



Regional Centers of Expertise (RCEs) as a model for Education for Sustainable Development

Introducing the RCE Americas Online Course (Feb to May)
Localizing the UN SDGs through Education, Training and Regional
Collaboration

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction of Speakers
- Overview of the RCE Model by Roger Petry
- Presentation by RCEs- establishment, SDG focus and some highlights
- Learning Cohort Details <https://bit.ly/3XcYDQ8>
- February 14: Optional pre-event networking
- Certificate of Participation Provided

Note: All webinars will be recorded

Presenters

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RCE Mission and Vision



2002: UN General Assembly adopts resolution for *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development* (UNDESD 2005-2014)

2003: *United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability* (UNU-IAS) launches global network of Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)

UNESCO [ESD for 2030 Roadmap](#) five priority action areas: advancing policy, transforming learning environments, building capacities of educators, empowering and mobilizing youth, and accelerating local level actions

-RCEs play a crucial role, esp. re. 5th goal

As of January 2022: 180 RCEs acknowledge by UNU, 27 in Americas



We are increasingly asking if what people learn is truly relevant to their lives, if what they learn helps to ensure the survival of our planet. Education for Sustainable Development can provide the knowledge, awareness and action that empower people to transform themselves and transform societies.

- Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 4.7: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

4.7 - By 2030, ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others **through education for sustainable development** and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

United Nations University



The United Nations University:

-est. 1972 by UN General Assembly

-a global think tank and a research institute for UN organizations

-headquartered in Japan

<https://unu.edu/>

Mission: Contribute, through collaborative research and education, to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations.

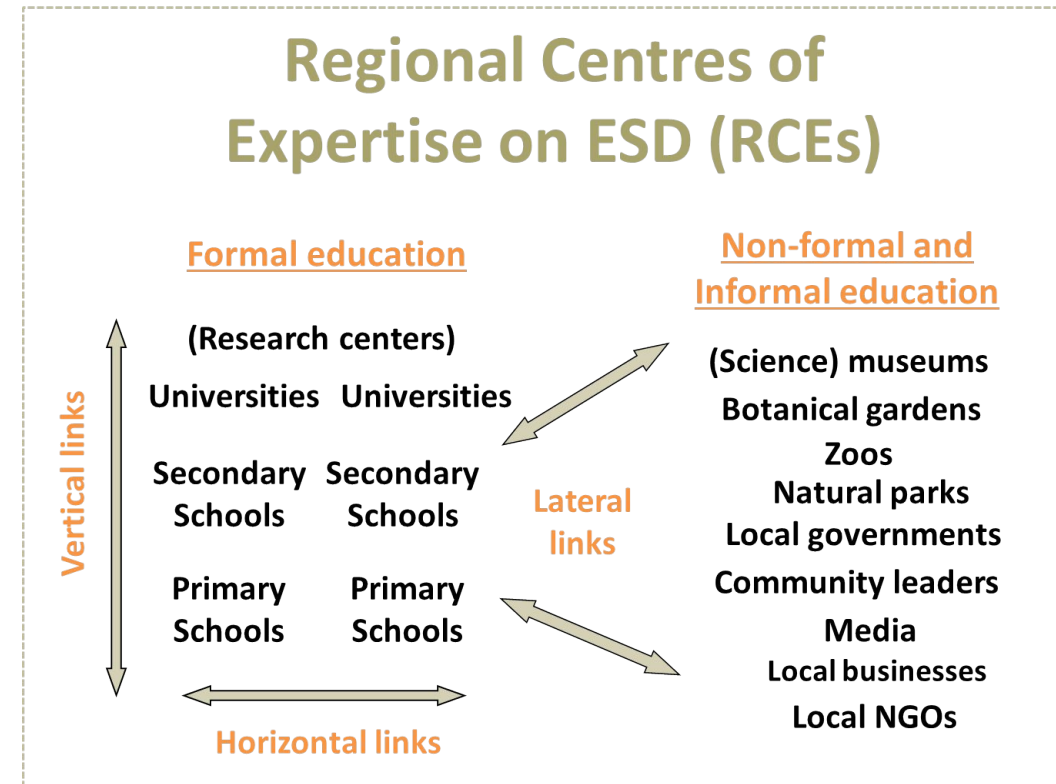
Regional Centers of Expertise for Education on Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD Program established at UNU-IAS for UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014)

