



ACTIS

in collaboration with the Donella Meadows Institute

presents

The Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES)

with an additional focus on sustainable food production and consumption

Craftsbury, Vermont - USA
15th August – 1st September 2012

YES is an initiative that builds a network of young leaders around the world in order to advance sustainability

Join us this summer for a once in a lifetime experience in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont

On our webpage www.actis-education.ch you will find general information on our YES courses, a 2012 program overview and the application form

YES United States 2012

The State of Vermont is one of the six New England states in the northeast part of the United States. Vermont is rural and agricultural, with many opportunities for tourism and outdoor recreation. Vermonters have a strong commitment to the environment and sustainability and are well known for their independent minded thinking. Nestled between the Green Mountains and the Connecticut River, Vermont's Northeast Kingdom offers breath-taking scenery, outstanding lodging and dining, ecotourism and agritourism, Vermont made products, a rich diversity of art, and recreational opportunities. Vermont's Northeast Kingdom is revered by residents and visitors alike for its lovely countryside, abundant natural resources and the preservation of traditional landscapes and lifestyles that have made the Vermont experience one to be cherished.



The Donella Meadows Institute (DMI) in Norwich, Vermont, is our new partner to establish a course in the US. DMI's mission is to bring economic, social and environmental systems into closer harmony with the realities of a finite planet and a globally powerful human race by using the disciplines of systems thinking, system dynamics and collaborative learning that were pioneered by Donella Meadows. The YES program is seen as an especially effective approach to accomplish this mission.

The Location

Sterling College is a small, progressive, liberal arts college in the town of Craftsbury Common, in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom. The international gateway airports of Boston, New York City, and Montreal, Quebec are all within a distance of 100 – 200 Miles (150 – 300 km), but the closest airport from which transportation to Sterling can be arranged is in Burlington, Vermont. Academics at Sterling combine theory and practice to instill a sense of environmental stewardship and prepare students for careers that require both a college education and direct experience. Sterling is a Work-Learning-Service college specialized on Conservation Ecology, Natural History, Environmental Humanities, and Organic Farming. Beside the traditional YES course modules, we will put in this course a special focus on sustainable food production and consumption. The course takes place during the semester break of the college, so all the Sterling facilities will be at our disposal.

Links

Please check the following web pages for additional information:

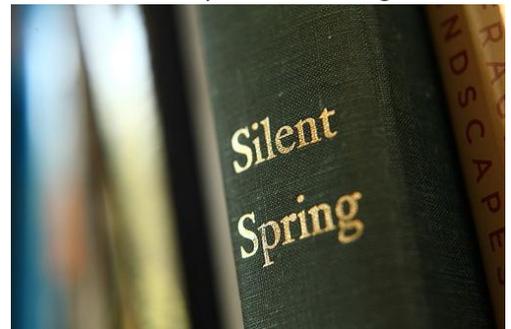
- + on the Northern Kingdom www.travelthekingdom.com
- + on Craftsbury www.townofcraftsbury.com
- + on Sterling College www.sterlingcollege.edu/about.html
- + on Donella Meadows Institute www.donellameadows.org



The Program

As in all our YES courses we will touch on and discuss all facets of the sustainability concept within a multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary context. Within the framework of a well elaborated systems approach we follow a modular concept that includes the key themes of climate change, food, water and health, biodiversity, policy making, the economic sector, and psycho-social aspects regarding consumption, attitude change, and ethics. Systems Dynamics (“Limits to Growth”) concepts will be explored, which is a particular area of interest at the Meadows Institute. Besides presentations from renowned university faculty members and experts, we will spend much time for discussions, case study work, small group activities, and exchange of experiences in our multi-cultural composition of the participants.

