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# Leadership for Sustainability: Pedagogical Practices that Empower Learners to Become Leaders

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# Leadership for Sustainability:

Pedagogical practices that empower learners to become leaders



**Dr. Heather Burns, Leadership for Sustainability Education,  
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## Session Overview:

Sustainability & Sustainability Education- what do we mean?

Pedagogical practices that foster Leadership for Sustainability

Opening circle

What is Leadership for Sustainability? Speed “dating” as social constructivism

Reflective writing activity and discussion

Examples-Experiential learning to foster Leadership for Sustainability

# What do we mean by Sustainability?

...the process of **making change** toward eliminating the exploitation of people and earth, finding creative solutions to complex ecological and social issues, and creating equitable distribution of power and resources. (Orr, 2011; Hawken, 2007; Sterling, 2002; Santone, 2004).

# Sustainability Education is...

Developing: new creative ways of thinking, new skills, love for the earth, understanding of self, ecological identity, critical thinking, ways to work together

For: justice, equity, healthy people and places, regeneration, solutions, vitality, thriving!

Shifting: to holistic, inclusive, systemic, interconnected, transformational, and ecological ways of **learning & teaching**

# Pedagogical practices

Fostering Leadership for Sustainability by:

1) Attending to **Relationships**

1) Focusing on personal **Reflection**

1) Making it **Real** (experiential learning)



## Attending to Relationships

Importance of collaborative co-constructed learning, community and trust building

Opening circle, group norms, group activities, small group projects, peer teaching and learning, popular education strategies

# Personal Reflection:

Self awareness, reflective practice, slowing down, mindfulness, “getting on the balcony”

What are your most important values as an educator?

What are your biggest challenges and why?



**How do/could you use  
personal reflection to foster  
leadership for sustainability?**



## Making it Real through experiential learning

Service-learning, place-based learning, community-based learning,  
project-based learning

How have you (or how could you) include experiential learning to  
foster sustainability leadership development?

# Thank you!

**For more information, please contact:**

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