RCEs are *networks of individuals and formal, non-formal, and informal organizations and institutions that facilitate ESD in local and regional communities, through education, training, and public awareness to build a sustainable future.*

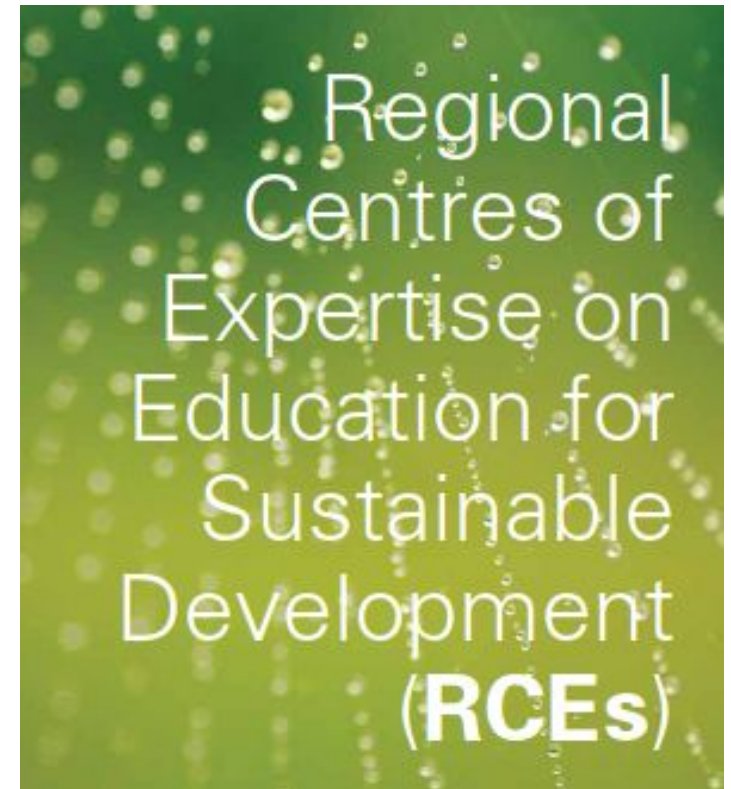
Focus on regional challenges, needs, and resources.

“Think globally, act locally.”



Innovative Features of RCEs

RCEs as self-sustaining entities
Mobilize new scholarship through
volunteerism
Combine formal scholars with sustainability
practitioners in communities
A whole-of-region approach: region as a
“living laboratory”
Enjoy institutional standing as HEI (with
academic freedom) and UN related entity



Becoming a Regional Centre of Expertise

RCEs develop proposal: define region & regional SD issues, RCE vision, governance model, partners/collaborators (including at least 1 university), resources/finances

- **January:** UNU open call for applications
- **May:** submission of first draft
- **June:** comments from Global RCE Service Centre and Peer Reviewers
- **September:** Final application and summary
- **December:** Review by Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs
- **January:** Announcement of UNU RCE Acknowledgement

2022 RCE APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE: 15 MAY, 2022





How can ESD and RCE's help regional efforts?

Map existing sustainability organizations

Highlight pool of experts from different fields

Synergize regional partnerships

Expand and engage beyond silos

Identify and align with initiatives

Leverage resources

Develop sustainability curriculum

Increase trainings and public awareness

Build leadership and volunteer opportunities

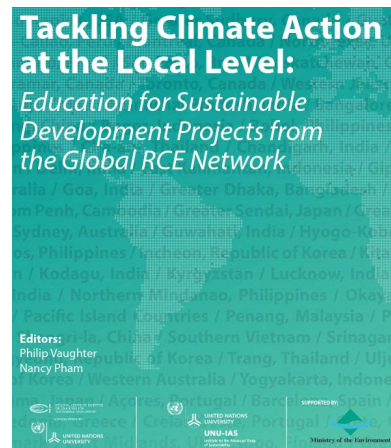
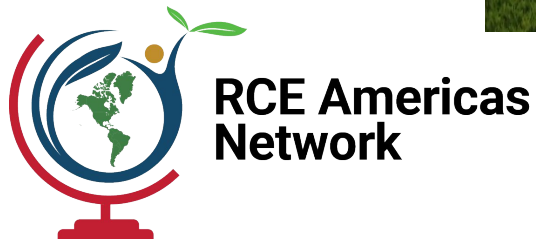
Welcome diverse voices on critical issues