Sterling College and allied organizations such as The Sustainable Food Laboratory have a strong focus on market-based solutions to key issues—including climate, soil, poverty, and water—that are necessary for a healthy and sustainable food system to feed a growing world. Collaborative learning methods are used to incubate innovation at every stage along the supply chain from producing to distributing and selling food. In keeping with this focus, a major component of the Vermont YES course will be global and local aspects of food and water supply, including experiential learning. We will also hear from some Vermont based industries that have made strong commitments to a sustainable business model.



During the full length of the course we will find ample time for some leisure and outdoor activities by enjoying the natural landscape, doing some sport activities, mountain excursions, and visiting selected local/regional production sites. Participants will also be encouraged to participate in campus farm chores, as arranged by Sterling faculty.

Living for 10 Billion people in 2050 – the overarching theme of the YES courses
*The book **SILENT SPRING**, Rachel Carson’s critique on humanity’s faith in technological progress, set the stage for the environmental movement as early as 1962. At that time, the world counted some 3 billion inhabitants. How will we manage the sharp increase demand for resources, energy, food and water needed by 10 billion people, bearing in mind that poorer parts of the world also desire a better standard of living? And, what about the degradation of the natural world. not to mention our air, and water that result from these exploitations? In our YES course in Vermont, we will discuss these issues, their interconnections, and possible solutions with a special focus on sustainable food provision as one of the most important preconditions for human life.*

We are grateful to our YES sponsors in 2011:









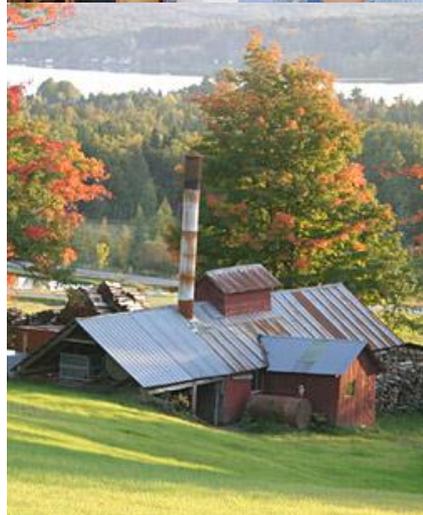
KontaktGruppe für Forschungsfragen
Contact Group for Research Matters











The Learning Model

The YES course Vermont combines practical experience with academic rigor, based on the newest findings regarding different sustainability fields and challenges. It will be facilitated by ACTIS faculty and renowned experts from the private and public sector. Teaching methods include lectures, cases, field trips, and workshops, as well as social and cultural activities, and visits to local companies and natural attractions. The course builds on the YES teaching style and methodology, where participants are heavily involved in the delivery of content. The learning model includes an ongoing problem based learning team project, which helps creating capabilities in project management in an international, multicultural, and multidisciplinary group of peers.

Who should apply

The YES Vermont basic course with the focus on “*Sustainable Food and Consumption*” is designed for upper level undergraduate (3rd year minimum) and graduate (Masters and PhD) students, young professionals from all regions, and YES Alumni (former YES students). Participants from any country and any field of study should demonstrate a high dedication to sustainability. The full program will be conducted in English and applicants must demonstrate a working proficiency in the language. Participants should not be below 21 and above 33 years of age.

Application Process

To apply for the YES course VERMONT, complete the separate form and return it via email with the requested attachments to:

Dr. Roger Baud: roger.baud@actis-education.ch

Please enclose the following supporting documents along with your application form:

1. Your CV / Resume (max. 3 pages)
2. A short statement of motivation to attend the course (max. 400 words)
3. A letter of recommendation from your organization or from a professor.

Participation fee:

CHF/USD 700.- for students from non-OECD countries (including all Eastern Europe and Balkan countries) and YES Alumni
 CHF/USD 1'200.- for students from OECD countries
 CHF/USD 1'500.- for young professional (studies terminated / on job)

Application Deadline:

May 14th 2012

Early registration before April 14th benefit from a 10% discount

Our subsidized fees cover all services from the arrival to the departure, including full board accomodation