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Lecture #4





A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

It is commonly assumed that there is no age limit to change mindset and behaviour. However, children and youth can easily pick up and understand environmental issues and can be encouraged to act as agents of change for promoting and enabling change to happen within their extended family.

Childhood and youth education is therefore a key means not only to make children and youth fully aware of their active role in a future sustainable society, but also to make those messages understandable for everyone to encourage people to develop both awareness and a practice of waste management. Educating children and young people regarding the importance of environmental issues is essential, since instilling the right behaviour in them is also beneficial to the behavior of their families.

Although education is considered the foundation that should give cultural and ethical tools for understanding why sustainable development is so vital for the present and future, there is a poor fit between this awareness and the existing school policies in environmental and sustainability education. Moreover, research in the field of environmental and sustainability education highlighted the need of a methodological change from transmissive learning toward active learning approaches and of educators with the knowledge, behaviors, attitudes, values, and skills required for practicing environmental and sustainability education.

In this online lecture, an innovative education framework named 'Greenopoli' will be presented, discussing its diversity.





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Giovanni De Feo is an Associate Professor of Sanitary & Environmental Engineering. Currently, he teaches Industrial Ecology at the Department of Industrial Engineering of the University of Salerno, in Italy.

He carries out his research activity mainly on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and waste management.

He is Editor of "Water, Science and Technology: Water Supply" and member of the Editorial Board of Sustainability and Recycling.

He is the creator and promoter of the Greenopoli environmental education project, which since December 2014 has directly involved more than 300 schools and about sixty thousand students (www.greenopoli.com).

In 2018 he received the Environmentalist Award of the Year in Italy and was appointed Honorary Member of the Italian Association of Environmental Sciences.

Last year Greenopoli has won the '2021 Sustainable and Resilient Public Administration Award' with the project 'Life cycle assessment (LCA) and environmental dissemination with the Greenopoli method' because 'the project aimed to create a new environmental sensitivity in children, teens, and adults, allowing them to understand complex concepts in a simple way'.