

Education for Sustainability

Educating people in the Maumee Valley Region of rural NW Ohio for sustainability in households, businesses and communities.

CONTEXT

Northwest State Community College is surrounded by farmland. We serve and are made of people from rural and small towns who have a close relationship to the land. There is in this relationship, untapped potential. NSCC has had a tradition of using its resources conservatively. Nevertheless, we face unprecedented environmental and political concerns. Energy use has increased the cost of maintaining regular campus/building operations. Students are hard pressed to make ends meet. Given our rural roots with a commitment to place, today's unprecedented challenges provide a unique opportunity for our college to realize its mission of educational leadership and service to surrounding communities in new and fulfilling ways.

VISION

Education for Sustainability calls the college community and rural NW Ohio to learn together to live with abundance and for future generations. Moving "sustainability" to the center of this college community means the inclusion of sustainability values, principles, and standards in the deliberations over building/campus operations, curricular and institutional policy, and long-term institutional planning.

MISSION

We are educating people about how to achieve sustainable places -- households, businesses, and communities -- throughout the Maumee Valley Region of rural NW Ohio. Education for sustainability includes building a measurable path towards sustainability; promotion of learning based on knowing, caring, and acting on behalf of the natural/social world; raising awareness of ecological crises, solutions, and personal responsibilities; serving as catalyst for development of local sustainable economies; and leading by example.

PROCESS

Education for Sustainability is a process where together, and in time, we learn how best to establish sustainable practices and policies. Inclusive of this process would be to work toward: energy independence; reduction of water waste; materials recycling/reuse; educational leadership in fostering citizenship, ecological responsibility and conscience; and providing opportunities for partnering with groups to support small business growth and develop local economies.