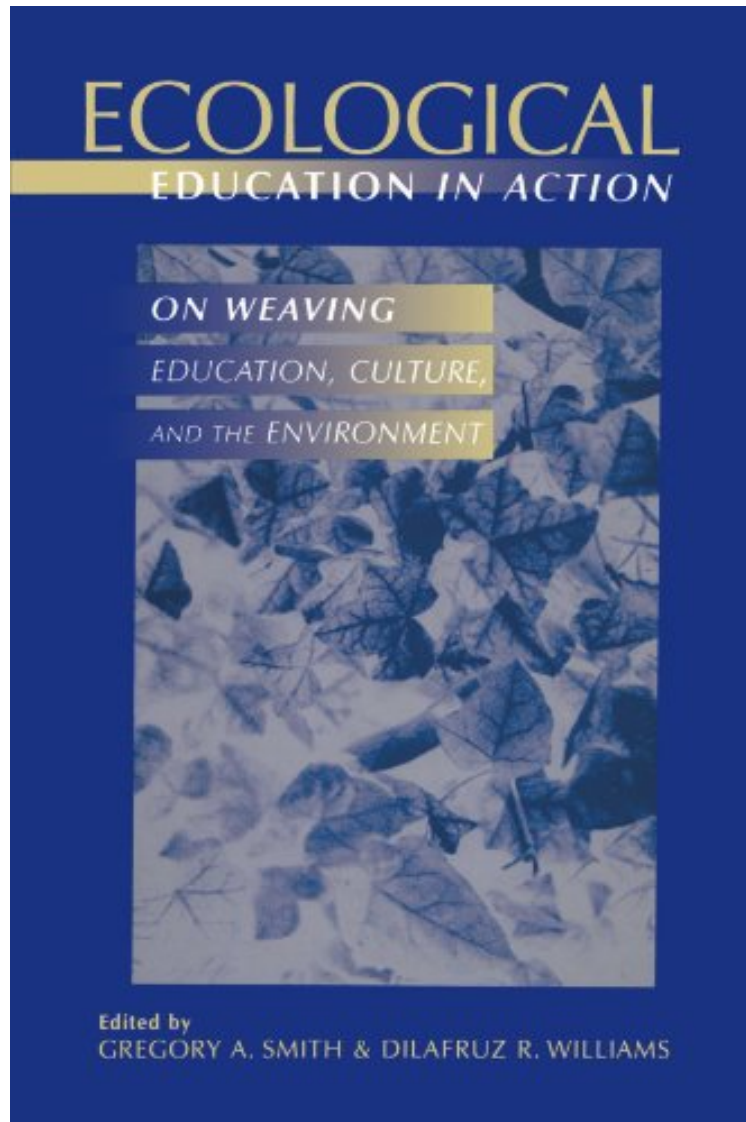


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[FREE] Ecological Education in Action: On Weaving Education, Culture, and the Environment

Ecological Education in Action: On Weaving Education, Culture, and the Environment

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Ecological Education in Action celebrates the work of innovative educators in North America who explore ecological issues in school and non-school settings. These educators demonstrate how to reshape the thinking of children and adults to affirm the value of sufficiency, mutual support, and community. Courses in environmental education often focus on scientific analysis and social policy--not cultural change. Children are exposed to information regarding environmental problems and explore such topics as endangered species, the logging of tropical rainforests, or the monitoring of water quality in local streams and rivers. Some adopt manatees or whales, or create school-wide recycling programs. These topics and efforts are without question commendable, however, missing is a recognition of the deeper cultural transformations that must accompany the shift to a more ecologically sustainable way of life.

Contributors to this volume describe courses, programs, or projects that are transformative in nature, aimed at engendering the experience of connectedness that lies at the heart of moral action. The first six chapters describe educational efforts in K-12 schools throughout North America. The next six chapters consider the work of people in higher education and non-formal educational settings and their attempts to instill an ecological perspective into the learning of college students and adult community members. The book thus creates an image of what an ecologically grounded form of education for our own era could look like.

Ecological Education in Action vividly evokes the connections between place-based learning and the stories, resources, and needs of communities. Though the chapters here vary widely among the regions they describe and the educational programs they discuss, they return over and over to two central emphases: the value of traditional and localized knowledge in fostering deeper personal identification with a landscape, and the essential connection between ecological sustainability and activism on behalf of social justice. This is one of the most distinctive, useful, and inspiring books I know in the burgeoning field of environmental education. John Elder, Stewart Professor of English and Environmental Studies, Middlebury College I love it when a book translates ideas I have been kicking around in my mind into articulate, lucid prose. Ecological Education in Action provided that alchemical experience for me. Within a week of reading most of the chapters, I was recommending them to my colleagues and friends. These stories, by some of America's most committed educational practitioners, did the trick. They quenched my thirst for place immersion and they slowly unfolded solutions to the problem of how to make environmental education the warp of the school fabric rather than just tassels attached to the edge. The diverse perspectives, from ecofeminism to indigenous people's education, helped me to understand the broad spectrum of ecological education in all its manifestations. This is a book of trail markers that show you the path to the destination of ecologically inspired K-12 education. David Sobel, Director, Teacher Certification Programs, Education Department, Antioch New England Graduate School

""Ecological Education in Action vividly evokes the connections between place-based learning and the stories, resources, and needs of communities. Though the chapters here vary widely among the regions they describe and the educational programs they discuss, they return over and over to two central emphases: the value of traditional and localized knowledge in fostering deeper personal identification with a landscape, and the essential connection between ecological sustainability and activism on behalf of social justice. This is one of the most distinctive, useful, and inspiring books I know in the burgeoning field of environmental education." -- John Elder, Stewart Professor of English and Environmental Studies, Middlebury College "I love it when a book translates ideas I have been kicking around in my mind into articulate, lucid prose. Ecological Education in Action provided that alchemical experience for me. Within a week of reading most of the chapters, I was recommending them to my colleagues and friends. These stories, by some of America's most committed educational practitioners, did the trick. They quenched my thirst for place immersion and they slowly unfolded solutions to the problem of how to make environmental education the warp of the school fabric rather than just tassels attached to the edge. The diverse perspectives, from ecofeminism to indigenous people's education, helped me to understand the broad spectrum of ecological education in all its manifestations. This is a book of trail markers that show you the path to the destination of ecologically inspired K-12 education." -- David Sobel, Director, Teacher Certification Programs, Education Department, Antioch New England Graduate School

About the Author Gregory A. Smith is Associate Professor in the Education Department at Lewis and Clark College. He is the author of Education and the Environment: Learning to Live With Limits, also published by SUNY Press, a coauthor of Reducing the Risk: Schools as Communities of Support, and the editor of Public Schools That Work. Dilafuz R. Williams is Associate Professor in the School of Education at Portland State University.