

Youth Sustainability Leadership- *The Next Generation of Leaders*

By Rachel Wieland



Why Did I Pick This Topic?



Summary of Sustainability Leadership Theory

The ability to guide change towards
sustainability

The model is based on a participatory
approach- stressing cooperation,
communication and learning to develop
sustainability practices.

18 case studies on sustainability leadership show that on campus....

ONE person made it happen!!!

Barlett & Chase (2004)

Characteristics of a Organizational Sustainability Leader

Leaders tend to be:

- *Eco-centric
- *Self-transcendence
- *Promote welfare
- *Openness to change

Egri and Herman (2000)

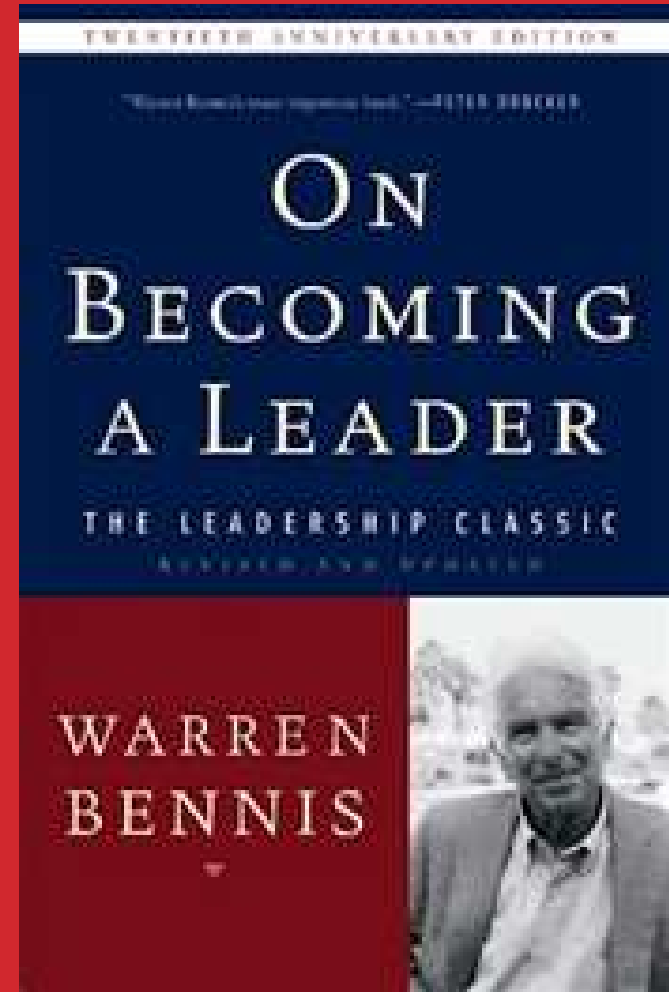
interviewed 73 leaders of organizations



Four Pillars of Good Leadership

- Leaders are made
- Only want to express themselves
- Grow and develop
- Master context, then overcome it

~ Warren Bennis



Youth Leadership for Sustainability



Survey Questions

- How did you become a sustainability leader?
- What advice would you give someone who wants to become a sustainability leader?
- What Do You Picture Yourself Doing in 10 Years?

How Did You Become a Sustainability Leader?



How are Youth Sustainability Leaders Different from Regular Leadership?

