



SEEDS FOR ECO COMMUNITIES  
PRESENTS...

# ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION ON AN ECO COMMUNITY

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Education plays an incredibly important role in our lives, it's with most of us through our early years and even into our 20's. No matter where you are located in the world, everyone deserves an education including one on eco communities. In some ways, we never stop learning!

This fact sheet will provide details on how people living within an eco community can achieve a well-rounded education, whether that be through homeschooling or a devoted location in which people have the opportunity to go and learn while continuing to live sustainably in an off-grid setting. When it comes to developing education within an eco community, the easiest option

would likely be homeschooling. Homeschooling (or unschooling as it's been called), is the schooling of children by their parents at home. This method of schooling is quite popular among eco communities around the globe, as not only is it convenient (with no commute!) but homeschooling is also much greener than sending your kids to a traditional educational institute. Many schools that are used in urban hubs are often filled with toxins, use many processed ingredients in school lunches, and they create a notable amount of waste. Developing a plan around homeschooling can seem daunting but there



are endless resources which provide tools and step-by-step guides of how to start and maintain a homeschooling experience that is equal to or even better than the experience children would get in a traditional school. Many of these resources are easily accessible via the internet. Through homeschooling, you are the teacher and boss, you have the ability to decide what it is your child learns. Of course, it is important to teach them the basics of education, such as reading, writing, math, science, geography and so on, and there are booklets and guides out there that give you the same resources teachers use to meet curriculum requirements.

Homeschooling also means you can add in different subjects and topics for your children to learn, such as practical classes on environmental sustainability, gardening, foraging and other basic life skills that are not taught in the main stream system. If you are living in an off-grid community - this teaching is even easier to provide through real life hands on learning.

Onsite learning is another way to promote education within an eco community. In

many cases, this is a shared building or an outdoor classroom that brings together several children in the community to learn together. Similar to traditional educational institutions, children can go there at dedicated times and typically lessons are taught by members of the community.

You may decide to go with a traditional style education where kids focus on the typical curriculum through grades 1-12, or you may convert to an entirely environmental learning experience where the school topics each have an environmental lens. This could include different learning experiences through subjects such as "The Mathematics of Living Sustainably," "Environmental Science," "Biodiversity and Beings," etc.

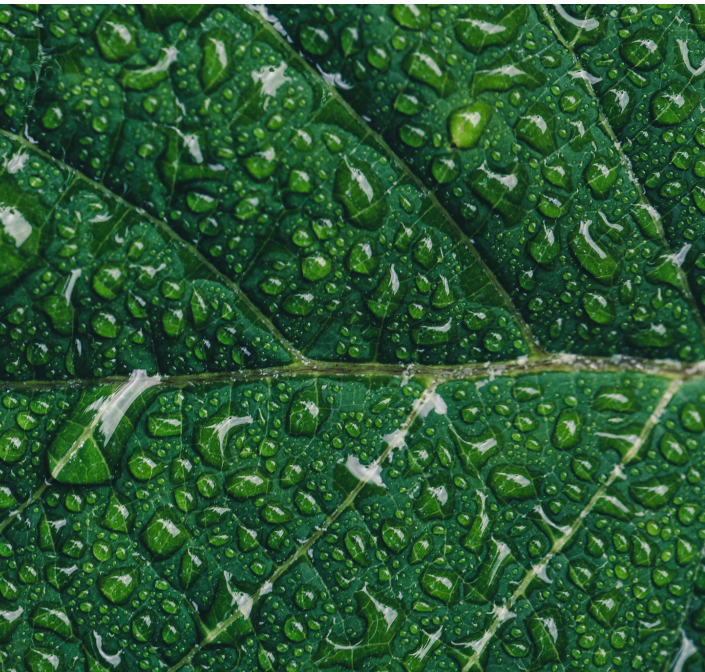
These alternative types of learning also provide an opportunity for youth to identify key topics of personal interest to them so they can be involved in designing the education they will receive.

Regardless of the route you choose, you can easily deliver content that is up to par with traditional schooling. In fact, many



people believe the education that can be provided through a homeschooling or environmentally sustainable lens, can provide enhanced learning opportunities that would have not otherwise been provided.

With either of these ideas (homeschooling and onsite shared learning), you have the ability to help shape the education of the youth in your community - in a good way.



You have the ability to teach them about all things they need to know regarding the environment and how they can play a key role in living more sustainably. Gaining an education while being a part of an eco community may seem difficult, but when it comes down to it, it's quite simple and just takes time and patience to help enrich the lives of your children. After all - the children are the future!



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