BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

"Can-do Guide"

Resource for Supporting Cooperation between ALE organizations and Eco-Partners

JULY 2024

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– Resource for Supporting Cooperation between ALE organizations and Eco-Partners

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	"Can-do Guide" developed and funded solely by Paul Jurmo as a curriculum resource
Geographical scope	Local, state and national
Sources of funding	Funded solely by Paul Jurmo
Duration of the initiative	Ongoing, and will continue to be disseminated via several organizations in the US and elsewhere.
Target audience	Eco-partners and Adult basic skills programs. Eco-partners are organizations and individuals that have as a primary or secondary goal the protection and improvement of natural environment. Adult basic skills programs are local, state, and national organizations whose primary purpose is the strengthening of the basic skills (e.g., reading, writing, speaking, listening, numeracy, problem solving, digital literacy) and other fundamental skills that adults and out-of-school youth need for work, family, and civic roles. They serve diverse populations challenged by basic skills limitations.
Social justice focus area	Environmental justice
Goals of the initiative	The "Can-do Guide" promotes collaborations that reduce poverty and income inequality for adults with limited basic skills by helping them become better-informed consumers so they can use natural resources in environmentally- sustainable ways in their homes, at work, and in their use of transportation. Can-do Guide" aims at building collaboration between "eco-partners" and adult basic skills programs. These "green" collaborations can benefit several stakeholder groups in various ways and take a number of forms.

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

The guide was developed with help from experts in adult basic skills development, environmental sustainability, and green jobs.

Methodology used (if available)

The "Can-do Guide" draws on a literature review of sources from the environmental, workforce development, and adult education fields, as well as input from adult educators and environmental stakeholders.

The guide identifies and describes nine types of collaborations, with examples of each and links to corresponding organizations and documents. These different collaboration types include green job training, advocacy and generating awareness, green services for adult learners, basic skill support for eco-partners, green partnership research and joint professional development, among others. At the end, the guide suggests a set of steps on how adult education and eco-partners can get started on creating productive collaborations.

Teaching approaches (if available)

Not applicable

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

The guide supports collaboration between organizations which is essential as adults with low basic skills cannot be merely supported through adult education organizations and interaction is needed with different actors within society.

The guide recognizes different collaboration practices which are not limited to developing eco-friendly practices among adult learners, but incorporate research activities, advocacy, initiatives that highlight ways in which learners can be agents of change in their own lives and communities, as well as services for adult learners such as access to healthy affordable foods through community gardens.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

Lack of dissemination at this point is the major challenge and the impact is TBD once it is more widely available and adapted.

Recommendations

At the meso level, the initiative highlights the importance of supporting different types of collaboration between eco organizations and adult education organizations in order to address different needs of adult learners with low literacy levels. ust transition, indicating what is the current stage of national development, and what issues still need to be addressed.

Impact