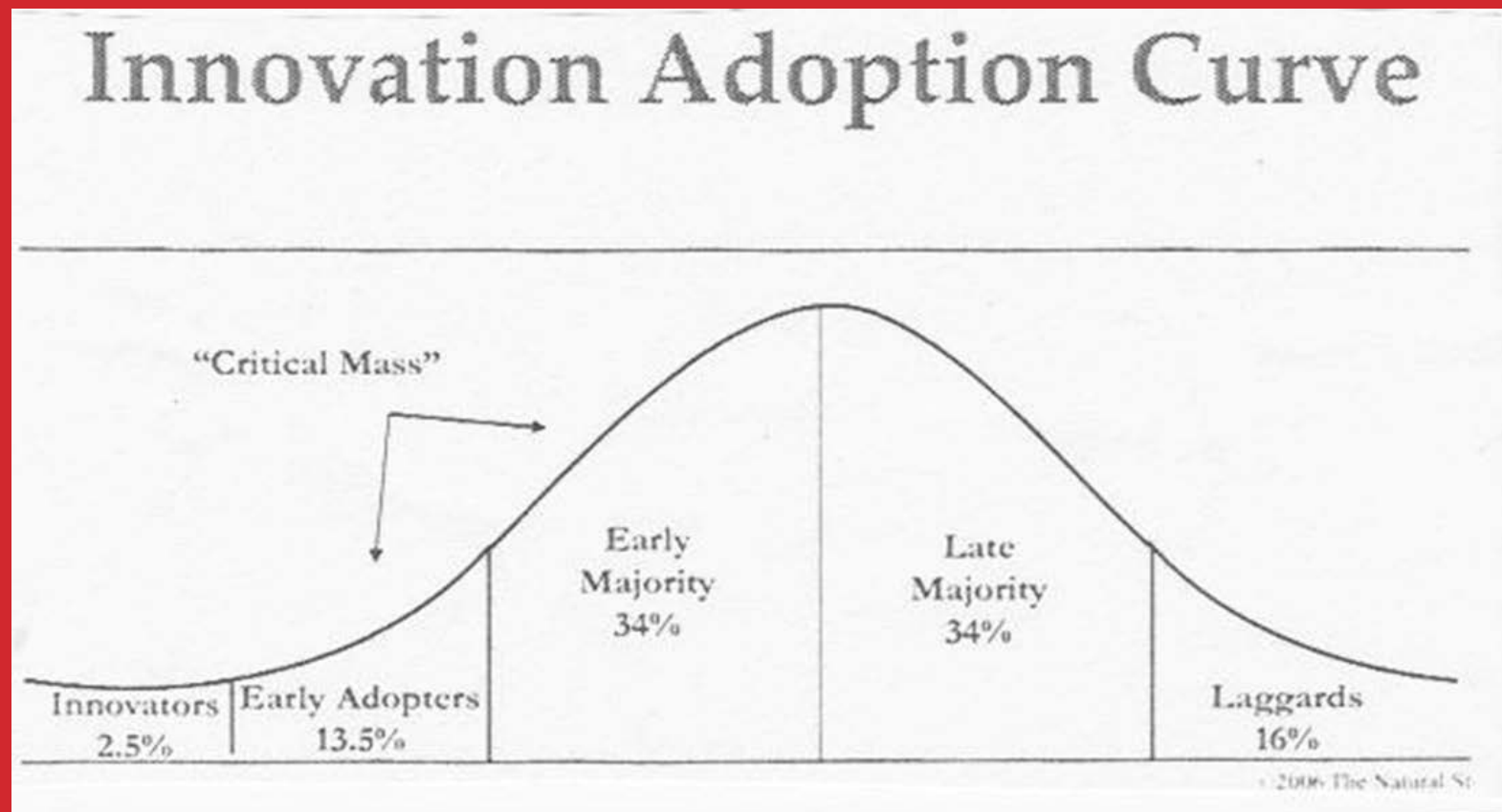
- Strong moral and ethical code
- Respect & Compassion
- Ability to create trust and bonding
- Cooperative

Findings

- Stick your neck out to grow
- Find ways to recharge
- Do what works
- Reflect a lot
- Perseverance is better than force
- Positive/warm attitude

Conclusion

We must create the sustainability leaders,
that will create the change.



Thank you!

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Introduction:

- **Background work:**

- How do you make a leader?

- Characteristics of a sustainability leader?

- **Research/ Exploration:**

- Enhance/widen/deepen current research on sustainability leaders as it relates to youth.

- An exploration of the characteristics of current sustainability youth leaders.

- Current leaders advice to rising leaders.

- Self-development.

How to Become a Leader?

Leadership is a lot like beauty; it's hard to define but you know it when you see it.



ELLA Addison, 9, is the world's youngest shark activist. And her fearless determination to change the "bad" reputation of these feared predators has caught the eye of a major US talk show.

