

Public Linkage, Dialogue, and Education Task Force

Purpose

An educated public is our most powerful resource to meet the challenges created by increasing environmental, economic and social demands. Recognizing the importance of education, the Council created the Public Linkage, Dialogue, and Education Task Force to serve as the vehicle through which the work of the Council is accessible to the public for information, review and comment. In addition, the Task Force promotes dialogue and outreach between the PCSD and community networks.

Policy Development

The Education Working Group of the Task Force lead the policy formulation efforts by developing policies on formal and non-formal education and outreach at a forum, hosted by GREEN, in Ann Arbor, MI. The document was disseminated to Task Force members as well as educators, businesses, government leaders, NGOs, and religious and labor organizations for review and comment. The document and comments will be reviewed and discussed at a second policy forum sponsored by S.C. Johnson and Son in March 1995. The final policy recommendations will be presented to the Council at the meeting in San Francisco, and discussed during a national sustainable development education teleconference. Members of the Task Force also participated in a forum, hosted by Second Nature to formulate principles for higher education on sustainable development. Bibliography references on sustainable development and model university-level programs were identified, collected, and compiled for future dissemination.

Outreach

Attaining wide-spread public support and understanding of sustainability issues is critical to the success of the Council. The Task Force is partnering with other PCSD task forces and a variety of public forums and grass-roots projects to help facilitate its outreach efforts by:

- Partnering with the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy to hold both a public meeting on the PCSD and a round table on Jobs, Labor, and Sustainability during their New England Environmental Conference. These meetings will give constituencies in the New England region an opportunity to discuss sustainability issues with members of the Council, and showcase local examples of sustainability.
- Recognizing the importance of youth to the PCSD process by partnering with the Sustainable Communities Task Force on two youth-related events. The first is a Roundtable held in Boston which will connected youth-led organizations to a common agenda with sustainable development as the organizing paradigm. Invitees included youth leaders from national and local organizations who have worked to promote community sustainability. The second event will be a Youth Summit for Sustainable Communities held in San Francisco. This public meeting will allow youth leaders from around the

nation to self-articulate their recommendations, views, and experiences relating to community sustainability.

- Organizing an Education Forum on Sustainability in San Francisco to discuss the final policy recommendations; a third roundtable on jobs, labor, and sustainability and outreach to scientific and international networks. In addition, a site specific brochure will be disseminated introducing the PCSD and highlighting San Francisco's accomplishments in working toward sustainability.
- Working with Chattanooga Venture and other 'visioning' organizations to hold a Community Visioning Forum at the Presidio in San Francisco. The Visioning Forum will focus on how to broaden and strengthen the existing dialogue on sustainable development.
- Facilitating electronic communications between the PCSD and the public by working with the Chattanooga Sustainability Council and local Chattanooga area schools to create a PCSD home page on the Internet by the end of April.
- Partnering with Global Action Plan for the Earth (GAP) in launching a national community-based campaign empowering Americans to live environmentally sustainable lifestyles. The premiere of the first GAP group occurred at the Chattanooga meeting and two more groups are planned in the San Francisco and San Jose areas.

Demonstration Project

The National Forum on Education about the Environment (NFEE) will assist the Education Working Group with activities that will enhance the NFEE's ability to impact national policy and craft a meaningful blueprint of sustainable development education. Joint efforts will be made to craft policies and a sustainable development curriculum and bibliography. NFEE is also working to develop a Blueprint for Education About the Environment that will detail partnerships and policies needed to ensure programs of excellence are developed and sustained in every community.

Task Force Council Membership

Co-Chairs

- **Judith Espinosa**, Former Secretary of the Environment, State of New Mexico
- **Michele Perrault**, International Vice President, Sierra Club

Members

- **Dianne Dillon-Ridgley**, Co-Chair, Citizens' Network for Sustainable Development
- **Samuel C. Johnson**, Chairman, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.
- **Madeleine Kunin**, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
- **Timothy E. Wirth**, Under Secretary for Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State

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