Facilitate change and create collective impact

Inter-regional and Global RCE Opportunities



- UNU RCE Project Portal
- Global RCE Awards Program
- Monthly RCE E-Bulletin
- Annual RCE Americas Meetings
- Bi-annual Global RCE Conferences
- Global RCE Publications
- Invitation to Support UN Initiatives



RCE North Texas



RCE
North Texas

MEGHNA TARE

Chief Sustainability Officer, University of Texas at Arlington

Founder and Director, RCE North Texas & North Texas Food Policy Alliance

Email: mtare@uta.edu

RCE North Texas

(Launched April 2019-UT Arlington and UT Dallas)

<https://sustainability.uta.edu/rce/>

Strategic Planning
SWOT Analysis to decide on the SDG focus



Program and Projects

- Trinity River Report Card
- Sustainable Cities Challenge
- North Texas Food Policy Alliance
- Strategic Planning
- Host annual summit and conferences
- Dashboard for Food System Resources
- Service Learning
- Youth Network



NORTH TEXAS
Food Policy Alliance

THE SUSTAINABLE AGE STUDENT JOURNAL

Who we are...

A journal rooted in sustainability.
By students, for students.

We are organized around the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. As such, we are a global organization, with student writers from across the world. Our articles advocate for more equitable and responsible choices at both the individual and international scale.

Learn more...

@thesustainableage
Follow our Instagram for live discussions and new article notifications.

thesustainableage.com
Check out the collection of articles on our website and read about becoming a writer!

@sustainableage
Follow our Twitter for updates on upcoming events and articles.

An affiliate of...

rcenetwork.org



RCE Georgetown: Localizing the Goals in SC



RISE: Resilience Innovation and Sustainability



FRANCES P. BUNNELLE
foundation

SUSTAIN ^{SC}
commerce + conservation

through Education



SIXAXIS
MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES



North Inlet - Winyah Bay
National Estuarine
Research Reserve



Our 3 pillars:

- Community Engaged Research
- Youth Corps Paid Internship Program
- SDG Study in SC



