

Education for sustainable development – inspiring sustainable learning

The Section for Sustainability invites you to a conference on **Education for Sustainable Development**. Explore how sustainability perspectives can be integrated into higher education.

Date Oct 12, 2026

Time 09:00 - 16:00

Participate on-site Pedagogen, House B, Room BE014, Läroverksgatan 15 It will be possible to participate online.

Event type Conference

Language English

Organizer Section for Sustainability, Property and Facility Services unit, University of Gothenburg

Additional information [Register here](#)

Event description

The conference

This conference brings together teachers, researchers, and professional staff from across the university to share experiences, research findings, and pedagogical initiatives related to sustainable development in education. Presenters will come from a range of disciplines, including education, social sciences, the arts, health sciences, natural sciences, archaeology, and public administration.

The conference aims to provide a platform for sharing experiences, research, and initiatives that explore how education can engage with sustainability challenges, address them, and equip students with the knowledge and competencies needed to respond effectively.

Professor Marco Rieckmann of Vechta University, Germany, will deliver a keynote presentation followed by a focused discussion on ESD competencies. He will explore how sustainability-related competencies relate to disciplinary competencies and what makes them distinctive within the context of Education for Sustainable Development.

Professor Davis Bookhart, Provost at Northeastern University, USA, will lead an inspiring presentation and discussion on integrating futures-thinking strategies into the curriculum, drawing on his extensive experience in sustainability and education.

Call for Presentations

Are you interested in taking part in upcoming similar event and share your research findings or highlight ideas related to ESD?

Please contact: Kassahun.Weldemariam@gu.se

A selection of presentations will be made to ensure a broad and balanced programme.

It is possible to register to participate online.

THE COMPLETE PROGRAMME

09:00–09:15

Welcome & Opening remark

Kassahun Weldemariam, Section for Sustainability; Pauli Kortteinen, Deputy vice chancellor for education at GU

09:15–10:00

Keynote-ESD competencies and what universities can prioritize in this regard

Marco Rieckmann, Vechta University, Germany

10:00–10:30

Integrating sustainability, ethics, and subject knowledge:

Developing a didactic approach in teacher education

Alexina Thorén Williams, department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies

Jonas Enger, Department of Physics

Martin Hultman, Department of Sociology and Work Science

10:30–10:45 Break

10:45–11:05

Building transition skills at the nexus of education and external collaboration

Karin Bylund, Wexus

11:05–11:25

Are our university courses sufficient to prepare future teachers?

Ingela Bursjö, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science and Technology

11:25–11:45

Pluralistic teaching traditions in sloyd teacher education – embroidering sustainability

Emma Gyllerfelt, Slöjdläroarbildningen, HDK-Valand

11:45–12:05

Archaeology and sustainability

Christian Isendahl & Federica Sulas, Department of Historical Studies

12:05–13:05 Lunch

13:05–13:25

Enhancing ESD elements in existing courses with CurriculAI and LLMs

Rolf A. Heckemann, Sahlgrenska Academy

13:25–13:45

ESD integration in the public administration curriculum

Ylva Norén Bretzer & Johanna Selin, Social Sciences

13:45–14:05

Integrating sustainability competencies across disciplinary boundaries in higher Education

Kassahun presentation

14:10–14:45

Integrating future thinking strategies into the curriculum

Professor Bookhart, Davis, Northeastern University

14:45–15:00

The GUSTA award – What counts as a sustainability thesis?

Kassahun Weldemariam, Johan Boman, Section for Sustainability

15:00–15:15

Concluding remarks, end of conference

Kassahun Weldemariam

15:15–16:00

Mingling and snacks

An opportunity for informal conversations, reflections, and social interaction.

PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Are you interested in participating in similar events in the future and sharing research findings, educational experiences or ideas related to education for sustainable development?

Please feel free to contact: Kassahun.Weldemariam@gu.se

A selection of presentations will be made to ensure a broad and balanced programme.

There is also an opportunity to register to participate online.