



Living Classroom.Net

Connecting Students Worldwide for a Sustainable Future

Advancing Sustainable Development through innovative integration of English Language Learning and Information Technology

It is over twelve years since heads of state met for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio (Earth Summit 1992), creating Agenda 21 as a plan for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century. Worldwide, governments agreed then that 'education needs to lead to an informed and involved global citizenry with the creative problem-solving skills, scientific and social literacy, and the commitment to engage in responsible individual and cooperative actions.'



178 nations adopted these plans to include such Education for Sustainability in their curricula. Today, despite having these concepts enshrined in national curricula around the world, translating these global concepts into schools and classrooms has proven tricky. Traditional 'chalk and talk' teachers are resistant to relinquishing control of the learning process to the students and taking a new role as facilitator. Also sustainability cuts across traditional disciplines. Agenda 21, Chapter 36 requires schools to

go beyond education about issues and to engage students critically in active problem solving.

The Living Classroom Network, an initiative of the EON Foundation, proposes an effective, affordable and engaging means to deliver on the aspirations of Chapter 36, Agenda 21 through an "English for Sustainability" education strategy. This approach is new innovative, pragmatic and proven.

Working alongside local businesses, schools and communities, the strategy involves implementing student centred and globally connected community-based projects, which integrate English for international communication with education for sustainability and the use of information technology. The focus is on developing regional capacity to communicate on individual and cooperative actions that work towards an economically prosperous and environmentally sound future for all societies.

The methodology includes challenging students to use English in a real life situation to gain knowledge, develop skills, and reflect on attitudes and actions. Students from around the world are linked electronically through a unique online communications platform developed in collaboration with Auckland University of Technology. They engage in collective, individual and collaborative activities that are designed to enhance understanding of and action towards a sustainable future

EON realises there are many paths toward sustainability. We therefore welcome partnerships with many diverse organisations. www.eonfoundation.org



Dedicated to Advanced Global Learning

