

Our Mission and Beliefs

The mission of The Cloud Institute is to ensure the viability of sustainable communities by leveraging changes in K-12 school systems to prepare young people for the shift toward a sustainable future.

We monitor the evolving thinking and skills of the most important champions of sustainability, and transform them into educational materials and a pedagogical system that inspires young people to think about the world, their relationships to it, and their ability to influence it in an entirely new way.

We are the premier organization that equips school systems K-12 and their communities with the core content, competencies and habits of mind that characterize education for a sustainable future. We do this by inspiring teachers and engaging students through meaningful content and student-centered instruction.

We believe that K-12 education can substantially influence beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviors related to sustainability. This is the most fertile ground for helping to shape a society committed to sustainable development.

The goal of sustainability education is to develop in young people and their teachers new knowledge and new ways of thinking needed to achieve economic prosperity, participate democratically, secure justice and equity, and all the while regenerate the health of the ecosystems, the gift upon which all life and all production depend.

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Professional Development

The Cloud Institute offers professional development to our primary audience: K-12 educators and administrators. We also offer professional development to higher educator faculty, staff, and administrators interested in moving toward sustainability. Sessions can be delivered on-site, in conference centers, or in our green office in New York City.

Our professional development programs are rooted in EfS and focus on the following areas: Awareness, Skill Development, EfS Content, Curriculum Design, and Leadership. Examples of programs include our week-long Advanced Summer Institute on curriculum design and our New Jersey Learns Trainer of Trainer program on developing leadership skills.

Awareness Workshops

Introduction to Sustainability: A variety of interactive sessions provide participants with an awareness of sustainability and the application of the knowledge, skills and attitudes of Education for Sustainability (EfS), including core content and competencies of EfS. Workshop activities include systems thinking, quality of life indicators, common pool resources, economic models, and the ecological literacy skills of sustainability.

System Dynamics & Change: How can you, your faculty, and your students use systems thinking to address problems and design for continuous improvement over time. Introduces participants to systems thinking tools and

habits of mind, as well as their application to sustainability, design, and change.

EfS Framework: Introduces participants to the 9 EfS Core Content Standards and how to apply the EfS framework to their curriculum and teaching.

The Cloud Institute's EfS Framework

It's All Connected...

We have developed our EfS Framework after years of learning and innovating--we are actually innovating as you read this! The foundation of our practice are our 9 EfS Core Standards. These standards will guide you as you infuse your curriculum and school culture with EfS.

Skill Development Workshops

Assessments that Produce Learning: Attends to teachers' need for diversified assessment to maximize students' learning. It covers attributes of assessment, including using different types of assessment, designing and using authentic assessment, and helping students and teachers both understand achievement standards and use them to align curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Sustainable Community Development Education: Introduces teachers to the content and tools needed to instruct their students on leadership and participation for a sustainable community development. Participants will learn how to lead a community exploration, guide students through an investigation of The Commons, facilitate a community visioning process, examine sustainable community case studies and begin to develop progress indicators.

Curriculum Design Workshops

Sustainable Design Education: Demonstrates how to use "place" (i.e. the community, the school building, an office, etc.) as curriculum by using different ways of knowing to investigate the places in which we live and study. It will also introduce and apply sustainable design principles to initiatives on which participants are working.

Advanced Summer Institute: Learn how to incorporate EfS into curriculum. In this 5 day workshop participants will have the time and space they crave, and the expertise, resources and tools they need to design elegant EfS curriculum units for use in their classrooms or design EfS change initiatives for their schools. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn how to use the Cloud Institute's new on-line Curriculum Design Studio™, allowing them to design and share exemplary units.

Consulting

Tell Us What You Are Looking For, and We'll Create It...

Cloud Institute staff can tailor workshops and provide specific instruction depending on the client's needs. Our consulting is fee-for-service and can range from one day to long-term contracts.

Consulting Examples:

- EfS curriculum scope and sequence development
- Organizational change workshops
- Creating curriculum that incorporates the school building
- Student work analysis to inform changes/adaptations in instructional practices
- Lesson planning (in the context of backwards design/understanding by design)
- Reflection on program's progress, determination of areas for additional support, sharing of assessment results

A Whole Systems approach combines curriculum and instruction, physical plant, the development of your institution as a learning organization, procurement, investments (where appropriate), and relationship with the surrounding community. We work primarily with curriculum and instruction, and we have strategic partnerships with professionals who specialize in the various other parts of the system.

To begin the process of educating for a sustainable future schools/school systems have to start somewhere. Entry points vary for everyone, ranging from addressing the physical plant and operations to curriculum and instruction.

Teaching and Learning

All our curriculum materials and our professional development protocols are informed by, and in many cases co-written by the master teachers, professional developers, and curriculum and assessment professionals of Learner Centered Initiatives, Ltd.(LCI) and Communities for Learning. These organizations are dedicated to the design of rich, student centered instruction K-12 that is assessment driven, standards based, differentiated for multiple intelligences, and multi and inter-disciplinary.

Learner Centered Initiatives

Communities for Learning

Physical Plant and Operations

We encourage our clients to take a whole systems approach to education for sustainability whenever possible. We work with the professionals who research the sites, develop the plans, design the buildings and the landscapes, construct the wetlands, and work with the operations personnel to maintain the places over time.

Regenes

Integrative Design Collaborative

Hone and Associates

New Civic Works

Schools that Learn, Organizational Change and Systems Thinking

We know that in order to move toward a sustainable future, we will need to have schools that learn in communities

that learn for sustainability. Schools and their communities must work together and change over time. They need to become systems thinkers and view our world as one system versus isolated parts. This will require education and re-education of all parties, from the kindergarteners to the elders.

Society for Organizational Learning (SOL)

Systems Educator: Linda Booth Sweeney

Selected Fields of Study that Contribute to Education for Sustainability

- Environmental Science and Education,
- Science Education (Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science...)
- System Dynamics and Systems Thinking Education
- Sustainable Economics
- Global Education
- Ecological Design and Architecture Education
- Holistic Education
- **Future Studies**
- Organizational Learning and Change
- Environmental Ethics and Philosophy
- Ecological Psychology
- Conflict Resolution Education
- Game Theory