Exemplary Sustainability Resources
Reviewed by Teachers for Teachers

www.r4r.ca
Learning for a Sustainable Future

Mission: to promote, through education, the knowledge, skills, perspectives and practices essential to a sustainable future

- National, bilingual, non-profit, founded in 1991
- Partners with businesses, non-profit organizations, educators, students, and governments across Canada
- Head office at York University in Toronto

“Sustainability is not only for the school student and teacher, but for everyone in society.”
-- Chester Gillan, Former Minister of Health, P.E.I. and LSF Board Member
The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD): 2005 to 2014

LSF is leading Canada’s response --
in partnership with Environment Canada &
Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Objectives:

• Promote ESD though formal, non-formal & informal learning
• Equip educators with the competence to teach ESD
• Ensure ESD tools & materials are accessible
LSF’s Strategic Initiatives

1. Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups
2. National ESD Expert Council
3. Sustainability Education Academy
4. Youth Taking Action Program
5. Sustainability Lighthouse School Project
6. Curriculum Policy Reform
7. Educator Resource Database www.r4r.ca
Education for Sustainable Development...
Education for Sustainable Development provides a framework for otherwise isolated issues.
ESD is Education for the 21st Century

Education for Sustainable Development must:

• Be solution-focused and action-oriented
• Teach students to think in terms of systems
• Explain the fundamental interrelationships among environmental, economic & social dimensions of those issues affecting our planet
• Inspire respect and concern for the well-being of:
  - humans, other animals and plants; near and far; now and in the future
Traditional Education

- For Employment
- Information Transfer
- Passive
- Contrived

ESD Education

- For Responsible Citizenship
- Information mining and analysis; skill development; values clarification
- Active
- Authentic
Opportunities for Integration...
Opportunities for Integration

• Skills
• Attitudes
• Knowledge
  • Ontario Curriculum
    – Business
      » Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Accounting, International, Business Leadership
    – Math
    – Social Studies (k-6, food studies, family studies,...)
    – Geography (GPS, Mapping, Physical, Human...)
    – History (Civics, Philosophy...)
    – Language Arts
    – Modern Languages
    – ...
RESOURCES FOR RETHINKING

Resource Database

GOAL: to provide teachers with the tools needed to facilitate the incorporation of effective Education for Sustainable Development into formal school programs (K-12) across Canada.
HOW?

EFFICIENCY: Searchable ESD resource database

QUALITY: Professionally reviewed resources

CAPACITY: Support for ESD publishers
WHAT IS A “RESOURCE”? 

- Designed to be used by a teacher in a regular school setting
- Augments and/or replaces textbook
- “Published” by commercial publishers, non-profit organizations, government organizations, teachers, etc.
- English and French
PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS

• Teams of teachers from all regions
• Recent or current formal teaching experience
• Online input tool
• Extensive on-going training process
REVIEW TOOL

- Curriculum matches for all regions
- UN Issue ‘themes’:
  - social, environmental, economic
- Description, strengths, weaknesses
- 9 sustainability principles
- 11 pedagogy principles
- Overall rating
Lessons are structured so that multiple/complex answers are possible; students are not necessarily steered toward one right answer.
SEARCHABLE DATABASE

- Identify region for curriculum connections
- Search by:
  - grade
  - subject/course
  - ESD issue
- Results:
  - Full/partial curriculum match
- Access to full review or summary of review
Exemplary sustainability resources reviewed by teachers for teachers

The Resources for Rethinking database provides teachers with access to materials that integrate ecological, social and economic spheres through active, relevant, interdisciplinary learning.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) promotes respect for universal human rights, cultural diversity, greater care of life and the protection of Earth’s ecosystems, and a commitment to build a global culture of tolerance and peace.

Most Recent

- Microfinance—Giving Credit Where Credit is Due
- House Hippo
- Words Hurt
- Global Children Find

Most Popular
Developing Rights

Teaching Rights and Responsibilities for Ages 11-14

**Description**

*Developing Rights*, an "activity focused handbook for teachers of 11-14 year olds," is a 2004 version of a resource in print since 1995. As an Oxfam UK publication, *Developing Rights* seeks to assist young students in examining human rights, first from their own loci of concerns, and then by making extensions into other social contexts found worldwide. Some of the issues include bullying, violence and disability. The final unit suggests "actions for change."

Six separate units are linked to different rights issues, and include activities and worksheets, making curriculum links to
SUPPORT FOR PUBLISHERS

• Thorough feedback via tool
• “Enhancing the Resource” section of review
• Publisher workshops
• Gap analysis
• Links to other resources and home page
LOOKING FORWARD:

- Toolbox explaining “the why and the how” of concepts and skills essential to good ESD and good pedagogy
- Gap analysis
  - Helping publishers to identify grades/sustainability issues for which few resources have been developed
- Outreach
  - Getting R4R into more teachers’ hands
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