“Narratives of change can be as diverse and rich as life itself. Open Schooling for sustainability weaves such narratives across personal, practical, and political spheres of transformation.”

SEAS has developed tools and metods that facilitate collaboration between schools and local communities concerning sustainability challenges.

Photo: Lynn Delbeecke

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Science Education for Action and Engagement toward Sustainability

Accelerating Transformation

The dawning Anthropocene brings new challenges and opportunities for us as educators, as we prepare the coming generations to assume their roles as responsible and caring citizens, and as societies need to transform rapidly toward truly sustainable ways of living. The international research consortium SEAS (Science Education for Action and Engagement toward Sustainability) has met this demand through Open Schooling Initiatives that help articulate and realize the transformational potential of education.

Building Partnerships

Open Schooling inquiries **expand the boundaries of schooling**. Learners and teachers collaborate with knowledge experts, policy makers, and cultural experts on real-life challenges. Such bundles of actors may co-create innovative ideas and practices and actively realize novel opportunities for transformative learning. Schools begin to realize their agency inside larger socio-economic and ecological systems. SEAS has developed resources, methods, and insights into how to build such partnerships, and how to sustain them over time.

Supporting Teachers

SEAS' Open Schooling collaborations **challenge established roles and assumptions**, including the role of the teacher, the role of leadership, the role of schools within 'the world', or how to navigate the dynamic field between disciplinary tradition and interdisciplinary innovation. SEAS documents the importance of sustainable support structures across the various strata within schools, as well as the potential of shared inquiry. This is how leadership, administration, and teachers can be supported as they liberate the full potency of their roles.

Empowering Learners

Learners may struggle to **envision transformations in real-life contexts**, and articulate what roles – if any – they can play. SEAS' open schooling designs interlace inquiry-based learning and interdisciplinary cooperation to encounter complex sustainability concerns in their actual contexts. SEAS has generated a wealth of insights into how such interventions can transform the learners' self-perception, their sense of caring, motivation, the nature of knowledge, their sense of voice, agency, power, normativity, or citizenship.









"How can schools become agents for change in a moment when societies are envisioning and co-creating more life-affirming ways of educating and of inhabiting this biosphere?"