

# The Path Selection of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities in the New Era

Daoping Shao

School of Law, Anhui University of Finance and Economics, Bengbu, Anhui 233030, China

\*yunda521@163.com

## Abstract

**Ecological civilization education is the inevitable requirement of Chinese path to modernization to realize the harmonious coexistence of human and nature in the new era, and also the need to implement the concept of ecological civilization. However, at present, there are still problems with the insufficient supply of ecological civilization education in universities, the need to optimize the teaching staff of ecological civilization education, the insufficient motivation of some teachers for ecological civilization education, and the imperfect linkage mechanism of ecological civilization education. Ecological civilization education in universities needs to increase the supply of ecological civilization education, optimize the teaching staff of ecological civilization education, and activate the motivation of professional course teachers for ecological civilization education. Improving the ecological civilization education linkage mechanism and other aspects to enhance the ecological civilization literacy of college students, in order to promote the effectiveness of ecological civilization education in universities in the new era.**

## Keywords

**Universities; Ecological Civilization Education; Cultivate Virtue and Cultivate Talents.**

## 1. Introduction

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping as its core has proposed the "Five in One" approach of economic construction, political construction, cultural construction, social construction, and ecological civilization construction from the perspective of sustainable development of the Chinese nation, vigorously promoting the construction of ecological civilization. The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed that "building an ecological civilization is a millennium long plan for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation.". The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly stated that "Chinese path to modernization will comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation", and "Chinese modernization is a modernization in which people and nature coexist in harmony."The realization of Chinese path to modernization requires the participation of ecological civilization construction. Ecological civilization education is an important link in achieving ecological civilization construction, which plays a prerequisite, fundamental, and global role. Universities are an important link in national education and the most crucial force in ecological civilization education. Universities firmly implement ecological civilization education in talent cultivation, which is an important foundation for ecological civilization construction.

## **2. The Important Value of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities in the New Era**

### **2.1. Ecological Civilization Education in Universities is an Inevitable Requirement for the Construction of Ecological Civilization in the New Era**

The construction of ecological civilization is related to the sustainable development of the Chinese nation. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, our party has included the construction of ecological civilization in the overall layout of the "Five in One" initiative, regarded green development as one of the five new development concepts, regarded adhering to harmonious coexistence between humans and nature as one of the basic strategies for adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and listed pollution prevention and control as one of the three major battles, vigorously promoting the construction of ecological civilization. This fully reflects the position of ecological civilization construction in the development of the Party and the country in the new era, and reflects the Party's deployment and requirements for building ecological civilization, which must be conscientiously implemented.

Ecological civilization education is an important foundation for implementing ecological civilization construction, and plays an indispensable role in promoting the dissemination of ecological civilization construction value and enhancing the ecological civilization literacy of the entire society. Youth is the future of a country, and in the new era, youth bear the significant mission of building an ecological powerhouse. "Cultivating talents for the Party and the country" is an important responsibility of universities. Actively carrying out ecological civilization education in universities, integrating ecological civilization education into university classrooms, conducting ecological civilization education on respecting and treating nature, and promoting the coexistence of humans and nature for college students, vigorously cultivating their ecological awareness, educating and helping young people establish correct ecological civilization values, and cultivating our party's thinking on ecological civilization construction Xi Jinping's ecological civilization ideology aims to educate and help young people grasp the historical laws, fundamental driving forces, development paths, goals and tasks of ecological civilization construction, cultivate their sense of historical responsibility and overall development concept towards ecological issues, and provide intellectual support and ideological guarantee for sustainable economic and social development. It is not only a call of the times, but also an inevitable requirement for ecological civilization construction in the new era.