SDG Framework



SUSTAIN⁷SC
commerce + conservation

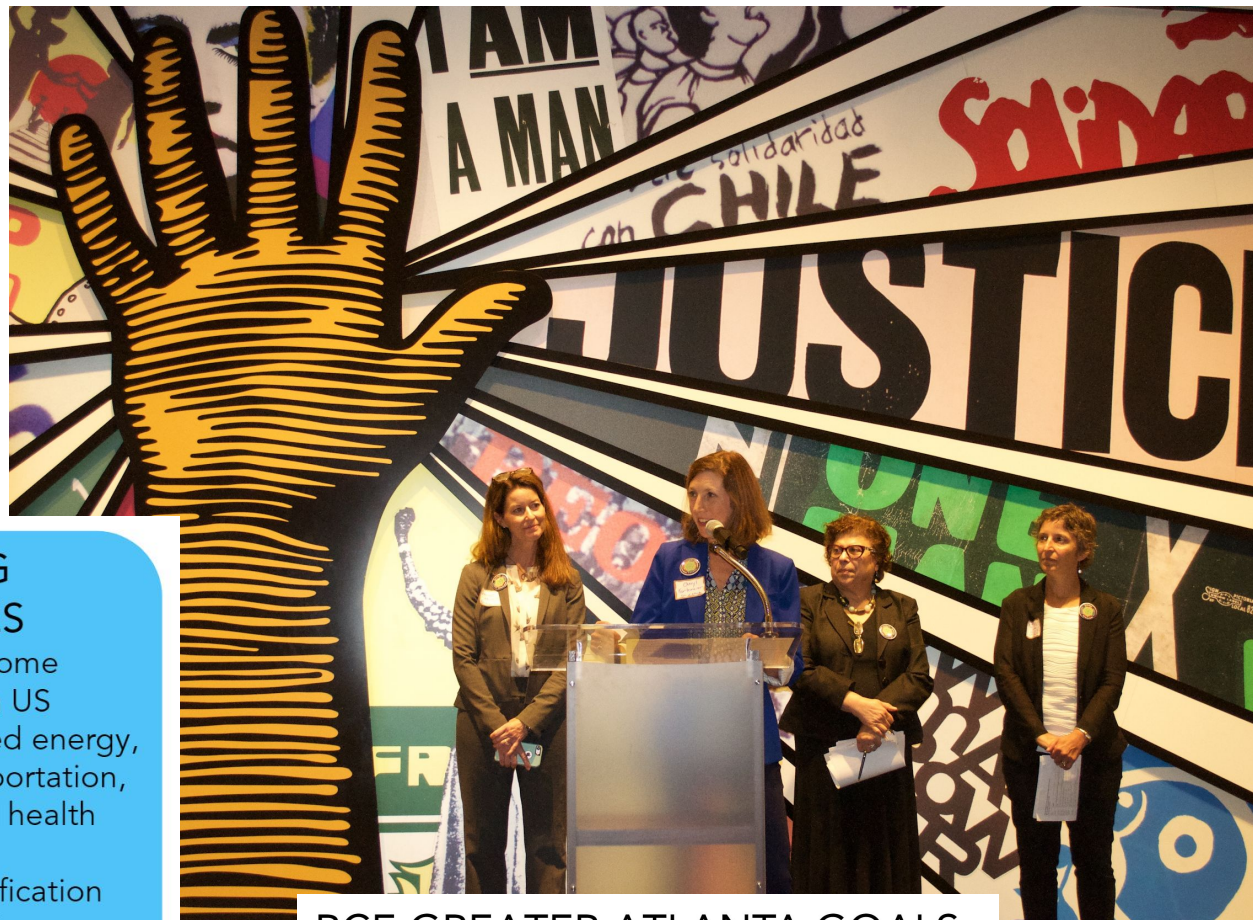
- 60% of members report on SDGs
- 60% report to CDP on Climate Change; 35% to CDP Water or Forest



RCE
GREATER ATLANTA

<https://rcega.org/>

Formed in 2017



RCE GREATER ATLANTA GOALS

ABUNDANT ASSETS

- Strong community sustainability leadership
- Civil rights history
- Higher ed/HBCUs
- Corporate HQs & Logistics, Fintech, Entertain. industries
- International NGOs

GLOBALLY-RECOGNIZED
REGIONALLY-RELEVANT
CROSS-SECTOR

RCE NETWORK AS BRIDGE



CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY & CLIMATE CHANGE URGENCY

CRIPPLING INEQUITIES

- Greatest income disparities in US
- Compounded energy, water, transportation, housing and health burdens
- Rapid gentrification
- **TOO MANY** vulnerable left behind

Advance Greater SDG Knowledge & Action



Model Inclusive & Collaborative Community



Nurture Strong Youth Leadership



Advance Greater SDG Knowledge & Action



The Inaugural Annual Atlanta Global Studies Symposium

UN Sustainable Development Goals in Education,
Research, and Community Engagement

April 25-27, 2019

Thursday, April 25

Keynote Lecture and Reception. 4 - 6 p.m.

"Innovative Finance for Sustaining Peace in the Middle East and Beyond: Lessons from Public Health for the Millennium Development Goals," with Pardis Mahdavi, Acting Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Friday, April 26

Parallel Sessions. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TRACK I. Transforming Education and Society through University-Community Partnerships

TRACK II. Teaching and Learning in Global Studies

TRACK III. Global Connections: Inequality and Interchange

TRACK IV. Translating Sustainability in the Middle East and North Africa

TRACK V. Challenges in Development: A Global-Local Perspective

Saturday, April 27

K-12 Professional Development Workshop. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Addressing the UN's Sustainability Goals as they relate to the teaching of world cultures, social studies, and foreign languages in collaboration with the Georgia Tech Global Media Fest.