"I hope that people understand that there are over 500 species of shark on our planet, and most of them are harmless, They deserve to be given a chance. Children deserve to still have these creatures in our oceans when they grow up." ~ Ella Addison, 9 yrs old

Basic Pillars of Leaders

- Leaders are made not born
- People who end up being leaders only want to express themselves; they're not out to prove themselves
- They continue to grow and develop throughout life
- They must master the content they are in and then they must overcome it

The context is – "a breaker, not a maker; a trap, not a launching pad; an end, not a beginning – and declare your independence." ~ Bennis

Overcoming Context

How to:

- Become expressive
- Listen to your inner voice
- Learn from the right mentors
- Give yourself over to a guiding vision

Lear says that leaders have an enormously strong inner voice and that idea really “clicked” for him, after he read the essay “Self-Reliance.” Lear recalls that powerful moment:

“Emerson talks about listening to that inner voice and going with that, against all voices to the contrary. I don't know when I started to understand that there was something divine about that inner voice... To go with that – which I confess I don't do all the time – is the purest, truest thing we have. And when we forgot all our own thoughts and opinions, they end up coming back to us from the mouth of others. They come back with alien majesty... So the lesson is, you believe it. When I've been most effective, I've listen to that inner voice.”

Leaders “know Thyself”

- “First and foremost, find out what it is you're about, and be that. Be what you are, don't lose it... It's very hard to be who we are, because it doesn't seem to be what anyone wants.” ~ Lear



Leadership Workshops:

Applying Self-Actualization for Action and Satisfaction

Most people spend more time planning a vacation than they do planning their lives. This workshop will give you the three key principles that lead practically and realistically to optimize life satisfaction. There is no magic bullet to a life well lived. It takes consistency and awareness. Our culture has a full out war on mastery. We watch movies where *within an hour* people move from being a novice to the karate kid. Real life is not like that. If you want satisfaction in life, you must have realistic time frames, enjoyment of the path and the destination, and life is best approached with an attitude of persistence, patience, diligence and playfulness. Sages, positive psychologists and social scientists know the key to happiness and satisfaction, it involves three principles:

Leadership Workshops

- *i) Putting our virtues into action*
- *ii) Being aware of your highest goal*
- *iii) Greatest can only be achieved by consistency on the fundamentals*



Characteristics of a Sustainability Leader

- Egri and Herman, 2000, interviewed 73 leaders of organizations that support environmental initiatives
- leaders tend to be more eco-centric than the typical managers of standard profit and nonprofit organizations
- leaders were strong in self-transcendence, which is a characteristic that corresponds with the values of universalism and the benevolence
- leaders were motivated to promote the welfare of others and of nature
- Extremely high level of openness to change, which is an indicator of a person motivated to pursue innovation



Characteristics of Institutional Sustainability Leaders

- Astute learning strategies that enhance their capacity to learn in difficult and complex situations that require adaptive work
- Must challenge others to face these problems which have no painless, simple solution
- Most valuable task of this leadership is to assist others in developing their learning capacity, helping them learn how to learn
- **Provide space, the holding tank, the vessel, in which the crisis, the problems, the developmental steps occur (their most valuable skill)**
- The leader is providing protection and guidance and is regulating the stress generated by the environment

- "learning as a Way of being" In real time, these leaders are skilled at learning their way through a situation. These people can effectively and accurately experiment, and learning quickly from feedback. Enjoy learning.
- Developed the ability and willingness to take risks. Special skill for applying the learning approach to all aspects of the field
- Knack for being able to create dynamic groups and getting to know the individuals in them

~ Heifetz

Exploration in Leadership

- Plan: An exploration into sustainability leadership through interviews



Meredith Kates- Community Leader

- What you would say to a leader, to a potential leader?

“Make sure you are truly inspired and energized by all sorts of people, to connect, to share, to get to know them. You can't get the work done in less you get the people piece down. It's central. Everything moves forward or stalled based on this piece.”



