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Educator Tips

How To Be an Environmental Leader

As with most life lessons, environmental awareness is taught by example. If you want your kids to think green, start thinking green yourself. Now, promoting *environmental leadership* requires more than just thinking. Here are a few tips to be and teach how to be an environmental leader:

1. **Reuse school supplies:** a sharpened pencil doesn't necessarily have to be new.
2. **Recycle:** this goes beyond putting trash in the right can. Have you considered holding a recycling rally in town led by your students?
3. **Donate:** Ask your students to donate their toys to the hospital. Taking care of the planet includes caring for the people living there.
4. **Purchase green products:** Monitor that the school district is hiring green suppliers.
5. **Ensure your school has environmental priorities:** Ask your principal for accountable goals. How much money is the school's water bill? Find common ways to save water while saving money. And, of course, don't forget to celebrate the water bill reduction with the whole school.



Global Facts

Here are some current examples of threats that different regions of the world are facing right now:

- 30% of its plant-pollination network in North America has disappeared.
- In the Western Hemisphere, nearly 3 billion birds have been lost in the past 50 years.
- 1,677 European species are threatened with extinction.
- Illegal hunting and mining have driven down the gorilla population in the Congo by 87%.
- More than 80% of East and Southeast Asia's wetlands are classified as threatened due to human activity.
- Record-breaking dry seasons and forest fires have led to a 30% deforestation of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Source: <https://www.earth.org>

Recent News

Weather Gone Crazy? Time for SDGs

No doubt everyone, everywhere, is talking about the crazy weather conditions of this year. The chilly summertime in Latin America and oven-like weather in North America are the clearest examples of the urgency to educate our kids and teens based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of principles that search for benefit the world while taking care of nature and the environment. As stated by UNESCO, Education for sustainable development (ESD) is an education sector response to the planet's urgent and dramatic challenges. For more information on the 17 goals (see graphic below), you can access the following website <https://teachun.org/category/sustainable-development-goals/>. Here you will find resources designed to assist teachers in their efforts to incorporate global awareness into classroom curricula and activities. DKG has had a relationship with the United Nations since 1995 with our Non-Governmental Organization representatives from DKG leading the charge to familiarize members with the activities and programs of the United Nations inclusive of those relating to education and human rights.



UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

EEC Booklist

UNESCO (2000). *The Earth Charter. The Earth Charter Initiative.*

A must-read book for environmental leaders is, by no doubt, UNESCO's The Earth Charter. Published over twenty years ago by UNESCO, the Earth Charter seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of shared responsibility and global interdependence for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. It is a vision of hope and a call to action organized under four pillars that seek to turn conscience into action. This book is free and available online at The Earth Charter website <https://earthcharter.org>

Promoting sustainable education in English and Spanish

Committed to the SDGs principles, DKG Costa Rica State and the National University of Costa Rica launched the translation into Spanish of the book The Earth Charter Education for Sustainable Development. This publication showcases a series of articles on education for sustainable development and the role of the Earth Charter as an educational instrument by providing examples of its use in various educational settings. This publication provides excellent material in both English and Spanish for teachers interested in using this book to contribute to the well-being of the Earth: our common home. This resource is also free and available online at the UNESCOs webpage <https://earthcharter.org/launch-of-the-earth-charter-education-book-national-university-costa-rica>

Mentoring Moment

Sustainable education requires a shift towards active, participative, and experiential learning methods that engage the learner and make a real difference to their understanding, thinking and ability to act.

1. **Critical reflection** – Lectures must be accompanied by learning journals and discussion groups.
2. **Systemic analysis** – Use real-world case studies and critical incidents as a learning resource.
3. **Participatory learning** – Emphasize peer and experiential learning followed by dialogue and action.
4. **Collaborative learning** – Contributions from multidisciplinary guest speakers have never been timelier.
5. **Environmental awareness** – Remind students our planet is our common home: if we lose it, we will have nowhere to live.



DKG International website: www.dkg.org

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