



**Green Education Foundation (GEF)
Sustainability Education Certification Program
Brought to you by Sprint and Samsung**

Calling on all educators—*want to green your staff?* Thanks to the generous support of Sprint Nextel and Samsung Telecommunications America (Samsung Mobile), each attendee at the NAESP conference in Tampa, April 7-10, 2011 will receive a free *Sustainability Education Teaching Methods* course from the Green Education Foundation (GEF)*. This 10 hour online course showcases the core themes of sustainability education, with an emphasis on its role as a solutions-based teaching platform. This course will help to provide teachers with the knowledge and resources necessary to integrate sustainability education into their curriculum.

Sprint, a recognized industry leader in corporate responsibility and environmental sustainability, and Samsung Mobile are making it possible for GEF to provide each 2011 NAESP conference attendee with free access to GEF's online course in *Sustainability Education Teaching Methods*. Each attendee can then select which of his or her school's greenest teacher to award with the free course. Upon completion of the course, each educator will also receive a free "teach the teacher" training kit to instruct the rest of the faculty at their school (all free with NAESP conference attendance). The course is normally \$250 per teacher. If you were to educate 20 teachers, the total value to your school is \$5,000— all for free!

Please refer to the below/enclosed overview and course descriptions to learn more about GEF and its teacher certification program in sustainability education. For questions regarding this promotion, please respond to this note. Many thanks to Sprint and Samsung for helping thousands of schools go green!

Thank you and we hope to see you in Tampa!

With best regards,
Victoria Waters
President, GEF

*Please note that you must be a GEF member to receive the course certificate, enrollment is free and provides access to all GEF curriculum. [Enroll...](#)

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BACKGROUND

Green Education Foundation (GEF) is currently developing a professional teaching certification in sustainability education (SE) for K-12 faculty. This program will feature a foundational understandings course, grade-specific teaching instruction, and topical content electives with service-learning teaching units. The goal is to provide the knowledge, skills, and curricular resources essential for teachers to integrate sustainability education into their current disciplines. GEF's SE courses will be available for both online and live instruction.

ABOUT GREEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION (GEF)

Green Education Foundation (GEF), a non-profit organization, is committed to creating a sustainable future through education. GEF provides curriculum and resources to K-12 students and teachers worldwide with the goal of challenging youth to think holistically and critically about global environmental concerns and solutions. Visit www.greeneducationfoundation.org to learn more.

OVERVIEW

Sustainability education (SE) is an integrative teaching model that connects student knowledge of environmental, economic, and societal systems with real-world applied learning strategies. SE develops the 21st century skills, vision and habits necessary to build a sustainable future. SE encompasses environmental education, a longstanding discipline, within the context of broader concepts such as global populations, climate change, and green building.

I. Foundation Course (required for certification)

1) *Sustainability Education Teaching Methods*—This course showcases the core themes of sustainability education, with an emphasis on its role as a solutions-based teaching platform, and will provide teachers with the knowledge and resources necessary to integrate sustainability education into their curriculum.

II. Grade-Specific Courses (one required for certification)

GEF's Grade-Specific courses approach sustainability education as a multi-disciplinary framework for Common Core standards-based instruction in math and English. In addition, these courses align with education standards set by the National Science Foundation and the National Council for Social Studies.

- 1) *Sustainability Education for grades K-5*
- 2) *Sustainability Education for grades 6-8*
- 3) *Sustainability Education for grades 9-12*

III. SE Content Electives (two required for certification)

1) *Green Energy/Green Technology*—This course explores key topics in renewable energy, carbon neutrality, conscious energy consumption and conservation, and waste management. In addition, it investigates the field of environmentally sustainable engineering and its implications for future social and technological innovation.

Applied learning project component:

a. *Energy Audit and Monitoring Systems*—Students conduct school-wide and home-energy audits. Upon completion of the audits students work with schools and families to utilize green energy and technologies to promote time- and cost-saving best practices.



b. *Consumer Awareness*—Students critically examine the array of operational products and technologies used in school on a regular basis. Students research and recommend green cleaning practices, promote consumer awareness, and create an institutional plan for responsible waste management.

2) *Populations and Global Citizenship*—This course explores the challenges and opportunities presented by an increasingly integrated and complex global world. Participants learn about key issues concerning sustainable development, such as population growth, food security, access to water, poverty, urbanization, and trade. Participants examine their own role as local, regional, and global citizens in developing real-world sustainable solutions to these challenges.

Applied learning project component:

a. *Sustainable Communities*—Students identify, research, design and implement a viable solution to a local community need. Students engage community residents and call on experts to offer far-reaching insight and recommendations.

3) *Green Building*—This course teaches the core strategies of sustainable design, utilizing the school as a teaching tool through case studies and building audits. In addition, it includes a comprehensive overview of LEED principles and the environmental imperatives informing sustainable design.

Applied learning project component:

a. *Green Building Audit*—Students perform green construction audits of school buildings for energy and water use, site and landscape planning, building materials, interior air quality and environmental design.

b. *Waste Control and Recycling Best Practices*—Students engage the enormous potential that classrooms, schools, and school districts obtain for developing new recycling initiatives and how these programs can be integrated into the day-to-day operations of a school and its curriculum.

4) *Sustainable Agriculture*—This course explores the economic, environmental, and social aspects of food production and distribution. Participants learn about the historical trends that have changed agriculture over time, as well as new trends in sustainable and responsible growing practices. Participants also examine the broader connections of sustainable agriculture to other topics, such as policy and nutrition.

Applied learning project component:

a. *Learning Gardens*—Students learn gardening as a platform for introducing values of service learning, sustainable agriculture and nutrition, and environmental responsibility.

5) *The Economics of Sustainability*—This course explores and applies basic economic principles to the study of sustainability. Participants examine such questions as: What are the benefits and costs of making sustainable choices? What impact do our decisions as consumers and producers have on the environment? How can policymakers use incentives to achieve sustainability? Participants also examine the relationship between economic growth and social responsibility.

Applied learning project component:

a. *Sustainable Lifestyles*—Students perform personal audits in several resource areas including, but not limited to, energy, water, carbon production and waste/recycling. Additionally, students examine proven strategies, techniques, and technologies designed to minimize their use of these resources.