Bill Moore Student Success
Georgia Tech campus

Annual RCE Track at the AGS
Symposium

ation or to register:
edu

All events are free and open to the public.



Atlanta Global Studies Center

Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
College of Arts & Sciences at Georgia State University



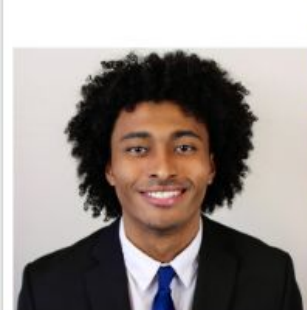
Model
Inclusive &
Collaborative
Community



Building an Intergenerational, Multiracial Network that Elevates Grassroots Voices



Nurture Strong Youth Leadership





Learn More and Get Involved at

rcega.org



Sustainable Shenandoah Valley RCE

Carol Lena Miller
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, USA

Sustainable Shenandoah Valley

A sustainable Shenandoah Valley preserves and enhances our unique educational, social, environmental, and economic resources to ensure the future well-being of Valley residents

RCE Application approved in 2013

- A collaboration of regional institutions of higher education including four 4-year colleges and one community college
- After receiving RCE approval, several years were spent developing a working structure, strategic plan, and by-laws, and obtaining MOU approval from partner institutions
- Primary foci for Sustainable Shenandoah Valley:
 - Convene diverse sustainability-related entities throughout central Shenandoah Valley
 - Mobilize regional higher ed resources and empower youth
 - Amplify existing initiatives
 - Facilitate and promote connections to SDGs

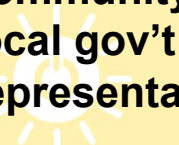


SSV Signature Events

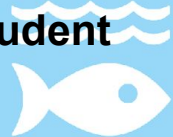
- The Student Sustainability Summit
- Sustainable Development in Action



Convene Valley students, faculty members, community activists, and local gov't representatives.



Events and community engagement activities promote SDG awareness and promote student leadership.





Launched January 2020



- rcepuertorico@gmail.com
- <https://sites.google.com/view/rcepuertorico/>





UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Puerto Rico Chapter

RCE Puerto Rico-REDeS Members & Collaborators



Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO



Learning 2B Global EMPOWER YOUR ACTION



CORAZÓN LATINO



UNIVERSIDAD INTERAMERICANA DE PUERTO RICO



UNIVERSIDAD ANA G. MÉNDEZ

UAGM

Recinto de Cupey

Multi-sector collaborations



- Educate and raise public awareness about sustainability and resilience concepts, and their relationship with social, economic, and environmental well-being.
- Promote the sustainable management and conservation of natural and cultural resources and the goods and services they provide society.
- Strengthen food, energy and drinking water security via sustainable economic development.



Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras
Facultad de Educación
Departamento de Programa y Enseñanza



Localizing the UN SDGs through Education, Training and Regional Collaboration

REGISTER AT: <https://www.aashe.org/calendar/advancing-sdgs/>

This course will meet virtually five times on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. ET between February and May on these dates: February 21, March 21, April 4, April 25, and May 9.

Universities and colleges around the world are making commitments to advance the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) through their teaching, research, operations, and partnerships. One proven model for making good on this commitment is to establish a United Nations-affiliated RCE network. RCEs – Regional Centers of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development – are regional multi-stakeholder networks, grounded in higher education, that advance the SDGs through education and training. RCEs are proliferating, with over 180 networks around the world, including 27 in the Americas.

In this cohort-based course, leaders from RCE networks from the U.S. and Canada will share experiences, case studies, and lessons learned on how universities and colleges can help lead multi-stakeholder collaborations that localize and advance the SDGs in their regions.

Networking Webinar on Feb 14th

Certificates of Participation provided