



Beyond Doom and Gloom: Engage in Solutions to Climate Change

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Education for Sustainable Development

“enables people to develop the knowledge and skills to participate in decisions..., that will improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future.”

(UN ESD Summit information)

Skills needed for Sustainable Development are the same skills employers value!

Rowe D. and Hiser K. (2016) “Higher Education for Sustainable Development in the Community and through Partnerships” in Routledge Handbook of Higher Education for Sustainable Development, ed. Barth, M., Michelsen, G., Rieckmann, M., & Thomas, I., Routledge, Oxford, UK.



Education for Sustainability

- Individual change is not enough
- Change on campus is not enough
- Research/academic publishing is not enough
- Climate change requires regulatory and policy changes to shift societies to less greenhouse gas emissions
- Students and the public can/need to help


THE US PARTNERSHIP



FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Vision: Sustainable
development
integrated into
education and learning*

- Non-partisan, over 360 registered organizations
- Sector Teams are:
 - Communities
 - Business
 - Faith Based Organizations
 - Youth
 - K-12 and Teacher Education
 - International
 - **Higher Education**



*Vision: Sustainable
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Higher Education Networks:

HEASC - 13 associations for
administrators

DANS - 45 faculty associations

**Many great resources for all parts
of campus!**

Check them out!

Thanks to AASHE!



Why is this initiative needed?

- Educators asked for it
- Practitioners asked for it
- Policymakers asked for it

Climate Change

- **Lots of bad news!** (droughts, floods, more severe weather, sea level rise, disruption of civilization and ecosystems and food chain, species extinction, more disease)
- People often feel:
 - **frustrated, worried and confused,**
 - **disempowered,**
 - become **early cynics**
- Often the opportunities they see are **too limited:**
 - **individual choices** (more sustainable living)
 - **protesting**



Educators asked for it:

- We are **not experts** in possible solutions
- We do **not have energy expertise**
- We do **not fully understand the barriers**
- We would **welcome materials we can use in courses**
- **“Yes, good idea to connect students and the public to solutions for more renewable energies and energy efficiency”**
- **Students responded well to the materials when we piloted them**





Practitioners asked for it

- Bad energy policies at both state and federal levels **damage** EERE businesses, job growth. _____
- Policy makers hear from fossil fuel companies & utilities a lot, **not enough support for EERE.**
- **We need engagement in energy policy!**
We are too busy running businesses/non-profits to do this successfully alone.
- Example – Michigan story



Policymakers asked for it

- Fossil fuel employees/lobbyists often dominate policy hearings and communications
- Typical comments:

When students and the public are describing how we are impacting their future, our fellow policymakers are more open to supporting renewable energies and energy efficiency policies



Beyond Doom and Gloom: Solutions to Climate Change



Good news!

- Easy to use
- Help students and the public
- High priority for climate change solutions:
policies needed to transition to a clean energy future.



Want to contact your legislators?

[Get their emails and phone numbers HERE!](#)

**You might use, “I CARE: I Care About Renewable Energies!”
First used at Carleton College**

(Doesn't even mention climate change.)

“Hello, my name is _____ and I am a voter. My address is _____. I care about renewable energies and energy efficiency and want a rapid ramp up of their implementation. Please work on energy policies to make this happen. This will produce jobs, help the economy, increase health, and protect the environment. Let me know what you do.”

Tips for contacting your legislators:

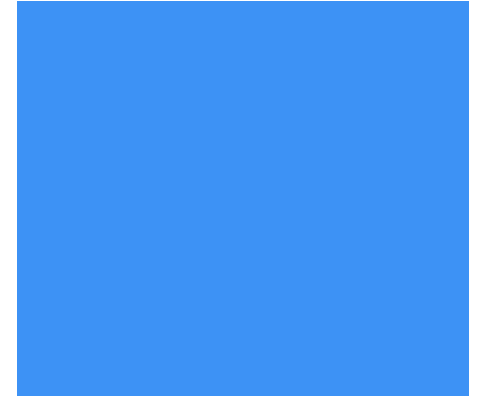
- Emails and phone calls are best.
- Be brief. Stick to one issue per email/call.
- Introduce yourself/include your contact info
- Be polite! Anger and rudeness will not leave a favorable impression.

Go to: <http://ClimateFixes.org>

(routes to an AASHE page)

Key Clean Energy Facts

- Right now, we have the technology to supply 80% of the electricity needs of the US with renewables and energy efficiency
(National Renewable Energy Lab Energy Futures Analysis: http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/re_futures/)
- We can ramp up to 100% of our electricity needs from Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy instead of today's 27%
- We already have the technologies that pay for themselves and provide lower costs



Your Next Steps:

[Sign up](#) to explore Sustainability Policy Partners

Ready to Act?

Follow these [three easy steps](#) to begin connecting with organizations in your state and reaching out to students, faculty, and staff on your campus.

1. Sign up for policy opportunities .
2. Create a list of interested people interested in climate solutions on campus and in the broader community.
3. Add local information to the monthly updates we send you and send them out to your list!

We have monthly calls if you want more information and support.

Make Climate Solutions Happen!

Changing what you do in the classroom/on campus/in the community takes effort, but the impacts are powerful and positive!

Reduces despair and worry

Moves us to solutions

Provides skills for lifelong efforts!



The Power of What You Do

We can choose a sustainable future

Questions/Feedback