### **2.2. Ecological Civilization Education in Universities is an Inevitable Requirement for Implementing the Fundamental Task of Moral Education and Talent Cultivation**

The fundamental task of universities is to cultivate morality and cultivate talents. Based on the new era and new journey, it is necessary to cultivate a new generation of people who can fully develop their morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor skills and shoulder the responsibility of national rejuvenation. This has given new connotations and put forward new requirements for moral education and talent cultivation in universities in the new era. Currently, ecological crisis has become a major issue of concern and impact on human lifestyle for all humanity. In the journey of building a modern and beautiful China, integrating the strategic layout of national ecological civilization construction with the growth and development of young people, strengthening ecological civilization education for young people, and improving their ecological civilization awareness, literacy, and ability are the great missions entrusted to universities by the times. Ecological civilization education in universities aims to convey ecological ideas such as socialist ecological civilization concept, ecological

values, ecological livelihood concept, ecological ethics concept, etc., to help college students comprehensively and accurately grasp the relationship between humans and nature, humans and society, and internalize it as their spiritual pursuit. Through ecological civilization education, young college students can firmly establish the ecological concept of respecting nature, conforming to nature, and protecting nature, as well as the development consciousness of adhering to scientific and green development, achieving harmonious development between humans and nature, and sustainable development of human society. They can learn to use overall thinking methods, systematically and comprehensively understand ecology, coordinate resources, shape safety, and master the internal mechanism of ecological civilization, Cut off the linkage logic of ecological risks, promote the construction of ecological civilization, and strive to build a modern harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

### **3. The Realistic Dilemma of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities**

To build a Chinese path to modernization in which man and nature coexist harmoniously, we must strengthen ecological civilization education and cultivate modern citizens with ecological civilization literacy. However, as the main battlefield for cultivating modern citizens with ecological civilization literacy, universities also face many practical difficulties in showcasing the spirit of the times and promoting reform and innovation in ecological civilization education.

#### **3.1. Insufficient Supply of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities**

If ecological civilization education prospers, then ecological civilization construction prospers. However, relevant survey data shows that in recent years, the supply of ecological civilization education in Chinese universities has been insufficient. Firstly, the curriculum of ecological civilization education in universities is insufficient. In addition to the courses on ecological civilization education offered in the majors of environment and resource protection and ideological and political education, many majors such as medicine, engineering, and art have fewer courses related to ecological civilization education, which seriously undermines the knowledge of ecological civilization education for students in these majors in the classroom. Secondly, the concept and methods of ecological civilization education in universities lack systematicity and innovation. Due to insufficient emphasis on ecological civilization education in some universities and inadequate research on the concepts and methods of ecological civilization education by relevant teaching and research departments, the concepts and methods of ecological civilization education in universities lack systematicity and innovation, and cannot meet the practical requirements of ecological civilization construction in China. Finally, the content of ecological civilization education in universities needs to be further deepened. At present, the content of ecological civilization education in universities is still limited to the popularization of environmental knowledge, warning of environmental crises, and other aspects. The content system is relatively shallow, lacking the integration of deep ecological civilization education and values. It has not effectively integrated ecological civilization education with professional education, resulting in poor effectiveness of ecological civilization education.

#### **3.2. The Faculty of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities Needs to Be Optimized**

The teaching staff is the key body for universities to promote ecological civilization education, and plays an important role in improving the ecological civilization literacy of college students. But currently, the teaching staff of universities is not sufficient to meet the needs of ecological civilization education. Firstly, the professional background of ecological civilization education teachers in universities is relatively single. The main teachers of ecological civilization

education in universities are ideological and political course teachers or environmental and resource protection professional teachers, which have problems such as insufficient practical experience and weak leading and demonstration roles. It is difficult to have a theoretical foundation that combines multiple disciplines, and it is difficult to meet the requirements of ecological civilization education for university teachers in the new era. Secondly, the structure of the teaching staff is relatively single. Due to the wide range of disciplines involved in ecological civilization education, there is a shortage of "dual teacher" teachers with interdisciplinary backgrounds in environmental science, education, management, economics, and rich practical experience. This leads to a huge gap in the structure of the teaching staff of ecological civilization education in existing universities compared to the needs of ecological civilization construction. Thirdly, the number of teaching staff is limited. Due to the late start of ecological civilization education in Chinese universities and the high professional requirements for teachers engaged in ecological civilization education, the number of teachers in ecological civilization education in China is seriously insufficient.

