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## Building a Sustainable Future: Mastering the Ten Essential Skills

Youth need skills like environmental literacy, critical thinking, leadership, cultural competence, resilience, and data analysis for a sustainable future. Encouraging their development through hands-on learning, mentorship, recognition, and education is crucial. They can advocate for social justice and environmental sustainability, and work harmoniously with nature.

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Hands-on learning, community building, mentorship, recognition, and rewards will encourage young people to prioritize the development of sustainability skills. Incorporating these tools into education and career pathways, creating peer networks, and engaging them as partners in developing solutions to environmental and social challenges can also help. Find here the skills, in detail, that youth need to be equipped with for a future that is just and in harmony with nature.

1. **Environmental literacy** is the understanding of the natural world, ecosystems, environmental issues, and human-environment interconnections. It enables individuals to analyze, evaluate, and take responsible actions to protect and sustain the environment, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious society.
2. **Critical thinking and problem-solving** skills involve analyzing information, evaluating evidence, and making reasoned decisions. It includes logical reasoning, objective evaluation, and the ability to identify and solve complex problems. These skills are essential for navigating the complexities of the modern world and addressing issues effectively.
3. **Collaboration and communication** skills involve effectively sharing ideas and information in teams. Collaboration requires pooling resources, active listening, empathy, and constructive contribution. Effective communication involves conveying ideas clearly, actively listening, and fostering open dialogue. These skills are crucial for achieving shared objectives in diverse and dynamic environments.
4. **Leadership and advocacy** skills empower individuals to drive positive change and influence others toward a common vision or cause. Effective leadership and advocacy require strong communication, strategic thinking, empathy, and the ability to navigate complex systems. These skills play a crucial role in promoting sustainability, addressing environmental challenges, and creating a more just and equitable world.
5. **Innovation and creativity** drive progress and spur new ideas and solutions. Both are crucial in finding sustainable solutions to complex environmental issues and fostering a more resilient and inclusive future.
6. **Cultural competence and inclusivity** involve understanding, respecting, and effectively engaging with diverse cultures and communities. Embracing these skills fosters cross-cultural understanding, collaboration, and social equity, leading to more sustainable and harmonious interactions between human societies and the environment.
7. **Resilience and adaptability** are crucial qualities for individuals and communities to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Cultivating these qualities helps individuals and communities respond to changing environmental conditions, promote sustainable practices, and build a more resilient future.
8. **Systems thinking** involves understanding the interconnectedness of different parts of a complex system and is crucial for addressing complex problems. Developing systems thinking skills involves analyzing complex systems and identifying feedback loops, enabling young people to contribute to a more sustainable and just future.
9. **Data analysis** involves examining and interpreting data to gain insights and make informed decisions. Data analysis skills are essential for making evidence-based decisions in various fields. Developing these skills helps young people make informed decisions and contribute to a more data-driven and evidence-based world.
10. Being **action-oriented** involves taking initiative and being proactive in addressing challenges

and opportunities. This skill is crucial for personal and professional success and contributes to a more sustainable and just future. Developing these skills helps young people become effective problem solvers and agents of change.

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