their activities can inform and inspire future actions in teacher-preparation programs here in the United States.

Teacher educators around the world have found that working in your own sphere of influence is an effective way to begin incorporating sustainability into teacher-preparation programs. What you can do to create a fairer, more just world:

- Update and refine your personal vision of sustainable development/sustainability. (See Resource #1 for an easy-to-read explanation of sustainability.)
- Identify threads of sustainability in syllabi that you currently teach and overtly teach them as contributing to a more sustainable future. (See Resource #2.)
- Identify your discipline and its contribution of knowledge, skills, and pedagogies to education for a sustainable future. Express these to your students. (See Resource #3.)
- Read the *Guidelines and Recommendations for Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability* to learn what other teacher educators around the world have done and select actions that are relevant to your context. (See Resource #4.)
- Create a learning circle with others in the teacher-preparation program to discuss:
 - How ESD policy and practice are woven into your particular teacher-education program so that it is locally relevant and culturally appropriate and unique for your particular context.
 - The various aspects of ESD and where they appear in the program, with the intent to eliminate gaps and overlaps.
- Update the *InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards* to include ESD language related to dispositions (e.g., add dispositions related to equity in the classroom and creating a climate of working for the common good). (See Resources #5 and #6.)
- Within your academic unit, create a professional development plan related to ESD. (See Resource #7.)
- Document your own efforts to incorporate ESD into teacher education and submit your work to a scholarly journal for publication.
- Reflect on your personal habits and actions related to consumption. Are you modeling sustainable behaviors for your students?

Please see back side for resources to get you started.



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Resources

1. For a quick **update on sustainability**/sustainable development in easy-to-understand language that you can use with your students, see the *Education for Sustainable Development Sourcebook's* brief "What is Sustainable Development?" pages 5–7 at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002163/216383e.pdf>
2. For an activity for **finding sustainability in existing curricula**, see the *Education for Sustainable Development Sourcebook*, pages 43–45, at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002163/216383e.pdf>
3. The **Strengths Model** of ESD is in the *Education for Sustainable Development Sourcebook*, pages 41–42, at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002163/216383e.pdf>
4. For a **comprehensive process** of incorporating ESD into teacher education, read *Guidelines and Recommendations for Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability* at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001433/143370e.pdf>
5. Council of Chief State School Officers. (2011, April). *InTASC model core teaching standards: A resource for state dialogue*. Washington, DC: CCSSO. [http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Publications/InTASC_Model_Core_Teaching_Standards_A_Resource_for_State_Dialogue_\(April_2011\).html](http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Publications/InTASC_Model_Core_Teaching_Standards_A_Resource_for_State_Dialogue_(April_2011).html)
6. An **academic white paper** on Education for Sustainable Development and teacher education by Rosalyn McKeown with the USTESD Network. (2013). *Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability: The U.S. Context*, White Paper Series, No. 1. Indianapolis, IN: United States Teacher Education for Sustainable Development Network. http://www.kdp.org/initiatives/pdf/USTESD_WhitePaperOct13.pdf
7. Manitoba Faculties of Education ESD Committee. (2012). *Suggested Actions for Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability in the Faculties of Education in Manitoba to Address Sustainability* [Poster]. Winnipeg: Manitoba Education. http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/pdfs/actions_poster.pdf
8. UNESCO publications related to ESD can be found at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-sustainable-development/publications>
9. UNESCO professional development videos on ESD for teachers and educational administrators in formal education:
Pedagogy – Active Learning
http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films_details&id_page=33&id_film=2591
Teachers Sharing with Teachers
http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films_details&id_page=33&id_film=2590
Inside Classrooms in India
http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films_details&id_page=33&id_film=2592
Preparing for the Future
http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films_details&id_page=33&id_film=2588
Building Support Systems
http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films_details&id_page=33&id_film=2589