



EECOM 2016 - Choose the Future: Environmental Education for a Culture of Change

August 25-28, 2016
International Peace Garden, Manitoba

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Context: Our choices today will determine the future we leave for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. COP21 in Paris was about Climate Change and, ultimately was about the change(s) we are prepared to make to provide hope for future generations. Environmental / Sustainability Education will play a key role in affecting the culture of change needed to meet the commitments set in Paris.

EECOM 2016 will provide educators with new hope and ideas, new tools and resources, and will look at the choices we can make to make this culture of change a reality.

EECOM 2016 is purposefully taking place in the Heart of the Turtle Mountains in the geographic centre of Turtle Island. For three days you will be able to experience a place without boundaries. Situated on the 49th parallel, the International Peace Garden recognizes no boundaries – a perfect setting to “think outside the box”.

Format: EECOM 2016 will feature Keynote addresses and a variety of panel discussions, workshops, round tables, and presentations. You are invited to submit proposals in a format that best suits your presentation using the template provided. Presenters are expected to register for the conference.

Conference Principles: Presentations and workshops should support the following learning outcomes regardless of the theme strand one chooses. These principles embrace the resolution of the UN General Assembly of September 2015 which adopted the outcome document for Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

- **First Peoples:** The work of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission demonstrates the issues affecting not only indigenous peoples but also all of us. The emergence of new agreements, which will see First Nations stories become part of the school curriculum, highlights the importance placed on

education as a key to true reconciliation. What part can environmental educators play in making true reconciliation a reality?

- **Peace and Social Justice:** Without peace there can be no reconciliation here, in Canada, on Turtle Island, or around the world. How can educators and community members affect a culture of change that will see our nations move away from the politics of fear to the politics of peace and collaboration?
- **Hands-on Learning:** Helping students learn through interactive and engaging approaches such as inquiry based learning and problem-based learning can be an excellent pathway to develop environmental and sustainability literacy.
- **Youth Engagement** – Providing students opportunities to explore STEM (Science Technology Energy and Math) fields of study and engaging them, as active researchers are critical experiences. Students will develop leadership skills and roles assuming ownership of their learning through 21st Century Learning Models.
- **Research –Based Practice in Environmental Education - Sharing knowledge** where practitioners and researchers are able to build on their capacities to develop and refine education programs including engaging new and under represented audiences.
- **Holistic Education:** Holistic education models are opportunities for environmental educators to look at creativity in its many forms, engaging mind, body and spirit.

Four themes, representing Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations have been selected to assist you in preparing your abstracts. Please limit your Presentation Proposals to no more than 150 words.

Themes:

The issues of waste, climate change, energy, water and food security are big issues that need to be addressed by all citizens. This conference will focus on these issues as its main strands and throughout each presentation there will be an opportunity to connect the dots to other important issues such as peace, indigenous perspectives, student engagement and other principles / outcomes listed above. Climate change for example can be presented from numerous perspectives: COP23 in Paris took place in the midst of terrorists attacks on Paris residents (a peace issue) and security has never been more heightened as world leaders gathered to make commitments on climate change; indigenous leaders are calling for assistance in dealing climate change as it relates to the reduction of time winter roads are viable to and from First Nations communities. Presentations that have one or more principles integrated will be selected for the conference based on the following thematic strands:

- **Waste Minimization:** We have all made great strides to prevent and recycle waste. Schools, municipalities, industries, businesses, institutions and the public have all embraced waste prevention and recycling, helping to reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfill. Despite our efforts, there is still much work to be done! How can we change our culture to reduce our consumption, reuse, recycle, compost? “Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less,” increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole lifecycle, while increasing quality of life. It involves different stakeholders, including business, consumers, policy makers, researchers, scientists, retailers, media, and development cooperation agencies, among others.”
UN Goal 12 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>
- **Climate Change and Energy:** COP23 in Paris was about Climate Change and, ultimately was about the change(s) we are prepared to make to provide hope for future generations. How can we educate citizens to reduce our energy consumption to reduce our carbon footprint? How do we challenge people

to seek out energy-efficient strategies in their own lives, at home, in their businesses and in the schools?
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>

- **Food Security:** Access to healthy, affordable food is an important issue that can greatly affect the health of families. How can we support healthy lifestyles, communities, and environments? We have done so by growing our own food, eating local foods, by supporting farmers who use sustainable practices, and by increasing food education. How can we change our culture to help children, youth and citizens learn about and take action toward good food for all? How can we encourage food security education in your communities? UN Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

- **Water Security:** Water issues are big issues! Without water there would be no seas, lakes, rivers, grasslands, or forests. We would have no fish or wildlife. There would be no hydro power, manufacturing, crops, jobs, or food. Without water there would be no cities, towns, cultures, families, or people. There would be no life without water. What can we do in communities to promote water conservation, awareness and action? We have done water audits. We have installed water-efficient devices and we have eliminated unnecessary water use. What can we do change our culture to value water more and promote conservation and efficiencies? Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

Venues:

The International Peace Garden is home to an International Music Camp as well as an International Athletic Camp. As a result, the Garden boasts a variety of performance and meeting venues that can accommodate groups as small as a dozen or as large as five-hundred.

Please clearly state whether you will need special audio or visual equipment for your presentation. Hands-on and out-of-doors learning is always encouraged at EECOM Conferences. The International Peace Garden is ideally set-up for out-of-doors and hands-on activities. There are eight formally designated picnic areas – complete with shelters and picnic tables – scattered throughout the aspen forest that is a large part of the International Peace Garden. Want to do a gardening demonstration? We'll have gardening beds available for your demonstrations. Composting demos? We have just the spot. Wilderness hikes – we have trails that are there for you.

The Audience: Because of where we are, **EECOM 2016** will see participation from educators south of the 49th parallel. Because of the theme of EECOM 2016, we will see participation from the formal as well as informal environmental educators. The Conference Committee looks forward to mixing things up in 2016!

Presentation proposals are to be submitted online at: <http://eecom.org/conference/call-for-proposals>

Deadline for proposals: March 25th, 2016

Early Bird Registration: First one hundred registrations or June 15th, 2016

How to register on-line: EECOM Website at www.eecom.org/conference

How to register through regular mail: see website registration page

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