Earth Charter Center
for Education
for Sustainable Development

Paving the way
for education and leadership
for sustainability
The Earth Charter Center for ESD offers new paths in the field of education on sustainable development, global citizenship education and emerging ethical leadership paradigms. The Center offers professional development opportunities that place a special emphasis on the importance of the values and principles of sustainability and global citizenship through the processes of learning and decision-making.

The Center holds the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter, which implements educational programmes and research activities surrounding education, sustainability, and ethics using the Earth Charter as a framework. The Center seeks to build the educators’ capacity to incorporate the “knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life” in schools, colleges, and higher education, as well as in non-formal education settings.

The Center’s Mission:

“To support the present transition to sustainable ways of living on the planet, founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, social and economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.”

For more than a decade, Earth Charter International has offered education opportunities on sustainable development using the Earth Charter framework as a guide and educational tool. Today, the Education Center offers professional development programmes for educators and leaders that bring educational opportunities to a new level.
The Center offers the following Education Programmes:

Executive Programmes (offered in English and Spanish):

A three to five day face-to-face intensive programme on:
- Education, Transformative Learning and Sustainability Values
- Sustainability, Leadership, and Ethical Decision Making

Certificate Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (offered in English, Spanish and Portuguese):

- A semester long on-line programme with four to five courses, where participants receive a Diploma Certificate from the University for Peace.

Young Leaders Programme on Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics (offered in English and Spanish)

- A 10-week online training programme for emerging young leaders (ages 18 - 30) that aims to expand knowledge, reinforce values, and hone skills for sustainability leadership.

Workshops, short courses and talks

Upon request, the Center also offers customized education activities for companies, universities or schools, such as study abroad programmes, summer courses, and intensive training for professionals in education, communication, policy, and leadership roles.

These programmes are impactful, transformative, and inspiring. They provide participants with the guidance, tools, and network support needed to lead change in their work and personal lives in an ethical manner towards fostering a vision of sustainability consistent with the Earth Charter.
Programmes’ participants

The Center’s programmes were developed for professionals and young leaders. Educators in formal and non-formal education settings such as school teachers, university professors and administrators, as well as policy makers, executives and managers in the public and private sector, have participated and significantly benefitted from our programmes.

Benefits of our Education Programmes

The Center offers opportunities to strengthen the capacity and skills of programme participants to incorporate the vision and values of sustainability in their spheres of work and action. Participants are expected, at the completion of their programme, to become inspired to take ethical leadership roles and to contribute, as agents of change, towards the realization of the vision of a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Testimonials

“For me, it has been mind and heart changing. I’m thinking and feeling different, the values and the way we teach need to change, and with this we can change the world”.

“The programme facilitators successfully created an environment that was open and welcoming. Participants are provided with a rich variety of tools and resources.”

The Earth Charter Center Facilities

The Earth Charter Center is a new, state-of-the-art LEED Silver certified building, which follows standards for sustainable construction. The facility is located on the University for Peace campus in the Protected Zone of El Rodeo, a mountainous forest reserve with beautiful trails, bountiful wildlife, and majestic views over the Central Valley of Costa Rica, 45 minutes from the National Airport, and 30 minutes from the capital San Jose. The Earth Charter Center offers a modern and intimate space for conferences, meetings, team building, workshops, and events.

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