



Human Capital Development

The Eco Commerce Exchange (ECE) engages participants from around the world. ECE's multi-stakeholder educational platform brings together leaders from academic institutions, business, government and non-profit organizations. ECE attracts elected and appointed officials at local, state and national levels of government, and leaders of international organizations and civil society. Recognizing the needs, motivations and limitations of decision makers at many levels, participants discuss opportunities for communities to come together and use science to gain more from current technologies, while developing an agenda for research, education and policy changes that will transform future choices. Our VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS draw upon several major themes in addressing complex and multifaceted issues that we face today:

1. Improving Decision Making
2. Guiding Research
3. Building Connections
4. Integrating Solutions into Planning
5. Expanding Education

Our future will be determined by the investments in research and technology and the political decisions that are made today. The need to improve sustainability and security presents serious challenges, and the issue of climate risk requires immediate attention from decision makers and the general public. The stakeholders gathering at ECE make it clear that many individuals and institutions are striving to meet the critical challenges.

We hope that through the connections made and information shared ECE will catalyze new opportunities and partnerships needed to address challenges—for the people and ecosystems of today, and for generations to come.

Expanding Understanding

Some businesses are taking considerable leadership in Eco Innovation and Commerce.

The ECE addresses questions, such as: What are the motivations and actions of these businesses? How can these commitments and practices be spread to other

companies and also be used to advance global action towards a more sustainable and secure future?

Global Perspectives on the Prospects for Eco Innovation and Commerce

Eco Innovation is essential for a sustainable and secure future. Because Eco Commerce issues are very dynamic and varied, we enable participants to get diverse perspectives by bringing corporate officials, agency officials and other analysts to share their experience and expertise in Eco Innovation and Commerce.

The ECE addresses questions, such as: What are the key issues, opportunities and outlook for Eco Innovation with respect to markets, industry and technology? How can the contribution of Eco Innovation be increased?

Workforce Training

Workers with a large numbers of scientific, technical, social and other skills are needed to advance Eco Innovation and Commerce. The ECE addresses questions, such as: What are the skill sets and professions needed? How do community colleges, colleges and universities provide the educated workforce to meet these needs?

K-12 Education

There are relatively few curricula and programs directed towards educating K-12 students about Eco Innovation. The ECE addresses questions, such as: What works well and can be expanded upon? What are the needs for a major new global-scale Eco Innovation education program aimed at young people?

Pre-College

Education of students about Eco Innovation should start during grade school and intensify at middle and high school levels. Inquiry-based approaches should be adopted at all levels.

Community College

School-to-work programs should be developed at the community college level to support the growing need for Environmental Technology (ET) technicians to operate and maintain technology. At this level, except for students who intend to transfer to four-year degree programs, training does not need to focus on intensive, theoretical analysis. Focus should be on system performance assessment and maintenance.

Universities and Colleges

In order to produce well-rounded and employable graduates who can meet the professional demands of working in the dynamic Eco Commerce sector, universities and colleges should take steps to improve the negotiation and presentation skills of students and their ability to work in groups to solve complicated problems on Eco issues.