### **3.3. Some Teachers Lack Motivation for Ecological Civilization Education**

Against the backdrop of the continuous inclusion of ecological civilization education as an important part of education and teaching in various universities in China, professional course teachers lack motivation for ecological civilization education. Firstly, the top-level design of the school is not reasonable enough. For many years, universities have placed greater emphasis on the cultivation of professional knowledge when formulating student training programs, with little involvement in the construction of ecological civilization education; Some universities only place the requirements for ecological civilization education on documents, resulting in professional course teachers not paying enough attention to the implementation of ecological civilization education and teaching. Secondly, the evaluation system for teachers in universities is not perfect. For a long time, the evaluation of teachers by universities has mostly ignored the evaluation of the actual effectiveness of classroom teaching, and focused more on scientific research evaluation, with a greater emphasis on the quantity, level, and quality of research topics and papers at different levels. The evaluation system of "emphasizing scientific research and neglecting teaching" has become mainstream, leading to teachers being unwilling to invest more energy and dedication in teaching, and their enthusiasm for participating in ecological civilization education is not enough. Finally, the incentive mechanism for ecological civilization education teachers in universities is not perfect. For most professional course teachers, they are able to attach importance to ecological civilization education and teaching in a short period of time under various external incentive factors. However, if there is no sustained incentive mechanism in the long term, it will lead to phenomena such as passive work or dealing with tasks.

### **3.4. The Linkage Mechanism of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities is Not Sound**

The current ecological civilization education in universities is not closely related to family education and social education for college students, and the linkage mechanism between the three is not yet sound. Ecological civilization education in universities emphasizes knowledge transmission and neglects social practice. Due to the fragmentation of ecological civilization education, family education, and social education, college students lack a thorough understanding of the theory of ecological civilization education, making it difficult to understand the importance and value of ecological civilization construction in China. It is also difficult to properly handle the relationship between environmental protection and economic development in future work, resulting in low participation in environmental protection and weak sense of responsibility for environmental protection, which to some extent affects the development of ecological civilization construction in China. On the other hand, in the current

ecological civilization education in universities, the linkage mechanism between traditional education and digital information education models and methods is not smooth. The current ecological civilization education in universities still adopts traditional teaching methods, and the dissemination of ecological civilization education knowledge is still carried out through classroom teaching, resulting in students' understanding of ecological civilization concepts, ecological ethics, and other ecological civilization education knowledge far inferior to the teaching effectiveness under the background of digital and information-based teaching. Therefore, while traditional education models and methods still have their advantages, ecological civilization education in universities should reflect the characteristics of the Internet era such as interaction and sharing, making the linkage mechanism between traditional education and digital information education models and methods more efficient, and more conducive to strengthening the teaching effectiveness of ecological civilization education.

#### **4. Optimization Paths for Ecological Civilization Education in Universities in the New Era**

Strengthening ecological civilization education in universities in the new era is a long-term task and systematic project. It should focus on increasing the supply of ecological civilization education in universities, optimizing the teaching staff of ecological civilization education in universities, and improving the linkage mechanism of ecological civilization education in universities. This will contribute to effectively enhancing the effectiveness of ecological civilization education in universities, strengthening the ecological civilization awareness of college students, and building a beautiful China.

