

Educational Reforms for the 21st Century: How to Introduce Ecologically Sustainable Reforms in Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

There are international and national educational organizations now promoting the introduction of sustainability thinking into teacher education programs and curriculum studies. As there will be increased pressure for undertaking sustainability-oriented reforms, this book introduces three of the most critical areas that affect teacher decision-making in the classroom and community: (1) Introducing the pedagogical strategies for addressing the linguistic colonization of the present by the past that should be at the core of the teacher's professional knowledge—including how the metaphorical nature of language carries forward the silences and misconceptions that did not take account of environmental limits, and how to reframe the meaning of words in ways that are ecologically and culturally informed; (2) How the teacher's role as a cultural mediator helps students to understand the differences between the traditions of self-sufficiency and mutual support systems within the local cultural commons and the economic and technological forces that create new dependencies; (3) How the increased reliance upon computer-mediated learning and communication reinforces abstract thinking that undermines both the intergenerational renewal of the cultural commons and the development of ecological intelligence that takes account of local contexts, tacit understandings, and the patterns of interdependent relationships that cannot be digitized.

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Praise for the book:

No one has thought more deeply about the role of education as a cause of the deepening ecological crisis than Chet Bowers. And few have thought more constructively about how to repair that breach by a thoroughgoing transformation of both education and culture. Highly recommended for

students, administrator, and the concerned public. *David Orr, Professor of Environmental Studies, Oberlin College, and author of Ecological Literacy and Earth in Mind*

Chet Bowers is undoubtedly one of the most important thinkers of our time—why? He cuts through the fog of conventional educational discourse and identifies our core issue: humans depend on the Earth and each other to live a good life. It's about time educational practices start to reflect this, and Bowers shows us how we can do it.

Rolf Jucker, Director, Swiss Foundation for Environmental Education. Berne, Switzerland, and author of Our Common Illiteracy: Education as if the Earth and People Mattered.

Chet Bowers has been warning us for decades about the coming environmental crisis and the need for educational institutions to take notice and prepare. Bowers continues to offer persuasive arguments about the need for us to help ourselves before it is too late, and he offers a set of maps by which we may do that. *Susan Edgerton, Professor, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and past Vice President of American Association for Advanced Curriculum Studies, and co-author of Imagining the Academy: Higher Education and Popular Culture.*

Educating for an Ecologically Sustainable Future makes a significant contribution to teacher education and curriculum studies by provoking readers to seriously consider the tension between the world we are bringing forth and the world we wish to bring forth. By providing radical alternatives for classroom and community-based learning, the author makes ecologically minded forms of education possible. *Jennifer Thom, Faculty of Education, University of Victoria, and author of Re-rooting the Learning Space*

Making the transition from individual to ecological intelligence now depends upon education. The form of education Bowers promotes includes classroom and community-based learning that take account of the interconnections between language, culture, and thought—and a fresh way of thinking about intergenerational and global interdependence. *David Flinders, Professor, Indiana University, and past President of Division B of the American Educational Research Association.*

How to Order the book:

The book is available as an ebook, and may be ordered from The Eco-Justice Press www.ecojusticepress.com The price is \$11.00