



GREEN CHEMISTRY EDUCATION: SHADES OF GREEN

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Green is rapidly becoming the favorite color of industry and individuals, from green buildings to green fuels, even green weddings. Underlying this green revolution is green chemistry, which is responsible for the low VOC paint used in green buildings, more efficient production of biofuels, and the biodegradable serviceware used during the wedding reception. The need to educate students about green chemistry, particularly its role in achieving sustainability, becomes increasingly important as the growing population of the planet places more demands on the resources of the planet.

Professional societies and scientific organizations cite the need to incorporate environmental awareness and ethics into the curriculum, yet green chemistry and sustainability are topics that remain largely absent across the education spectrum.

Individual efforts have had a significant impact on the local level, but a more concerted approach is necessary to effect systemic change in the curriculum. Changes in textbooks and assessment tools, along with enhanced faculty training, are needed to ensure that green chemistry and sustainability become part of the mainstream rather than simply a sidebar. This presentation will consider tools and trends in green chemistry education, focusing on initiatives with the potential to impact large numbers of students.