DESIGNING AMBITIOUS PATHWAYS TO CLIMATE CAREERS

MARK BASNAGE | JUNE 13, 2023
The climate crisis is the singular story of our time; it’s the biggest business story in the world, and an opportunity to build a completely new economy. This is the industrial revolution and the internet age all in one; we have the chance to reinvent everything now.

MOLLY WOOD, MAY 11, 2023
IF THE GOAL IS GIANT, COLLABORATIVE CLIMATE ACTION

THEN THERE WILL BE A LOT OF CAREERS INVOLVED
which means we need to design & develop new career pathways for all students
Can we do this and honor the deeper liberal/ liberatory mission of schools?

What’s the right scale to focus on?

Top-down or bottom-up?

Role of individual school/ district?

What even are green jobs?
IN THE US... THE FRACTURED LANDSCAPE OF EDUCATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>PreK, Elementary, Middle</th>
<th>Secondary, High Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public K12 schools</strong></td>
<td>98,557</td>
<td>70,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23,519</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private</strong></td>
<td>30,492</td>
<td>18,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,626</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS

Students

Public

Teachers

Private

60M

4.7M

3M

.5M
A FRACTURED LANDSCAPE
A FRACUTRED LANDSCAPE
THIS REQUIRES NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS
CLIMATE EDUCATION FOR ACTION

CREATING CLIMATE PATHWAYS
Robust pathways need collaborative, regional design & support
NOT JUST “LEARNING ABOUT” CLIMATE
BEHAVIORS & INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

SENSE OF PLACE
NATURE CONNECTEDNESS
SENSE OF WONDER
HEALTH AND WELLBEING
IDENTITY & ACADEMIC IDENTITY

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
KNOWLEDGE & THINKING
VALUES, BELIEFS, & ATTITUDES
SELF-EFFICACY, AGENCY
COLLABORATION
This is also good pedagogy:

“practicing the whole game at a junior level”
THE CLIMATE CRISIS REQUIRES BIG EFFORTS IN
MITIGATION
ADAPTATION
TRANSFORMATION
MITIGATION

ADAPTATION

https://oneshoreline.org/projects/
TRANSFORMATION

- Moving away from extractive systems, hyperfocus on economic growth
- Toward wellbeing, care, belonging
- Thriving, fair, green
- Moving ‘economy’ back towards original meaning of ‘household’
ATTEND TO TIME SCALES
Aiming at jobs in demand in the coming 1-5 years

- LMI demand, other near demand signals
- Jobs clearly defined, known
- Focus on mitigation, adaptation
- Align HS, community college offerings

... in 5-10 years

- Interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary
- Attend to whole K-12 experience
- Academic identity

... in 10-30Y+

- Less clearly defined; demand less clear in LMI
- Transformational
- Ensuring entrepreneurial equity
MENLO PARK CA
GOLDEN STATE PATHWAYS (CA)
GOLDEN STATE PATHWAYS (CA)
NEW APPROACHES, MINDSETS, & TOOLS

- Ecosystems thinking
- Design thinking
- Knowledge creation
- STEM++
- Coalition building; scaling at the speed of relationships
- School leadership, roles, relationships
- School-community relationship
- Schools as engines of opportunity and innovation
PITFALLS TO AVOID

- hyperfocus on individual schools may keep systemic injustice out of view
- extractive systems - including privilege in prestige education
- the island/enclave temptation — reinforcing inequality
- only following the market, not shaping it
- disconnection between career education & general ed & climate education