



US PARTNERSHIP

DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
UNITED NATIONS DECADE (2005-2014)

Education for sustainable development has come to be seen as a process of learning how to make decisions that consider the long term future of the economy, ecology and equity of all communities. Building the capacity for such futures-oriented thinking is a key task of education. (*UNESCO draft Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Implementation Plan, 2003*)

The U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development (USPESD) convened a Professional Organizations Summit on October 6, 2008 in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the summit was to educate and engage members of national professional education organizations in the purpose, goals, and applicability of Education for Sustainability. The summit was attended by national leaders from:

- Alliance for Excellent Education
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
- American Association of Community Colleges
- American Association of School Administrators
- American Philosophical Association
- American Psychological Association
- American School Counselor Association
- American Society for Engineering Education
- Association for Career and Technical Education
- Campaign for Environmental Literacy
- Coalition of Essential Schools
- Council of American Private Education
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- National Association of Independent Schools
- National Association of State Boards of Education
- National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium
- National Business Education Association
- National Council for the Social Studies
- National Council of Teachers of English
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- National Education Association
- National Middle School Association
- National School Boards Association
- National Science Teachers Association
- National Parent Teacher Association

Presenters shared excellent and effective resources to support the integration of EfS into the work of professional education organizations. Summit attendees engaged in dialogue and planning related to the development of a sector-wide strategy for integrating education for sustainability into the teaching operations of U.S. K-12 schools. As a result of the Professional Organizations Summit, participants generated the following possible set of actions for participating associations:

- Write and/or solicit articles on sustainability education in the professional education organizations' publications.

- Provide professional development opportunities on sustainability to association members and staff.
- Integrate sustainability into existing professional development offerings of each association.
- Include a sustainability strand in conferences.
- Make conferences and events more sustainable.
- Create a Sustainability Taskforce at individual associations utilizing interested members.
- Identify members to be “Sustainability Fellows” to assist associations and to collaborate with other associations on sustainability-related efforts (coordination by the U.S. Partnership K-12 sector team).
- Create a place on organizations’ website with sustainability resources for members.
- Participate in informing legislation for sustainability education and action.

Additionally, the K-12 and Teacher Education sector of the U.S. Partnership launched the first national listserv for K-12 educators focused specifically on the topic of education for sustainability. Educators involved in teaching students in any subject in the K-12 arena are encouraged to join. The goal of the Sustaink12 listserv is for educators to communicate and collaborate on strategies to integrate education for sustainability into the teaching and operations of U.S. K-12 schools. To join the listserv visit <https://listserver.itd.umich.edu/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=sustaink12> and join or you can send an email message to "sustaink12-request@umich.edu" with the word "subscribe" in the Subject line of your message.