



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

Paul Iversen

Will defend his Master's Capstone Project on

Developing Educational Activities for the Ecovillage Training Center's Apprenticeship Program

Abstract

As a 1997 UNESCO report on sustainability education points out, education is essential in meeting the challenges of the future. While the School of Sustainability (SOS) is a frontrunner in the field, non-academic, skill-based programs have also been developed. I attended one of these programs at The Ecovillage Training Center (ETC) in Summertown, Tennessee. However, their program was in disarray, and the staff asked me to help increase the effectiveness of their education. For my Master's Applied Project, I identify and develop activities and lessons for the ETC's Apprenticeship Program that provide education on permaculture while aiming to effectively transform behaviors toward sustainability. I do this by integrating three concepts into the lessons—key competencies in sustainability, knowledge domains for affecting behavior, and permaculture principles and design practices. I also reflect on my experience at the SOS and assess their capacity to train me in the key competencies. Finally, I discuss how the education at the ETC converges with and diverges from the education at SOS, while also offering recommendations for improving both programs and sustainability education in general.

April 6, 2011
11:00 am-1:00 pm
Wrigley Hall 481

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Kelli Larson (Chair)
Hallie Eakin (Member)
Aaron Golub (Member)