##### **4.1. Increase the Supply of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities**

In order to better meet the national strategic requirements of socialist ecological civilization construction with Chinese characteristics in the new era and cultivate qualified builders and successors for the modernization of harmonious development between humans and nature, universities should increase the effective supply of ecological civilization education. Firstly, increase the curriculum of ecological civilization education in universities. In addition to offering ecological civilization education courses for majors related to environmental and resource protection and ecological civilization construction, courses related to ecological civilization education should also be included in other majors such as medicine, engineering, art, etc., so that students in these majors can not only master the knowledge of their respective fields in the classroom, but also be familiar with the knowledge of ecological civilization education. Secondly, promote the systematic and innovative concept and methods of ecological civilization education in universities. Universities should strengthen their emphasis on ecological civilization education, organize relevant teaching and research departments to strengthen research on the concepts and methods of ecological civilization education, promote systematic and innovative construction of the concepts and methods of ecological civilization education in universities, and meet the practical requirements of ecological civilization construction in China. Finally, deepen the content of ecological civilization education in universities. The content of ecological civilization education in universities should not only focus on the popularization of environmental knowledge and warning of environmental crises, but also increase the integration of deep ecological civilization education and values, organically integrating ecological civilization education with professional education, and improving the effectiveness of ecological civilization education.

## 4.2. Optimize the Teaching Staff of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities

High quality ecological civilization education has put forward new requirements for the construction of teaching staff. To achieve the transformation of ecological civilization education in universities, efforts should be made to optimize the teaching staff of ecological civilization education in universities. Firstly, we should rely on the construction of ideological and political education and environmental protection majors in higher education institutions, strengthen the cooperation between professional teachers and research teams, and continuously carry out various forms of ecological civilization education and training, so that teachers can broaden their horizons in ecological civilization education, possess interdisciplinary holistic thinking, continuously improve educational content and methods, and lay a solid foundation for ecological civilization education. Secondly, promote the diversification of the teaching staff structure. On the one hand, to cultivate "dual teacher" teachers with interdisciplinary backgrounds in environmental science, education, management, economics, and other fields, and rich practical experience, in order to change the phenomenon of a single teaching staff structure. On the other hand, strengthen the ecological civilization literacy of teachers themselves. Only by strengthening the ecological civilization literacy of teachers themselves can they serve as role models for demonstration and promotion, and gain emotional and psychological recognition from students. The effectiveness of ecological civilization education requires a process of digestion, absorption, or transformation from the outside to the inside, which plays an important role in the learning and imitation of educators. Compared to the ecological civilization education conducted by teachers in the classroom, students often care more about the teacher's own understanding and attitude towards ecological civilization. Thirdly, promote the collective training and joint cultivation of professional course teachers, research teams, counselors, and other ecological civilization education teaching, forming an overall synergy of ecological civilization education in universities.

## 4.3. Activate the Motivation of Professional Course Teachers for Ecological Civilization Education

Under the background of ideological and political education, every professional course teacher is an important participant in the construction of ecological civilization education, and it is necessary to fully play the positive role of professional course teachers. Firstly, strengthen the top-level system design of the school and improve the collaborative education management system with multiple departments. When formulating student training programs, universities should not only focus on cultivating students' professional knowledge, but also pay attention to the content of ecological civilization education; Universities should not only focus on documents in the construction of ecological civilization education, but also incorporate the work content of professional course teachers in teaching, scientific research, management, training, and other aspects into the important content of ecological civilization education. Secondly, improve the rating system for university teachers. Universities should implement the student-centered approach in evaluating teachers, eliminate the unreasonable phenomenon of relying solely on academic papers, hats, professional titles, academic qualifications, and awards, and link the achievements, progress, and advantages of professional course teachers in ecological civilization education construction with performance-based salaries and professional title evaluations. This will stimulate teachers' enthusiasm for participating in ecological civilization education construction from multiple aspects. Finally, improve the incentive mechanism for ecological civilization education teachers in universities. Universities should not only provide regular financial, personnel, and technical support to professional course teachers who have achieved outstanding results in ecological civilization education construction, but also commend them, so as to stimulate the enthusiasm of professional course

teachers to invest in ecological civilization education from multiple perspectives such as material and spiritual incentives.

