

Resources for an ALL Careers approach to education

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Currently, there are not many resources that I know of that bring the whole “ALL Careers approach” together in one place – that review principles of living systems and make direct connections to ALL Careers. Books on green careers provide valuable information, for example, but rarely contain information on actual principles of living systems and thus cannot make explicit connections to the careers they discuss. And books on green careers are almost all about green careers as a **subset** of the economy and not a vision of ALL Careers as needing to be green. That’s a big and important difference.

However – if you want to make the kinds of connections being suggested by an ALL Careers approach, there **are** lots of resources that can be drawn from. There are volumes written about environmental principles / principles of life, of course. There are quite a few books about “Green Economics,” “Green Careers,” etc. There are many resources that document case studies of businesses and other efforts around the world that are changing the economy in healthy/sustainable directions. Most of these can be used directly or indirectly, in part or whole at the high school level. In fact, one important point of the ALL Careers approach is that such information needs to increasingly be made part of a high school education.

I have listed a variety of resources, below, as *examples* to be used in to foster an ALL Careers approach where basic environmental principles are linked *explicitly* to how ALL careers can be envisioned, changed, and created. I have added a few notes about how a particular resource might be used; how it might fit in with an ALL Careers approach. These resources can be used in a multitude of ways to advance the ALL Careers approach. See ideas at [Actions to advance an ALL Careers approach](#) and develop your own. If you have questions, ideas, or suggestions, please let me know!

Websites:

[Environmental Literacy and ALL Careers](#) – a blog on the ALL Careers approach on my website.

[Green 360 Career Catalyst](#) – *“The Green 360 Career Catalyst enhances 8th-12th grade education programs and young adult training programs in career preparation and environmental sustainability. It provides digital tools, information, and resources for students to make informed career decisions and create pathways toward green careers.”* This is an excellent website for teens even though it does not discuss actual principles of living systems. It starts with a questionnaire about one’s interests and aptitudes and suggests careers from a large number of “green career” choices.

[Entrepreneurial Earth](#) LLC is Martin Ogle’s website at which much information and ideas relative to ALL Careers approach can be found. See also [Musings \(blogs\)](#)

[Rich Earth Institute](#) - one among many great examples of businesses and organizations that are currently using principles of living systems to build whole new resource use pathways.

[Doughnut Economics \(Ted Talk by Kate Rayworth\)](#)

[The Capital Institute; Co-creating the Regenerative Economy](#)

[Regenerative Design Principles](#) from [nRhythm](#)

Books:

Principles of Sustainable Living – A New Vision for Health, Happiness and Prosperity. By Richard Jurin. 2012. Human Kinetics.

The Nature Principle; Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age. By Richard Louv. 2011. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

The B Corp Handbook; How to Use Business as a Force for Good. By Ryan Honeyman. 2014. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. San Francisco

A Finer Future; Creating an economy in service to life. By L. Hunter Lovins, Stewart Wallis, Anders Wijkman and John Fullerton. 2018. New Society Publishers.

You Can Farm; The entrepreneur's guide to start and succeed in a farming enterprise. By Joel Salatin. 1998. Polyface Inc.

The Complete Idiot's Guide, Green Careers; Exciting opportunities with world health benefits. By Barbara Parks and Jodi Helmer. 2009. Alpha, A member of Penguin Group (USA), Inc.

Green Careers; Choosing Work for a Sustainable Future. By Jim Cassio and Alice Rush. 2009. New Society Publishers.

A Deliberate Pause; Entrepreneurship and its moment in human progress. By Larry Robertson. 2009. Morgan James Publishing, LLC.

Y on Earth; Get smarter, feel better, heal the planet. By William Aaron Perry. 2017. Earth Water Press.

Sustainability At Work; Careers that make a difference. By Marilyn Waite. 2017. Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group. *Although this book does not discuss all careers as green careers, it would be a good book for Career Counselors to consider to expand their own view of "green careers."*

The Decline of Pleasure. By Walter Kerr. 1962. Time Life Books – *this is a book about human nature. Kerr writes about how the U.S. had (already in 1962) become defined by a utilitarian mindset in which everything we did had to have a purpose, most often towards the goal of efficiency and greater production.*

Economics:

Slow Money; Investing as if food, farms and fertility mattered. By Woody Tasch. 2008. Chelsea Green Publishing.

Doughnut Economics; 7 ways to think like a 21st Century Economist. By Kate Raworth. 2017. Chelsea Green Publishing

Deep Economy; The wealth of communities and the durable future. By Bill McKibben. 2007. Time Books; Henry Holt and Company LLC.

Beyond Growth. By Herman Daly. 1996. Beacon Press.

Natural Capitalism; Creating the Next Industrial Revolution. By Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins. 1999. Little, Brown and Company.

Nature's Fortune; How Business and Society Thrive by Investing in Nature. By Mark R. Tercek and Jonathan S. Adams. 2013. Basic Books.

Principles of Living Systems

As mentioned in the introduction, there is an abundance of resources to help students learn about living systems. Existing textbooks used in environmental science and biology classes, for instance, provide good, scientific information, and there is a huge array of online (including video) resources. The key is in both ensuring that we enable ALL students to learn basic principles of living systems and that this knowledge is explicitly connected to ALL students' ability to find, build and create their own careers.

Because knowledge is so fragmented today, it is also important that students begin to understand how Earth is a living system of which human beings are a seamless part. Thus, I wholeheartedly recommend the use of Gaia Theory as a context for education. See the following resources to learn more:

- [Overview of Gaia Theory](http://www.GaiaTheory.org) at www.GaiaTheory.org
- [Reading list for Understanding Gaia Theory](#)
- The Book, *Gaia; The Practical Science of Planetary Medicine* by James Lovelock. 2000. Oxford University Press. *Although the original edition was written in 1991, this book remains one of the best overview of Gaia Theory and is very accessible with many excellent illustrations.*

Energy is the biggest nexus between human systems and Earth's living systems. Thus, energy education is singularly important and a very important part of an ALL Careers approach. There are many, many excellent energy curriculum materials available. Start with [curriculum materials](#) from [National Energy Education Development \(NEED\)](#) as one example.

Environmental Education

Get connected to Environmental Education in Colorado through the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education. Along with the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, CAEE has developed the [Colorado Environmental Education Plan](#). This document "outlines strategies for building a feasible, cost effective, and sustainable infrastructure to support the education of an environmentally literate citizenry." But it can only be effective if it is used. I believe that the most compelling context in which it can be used is through an ALL Careers approach. It is possible that the most likely way that environmental education will gain traction is if it is comprehensively connected to how we as a society envision a green economy and thus the "green career readiness" of students.

I also recommend the document [A Blueprint for Environmental Literacy: Educating Every Student In, About, and For the Environment](#). This was produced by the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction's statewide Environmental Literacy Task Force. It is similar to the Colorado Environmental Education Plan in many ways, but makes more references to connections to careers. See, for instance, these goals from the document:

- 'Establish a state-level advisory council that provides common messaging across the state regarding the value and importance of environmental literacy to formal education and career readiness.'
- 'Showcase ways of utilizing curricular materials, local environmental literacy opportunities and connections with resource professionals to highlight "real world" examples and career pathways.'