

We hear more and more in the media about what many in the environmental movement claim to be impending ecological disaster. Whether the issue is famine, global warming, desertification, water pollution, poverty or the absence of social justice, the question is the same: How can we live sustainably?

Answering that question is what we do at PCGS and our message is very simple. There is a way. Solutions do exist; and they are

exciting, inspiring, innovative and imaginative. They are the future. We connect people with real life sustainable solutions, and we do this in a variety of ways.

When people hear about the consequences of climate change, species extinctions, wars and natural disasters, they want to do something. Many people feel hopeless in the face of our ecological and social crises and don't know where to start.

There are plenty of inspirational ideas which have been tried and proven to make a difference to peoples' lives and environments, however, you can never really change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, you must build a model that makes the existing model obsolete.

At Patel College, we instill a conviction that people have to change the way they perceive the planet we share with each

other and with every other living thing. Each one of us has to develop a personal relationship with the earth, something very familiar to indigenous peoples, but lost to developed societies.

We have to remember the simple fact that all things are inter-related, and what we do to others – including other species and even to the non-living fabric of the planet – we ultimately do to ourselves.

Today, after 10 years, approximately 750 PCGS students are spread out over five continents. Their contributions and roles in the dissemination of the building blocks of ecological sustainability are both generous and ingenious.

Let us create a network of PC Alumni and ensure that everyone who comes to us at PCGS becomes a part of the **“DO TANK”** and not the *Think Tank*.

The potential is mind-boggling, and the result will be an ever-widening virtuous circle of positive change, achieved not by conflict, but by example; not by competition, but by mutual support.

As “**DOERS**”, the moment you feel inclined to bring something to the “DO TANK”, don’t hesitate. Your thought, however small or local, could be the vital link in a chain, completing yet another strand in the web.

Webster's dictionary defines hope as '*a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.*'

As the **DOERS** of the world, we must always have HOPE within us. Hope is not the same as optimism. It is not the same as joy when things are going well. Perhaps most famously quoted, hope is not a strategy.

But HOPE is a dimension of the soul not essentially dependent on some particular

observation of the world. Hope is an orientation of the spirit... an orientation of the heart. It transcends the world that is immediately experienced and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons.

Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is a willingness to work for something **BECAUSE IT IS GOOD**, not just because it stands a chance to succeed. It is hope, above all, which gives the strength to live and continually try new things.

So, with hopeful hearts, agile minds, and willing hands, we will continue to work diligently to find sustainable solutions for a better tomorrow... and as we look to the future and define our goals for the coming decade, it is **MY HOPE** that PCGS will continue to establish a reputation for producing pioneers in sustainability innovation and that we will not be known as *one* of the best but **THE BEST** sustainability college in the nation.

God bless you all and God bless America.