

## MODERN TENDENCY IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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The Federal Environment Ministry uses its educational activities to provide up-to-date information on environmental protection and nature conservation. The different subjects can be used in different learning environments. The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) criteria act as a benchmark. The BMUB educational service provides a roof for all the educational activities, is a recognised “UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” measure and was presented with the Comenius EduMedia award.

The teaching materials can be used by both primary schools and secondary schools at levels I and II. They are aimed at teaching staff and multipliers in school and extra-curricular education, for teaching staff in further and advanced training, technical and managerial staff employed in the environmental sector and at vocational education institutions. The online portal for teaching staff (primary school, secondary school levels I and II), launched in September 2011, provides teaching suggestions on topical environmental subjects free of charge twice a week.

Through the educational projects supported by National Climate Initiative funds, the educational service strengthens young people's awareness of environmental and climate-related issues and encourages them to take action. The “KlimaKunstSchule” project uses art to address climate change. The annual Green Day on 12 November gives people the opportunity to find out about a number of vocational and university options in environmental conservation and climate action. The “KlimaTrax” project researches climate change via GPS.

The Federal Environment Ministry also conducts a support programme entitled “Promoting vocational education for sustainable development – key green skills for making the vocational environment climate-compatible and resource efficient (BBNE)” which, during the European Social Fund's current funding period, is supporting practice-orientated projects involving work camps and road shows to illustrate and inform about resource-efficient and climate-friendly methods of production and show the vocational possibilities in this field.

The fact that educational activities also play an important role in the population's appreciation of this field is confirmed by surveys on environmental awareness in Germany in 2009 and 2011: around 90 percent of those surveyed were in favour of expanding nature-related and environmental education in schools. The Federal Environment Ministry supports a number of different modern educational concepts in nature conservation. Environmental and nature conservation associations also play important roles in nature-related and environmental education as sponsors of the “Voluntary Ecological Year” for young people and the national voluntary service.