



Seeds for Sustainability

Since the launch of our Greenovate Train the Trainer Program for university students in 2009, we have been hoping to give our volunteer GECKO trainers a more in-depth sense of ecology and sustainability, on top of what they learn through teaching our high schools program.

April 2010 saw the conclusion of our very first “Seeds for Sustainability” program. This four-part lecture series takes a big-picture look at sustainability, enabling participants with greater flexibility and confidence in the classrooms and providing them with valuable insights to be taken into future careers.



Planning for Sustainability

What is “sustainability”, and what does it actually entail? How can we plan for and achieve it? In this introductory section we answer these questions using the 4 Principles of Sustainability, an integral part of the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development (FSSD) - a methodology that has been applied successfully to a variety of situations in both businesses and communities.



Ecosystem Services

As GECKO Trainers, participants of “Seeds for Sustainability” have already learned to explain the basic concept of ecosystem services in the Easter Island story – how trees hold the soil, retain groundwater, and regulate rainfall. In this section, students gain a deeper knowledge of the services that ecosystems support us with – services without which life on Earth could not exist. This provides a more practical perspective on why we need to preserve the natural environment.



Population and Resource Demand

In this session, we discuss the impact that the growth of our populations, technologies, and economies has on Earth and what it means for our future. Using supply-and-demand principles, we introduce the closing “funnel” our society is faced with due to our increasing global ecological footprint, and what it will take to reverse that trend and open the funnel back up in the future.



Energy and The Future

Building on the existing knowledge of energy which trainers have gained through teaching our GECKO program, this session supplies them with a more complete comprehension of energy and how it relates to the key issues of climate change and peak oil in the future. Examining in detail both the most prominent and less well-known sources of renewable energy, students participate in an interactive project to gain a vision of what a clean energy future could look like.

