Intro to Ecojustice Education

Definitions:

**Ecojustice Education (EJE):**
Ecojustice Education “is connected with the need to reduce the impact of the industrial/consumer dependent culture on everyday life while at the same time ensuring that people are not impoverished and limited in terms of equal opportunity; the five aspects of ecojustice ... include:
(1) eliminating the causes of eco-racism,
(2) ending the North’s exploitation and cultural colonization of the South (Third World cultures),
(3) revitalizing the commons in order to achieve a healthier balance between market and non-market aspects of community life,
(4) ensuring that the prospects of future generations are not diminished by the hubris and ideology that drives the globalization of the West’s industrial culture,
(5) reducing the threat to what Vandana Shiva refers to as “earth democracy” — the right of natural systems to reproduce themselves rather than to have their existence contingent upon the demands of humans.”

*Ecojustice Education: Towards diverse, democratic and sustainable communities. (2011)*

**Environmental Racism:**
“...” highlights that environmental damage happens disproportionately in poor, working class and minority communities.” (Refer to the Principles of Environmental Justice for more detail.)

**Equity Education**
“Equity education encourages learning environments in which students are provided with various opportunities to challenge common stereotypes... the ability to recognize and analyze prejudice, bias, and stereotypes...and involves looking at the gaps in material for those perspectives, voices, and experiences that are not represented. ...It is tied to the concept of fairness and justice... and enables students to develop skills for peaceful and co-operative problem solving, to recognize the impact of positive and negative power relationships, and to be able to contribute to social change through democratic action.”

TDSB Website

**Some Issues of Environmental Justice**
- pollution of air, water, soil
- food security, production, & sustainability
• resource extraction and use
• exploitation of people, animals, land, etc.
• access to health care
• workplace safety
• waste disposal
• governance and self-determination
• compensation and reparations
• globalization and consumerism
• repression, violence, conflict, war

**Types of Environmental Injustice**
• inter-generational injustice
• socio-economic injustice (eg. developed/industrialized countries burning fossil fuels that impacts climate change globally)
• geographic injustice (eg. uneven distribution of environmental degradation and pollution within countries)
• inter-species injustice (eg. assuming that humans are more valuable than other forms of life)

**Environmental Justice**
• embraces the principle that all people and communities are entitled to equal protection of our environmental laws
• people who are impacted first, worst and longest are oppressed communities whose survival depends on their ability to address environmental inequities, sustainability and environmental degradation

**Resources:**

Principles of Environmental Justice
http://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.pdf

The Earth Charter
http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/pages/Read-the-Charter.html


TED Talk: Majora Carter - Greening the Ghetto

TED Talk: Stephen Ritz – A Teacher Growing Green in the South Bronx
http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/stephen_ritz_a_teacher_growing_green_in_the_south_bronx.html

Artists to use to introduce Ecojustice Education:

- Peter Menzel - http://www.menzelphoto.com
  View both his Hungry Planet and Material World series
- Chris Jordan - http://www.chrisjordan.com/
  Watch his documentary Manufactured Landscapes
- Vik Muniz - http://www.vikmuniz.net/
  View his Wasteland documentary