Meredith Kates-

- “Self development is essential. People in leadership should do daily work on self-development.
- Leaders should be reflective. *What did I like about what happened today? What worked? What didn't work?*
- You need to have a very healthy ego.
- You need to be able to shift with unpredictability.
- A leader will get kicked around a lot. They will take the brunt of a lot of people's frustrations. So you need to know how to refresh and then get back to the work.

Meredith Kates-

- Leaders need an outlet to vent such as journaling, meditation, yoga. When I get an argument with somebody am very careful not to go to a third-party. I will meditate and journal to deal of my frustrations and then come back to that person. It's important to be a willing to take a breath, not react in the moment, to pause, to think about what was said, and take time to respond.
- Leaders are response-able. Leaders are able to sit in the presence of someone saying horrible things about them. I respond by saying “I will think about that.” They face negativity and give decent comments back. Jane Goodall is a very excellent example of this. She has mastered this art. She can make the situation work, the way she wants it to work.”

Nestor Menendez- Community Leader

- What I would tell a young leader –

“Following is leading. The greatest gift you can give someone is to help them stand on their own 2 feet and take risks.”

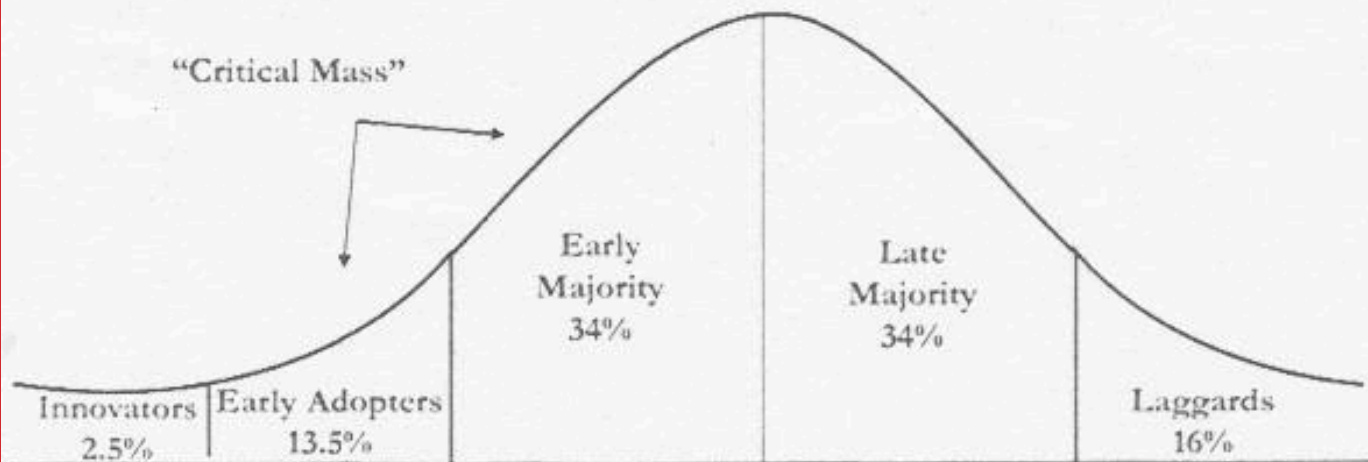
“ You could have the world in the palm of your hand but you need imagination. “

Aditi Sen- Community Leader

- *“The worse part of being a leader is you see people you know very well and you cant even impact them. You think you would be able to influence them the most. And they are such good people. I agree with them on so many fronts, but not on this critical one.”*

The world needs people that can constructively
push us forward.

Innovation Adoption Curve



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- FAIRFIELD, Conn. – Tommy Whiteley could end up saving the world one day, or at least a lot of polar bears. But for now, the Fairfield Country Day School seventh-grader will get to live out one of his dreams while being honored for thinking green. Whiteley recently won a nationwide contest for his idea to put artificial ice floes in the ocean to help polar bears cope with global warming.

Next Steps:

- For this research project- Interview students & 1 more current leader interview (done 3)
- Working on questions

In terms of using the material:

- Leadership workshops- updating and accruing additional information
- Teaching classes on well-being (hearing your own voice > leadership)
- Creating sustainability for the Suc 101 module

Thank you !!

