

Ontario Education For Sustainable Development Working Group

UPDATE #4

SUMMER, 2006

June, July and August

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NETWORKING FORUM

September 21

The United Nations **Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2014)** is a complex and far-reaching undertaking with enormous environmental, social, and economic implications. Its goal is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. This will, in turn, encourage changes in behaviour leading to a more sustainable future in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability, and a just society for present and future generations.

There are many groups and networks working towards all of these ends and several new initiatives are underway to focus on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including an Ontario ESD Working Group and the U.N.-designated Regional Centre of Expertise in Toronto. This Forum is an opportunity to learn more about the challenges we face and to network with those already involved in creating positive change. We hope that it is also the first step in creating a network that will act as a catalyst for change, where we will work together and support each other's efforts.



PROGRAM

9:00 - 10:30 **Educating for Sustainability in Ontario**

- The U.N. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development - Dr. David Bell, Chair of Learning for A Sustainable Future and Downsview Park
- Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner for Ontario, will profile Ontario's sustainability challenges and opportunities
- A brief introduction to the national and Ontario Education for Sustainable Development initiatives

10:30 - 1:00 **Networking, Information Displays & Lunch**

Groups interested in all aspects of education for sustainable development are invited to setup a display or layout their resources for others to see. A small fee (\$15) is being charged to cover costs. A light lunch will be available.

1:00 - 4:00 **Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development.**

The Toronto RCE for Education for Sustainable Development will look at sustainability issues specific to the Toronto region, followed by a discussion of the RCE.

Please register for the September 21 Networking Forum **no later than September 12, 2006** using the registration form available on-line at: www.lsf-lst.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php or request the form via email esd_ontario@lsf-lst.ca to request the invitation and registration form.

Further details about the Forum, location, fees and so on are available on-line.

PROGRESS

ESD Inventory

As part of our initial agreement the OESDWG is responsible for inventorying ESD activities in Ontario. The Regional Centre of Expertise has a similar interest in activities in the GTA (Toronto, Peel, York and Durham). We have been working with the Toronto RCE to coordinate our efforts and with LSF to set up an effective process to create an inventory with the ability to grow and to profile best practices in ESD.

The OESDWG has been fortunate to have the assistance of Jessica Carriere, a U of Toronto student doing this as part of a course placement. Jessica has done an exceptional job and when her volunteer placement finished we chose to hire her to continue to work with us through to the end of September to continue this

task and to assist with our upcoming meetings.

Jessica and Laura Burnham, another U of Toronto student on placement with the Toronto RCE, have been working together to test and refine the forms and database needed for this inventory. One of them may be in touch with you in the coming weeks to ask for information about your own ESD activities. We hope eventually to have an on-line system to facilitate this process.

PRESENTATIONS and NETWORKING:

In addition to September's Networking Forum we have been attending conferences and networking with groups interested in ESD.

Natural Cities Conference, June 2/06: Merebeth Switzer (Acting Project Manager OESDWG), Alan Crook (MNR staff member coordinating the

Biodiversity Subcommittee) and Kim Peter (Coordinator, Toronto Regional Centre for Expertise in ESD) made a brief presentation as part of a full day workshop on ESD. The workshop included presentations from the Canadian Commission on UNESCO, Environment Canada, LSF as well as panels dealing with school-based ESD, community-based programs and the business

perspective.

Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development, June 5th— Merebeth Switzer made a brief presentation to the steering committee for the newly-forming Toronto RCE. This has led to a cooperation on many fronts including the inventorying of ESD activities and organization of the Networking Forum.

ANNOUNCING

Website Up and Running!

You can now find information on the Ontario and other provincial and territorial ESD Working Groups on-line. For the Ontario group visit www.lsf-ist.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php

Our New Email

Emails for the Ontario ESD Working Group should now be addressed to our new email address esd_ontario@lsf-ist.ca

How you can help . . .

Help us expand the network.

Share this information with others—post it on your website, on your listserv or office bulletin board. We are still working on the creation of the OESDWG but we need to start to get this important information out to everyone interested in moving ahead ESD.

Take part in our “Networking Forum” or consider partnering to host one in your own community.

We are planning our first Networking Forum in cooperation with the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise in ESD (RCE-ESD) and others. It will take place on September 21 at Downsview Park in Toronto. Please consider attending and sharing information about your own ESD efforts with others. If this is successful, we will be looking for ways to offer more of these throughout Ontario. To do this, we will need the support of partners in those communities. If you want to help with the upcoming event or with one in your own community, let us know!

Provide us ideas and feedback.

We are always open to feedback. Please forward your comments to the email address below. (We will acknowledge your submissions but we are still limited in our ability to provide detailed or individual responses until the OESDWG is fully up and running.)

Just hearing about this initiative?

If you want to be added to our email distribution list please email us at m_switzer@ducks.ca and request to be added to our list.

Volunteer or In-Kind Support

The groups that came together to start this initiative recognized that it would take all of our support to make it work. If you think you can help, we would love to hear from you.

Please forward all inquiries or feedback to:

Merebeth Switzer, Acting Project Manager, OESDWG

email: esd_ontario@lsf-ist.ca OR fax her c/o Ducks Unlimited Canada at (705) 721-4999 (include: ATTN M. Switzer fax cover page)

WORK PLAN AND DELIVERABLES

Summer /Fall

August 30 Report on status of ESD activities in Ontario undertaken in the formal, non-formal and informal education sectors

Progress Report on the OESDWG

General Activities to be undertaken:

- Organize and schedule meetings of core group and subcommittees
- Work with LSF to create intake and database systems
- Compile initial Ontario ESD organizations and activities Inventory (this inventory will expand with overall growth of the project and as networking forums take place)
- Further develop communications plan including work to provide information and feedback on-line
- Develop fundraising plan to help develop long-term sustainability

September 2006–2007

Sept 21 First “Networking Forum” in cooperation with the Sustainability Network; look for partners and further opportunities for Networking Forums in other places around the Province.

Sept 22 **First meeting** of the core OESDWG; approval of Terms of Reference; planning for the creation of initial subcommittees

Nov. 20 Completion of a **Vision Document** identifying vision, goals, priorities and objectives to 2014

Dec. 31 **Action Plan** including Implementation and Communication Plans; Action Plan should include securing the commitment of the working group members and others, and setting realistic timeframes for work schedules

Assessment Model - to evaluate progress against the Vilnius Framework and accompanying indicators.

Fundraising Plan which demonstrates commitments to sustain and enhance the working group

Written Update of OESDWG Activities

March 24, 2007 REPORT ON YEAR 1

YOUR SUPPORT . . . This success of this initiative will come from the commitment and work of many individuals and organizations who are already making excellent strides in educating in the diverse areas that fall under the umbrella of Education for Sustainable Development. We welcome your feedback, all forms of support and look forward to hearing from you.

For the Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group:

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