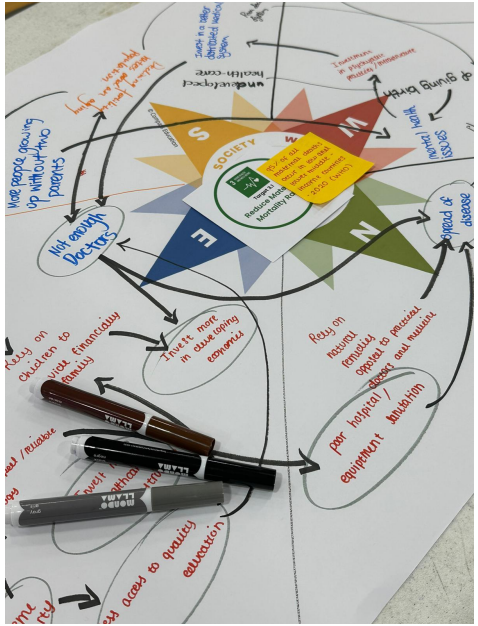
Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Sustainability Compass - Global





When educators use systems thinking to guide their students, they become active changemakers in the movement to transform education from a collection of isolated subjects to integrated contextual learning. Systems thinking empowers students as curious innovators and supports them with the skills they need to feel engaged, hopeful and prepared to work together to build a more sustainable world.

Challenge

The world works in systems but we teach in silos. If we truly hope to prepare young people for a rapidly changing world and contribute to long-term ecological and social wellbeing, systems thinking must become a foundational habit of mind in schools. The Sustainability Compass was adapted to help students understand interdependence, navigate complexity, and design solutions that strengthen communities and natural systems.

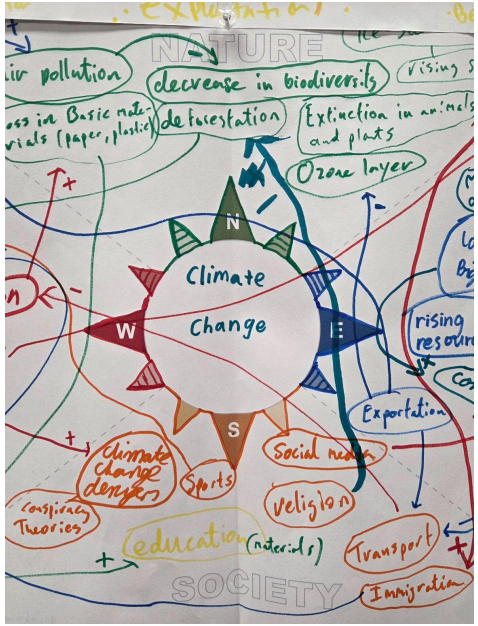
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Solution

The Sustainability Compass is a systems thinking tool that supports educators in embedding holistic sustainability across the curriculum rather than treating it as a separate topic. Using four Compass Points, Nature, Society, Economy, and Wellbeing, educators and students identify key system elements and map their interconnections.

The actual practice of using the tool is flexible. Students often will gather around a large sheet of paper (or virtual whiteboard) with the Sustainability Compass and their chosen topic in the center. They will use a learning protocol that is reflected in the acronym P.A.T.H. (and the idea that a Compass is a tool to find a "path" to a more sustainable world). As they discuss and make connections, learners are able to visualize complexity, recognize trade-offs, and identify leverage points for meaningful, lasting change.

In the classroom, systems thinking strengthens social-emotional competencies such as self-awareness, empathy, and a sense of global interdependence. As learners recognize their relationship to ecological and social systems, they become more motivated and capable of contributing to resilient communities and a thriving future. The Sustainability Compass integrates seamlessly into existing K–12 curricula and is currently used by thousands of educators worldwide. It is a copyrighted tool and free for nonprofit educational use.





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Impact

Compass Education is a global movement of committed volunteer educators dedicated to advancing systems thinking and sustainability in schools to support ecological resilience and social equity. The movement now spans 100+ countries, 1,200+ schools, and 5,000+ trained educators. We are proud to share that our work has now reached more than 1 million students. We have expanded across Africa and Australia, now active on six continents, and have built partnerships with leading global sustainability and social impact organizations including World's Largest Lesson, UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership, Ashoka, and the Green Schools National Network in the United States.

Compass Education is positioned for continued growth, and over the next 2 to 3 years we aim to scale further through strategic partnerships and foundation support focused on climate education, regenerative development, and whole-system transformation.

Partners

- HundrED: Recognition partner as one of the 100 most scalable solutions
- Villars: Recognition partner as the "Planetary Health Spotlight"
- UNSDSN: Global Schools network. Implementation partner with the Ages of Globalization course and other
- projects
- Ashoka Latin America: Co-leadership for education in LATAM
- Green Schools National Network: Implementation partner for district pilots
- Institute for Humane Education: co-creation partnership for education curriculum
- Inspire Citizens: co-creation partnership for education curriculum