#### **4.4. Improve the Linkage Mechanism of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities**

Establish a linkage mechanism between ecological civilization education, family education, and social education in universities. The effectiveness of ecological civilization education not only depends on the teaching quality of ecological civilization education in universities, but also closely related to family education and social education. Family education can enhance the effectiveness of ecological civilization education in universities. For example, family education can guide college students in green consumption concepts and actions, cultivate environmentally friendly lifestyles such as low-carbon actions and garbage classification, enhance their understanding and practice of ecological civilization education theory and knowledge, and thus enhance the effectiveness of ecological civilization education in universities. Social education, such as college students participating in environmental protection actions, can enhance their awareness of environmental protection and enhance their sense of mission and responsibility in ecological civilization construction in environmental protection practices. Only by organically combining ecological civilization education, family education, and social education in universities can the effectiveness of ecological civilization education in universities be significant, and qualified builders and successors be cultivated for the modern new pattern of harmonious development between humans and nature. On the other hand, in ecological civilization education in universities, the advantages of traditional education and digital information education models and methods should be fully utilized to promote the establishment of a linkage mechanism between the two. While strengthen the linkage and integration between traditional teaching models and digital information teaching models and methods in ecological civilization education in universities. By establishing various means and forms of linkage mechanisms, we can effectively integrate ecological civilization education resources, form an effective integration of schools, families, and society in ecological civilization education, and promote the formation of ecological civilization literacy and values among college students.

### **5. Conclusion**

Ecological civilization education is an important link in achieving ecological civilization construction, and also an important aspect of achieving the fundamental task of cultivating talents through moral education. To promote the effectiveness of ecological civilization education in universities, it is not only necessary to increase the supply of ecological civilization education in universities, but also to optimize the teaching staff of ecological civilization education in universities, activate the motivation of professional course teachers for ecological civilization education, and improve the linkage mechanism of ecological civilization education in universities. This will improve the ecological civilization literacy of college students and help the development of ecological civilization construction in the new era.

### **Acknowledgments**

This work is supported by Anhui University of Finance and Economics Teaching Research Project, "Research on Teaching Reform and Practice of Environmental Law under the Background of Xi Jinping's Legal Governance Thought" (Grant No.: acjydz2023004).

## References

- [1] Central Propaganda Department of the Communist Party of China, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China. Xi Jinping's Outline for Studying Ecological Civilization Thought [M]. Beijing: Learning Press, 2022:92.
- [2] Xi Jinping. Holding High the Great Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Uniting for the Comprehensive Construction of a Socialist Modernized Country: Report at the 20th National Congress of the CPC [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2022:23.
- [3] Xu Fenghua, Yan Lingnan. Research on Ecological Civilization Education Reform Based on Ecological Justice [J]. Modern Education Management, 2023 (6): 40-49.
- [4] Guo Yongyuan. Comprehensively Strengthening Ecological Civilization Education in the New Era [N]. Guangming Daily, June 30, 2022 (6).
- [5] Niu Jianping The practical approach to youth ecological civilization education [J]. People's Forum, 2022 (22): 98-100.
- [6] Nie Yuqing, Du Huanzheng Theoretical exploration and practical path of strengthening ecological civilization education in universities under the "dual carbon" goal [J]. Contemporary Education Forum, 2023.
- [7] Yan Wenjing, Han Jun. The Value Demands and Path Choices of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities in the New Era [J]. School Party Building and Ideological Education, 2023 (7): 91-93.
- [8] Hu Jian, Yang Jianguo. The Realistic Difficulties and Solutions of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities [J]. China Higher Education, 2019 (22): 49-50.
- [9] Wu Xiaoyan. Ecological Civilization Education in Universities: Realistic Problems and Path Exploration [J]. People's Forum • Academic Frontiers, 2019 (7): 78-83.
- [10] Luo Qing, Liu Xingeng. The ideological path of ecological civilization education for college students [J]. Guangxi Social Sciences, 2017 (12): 197-201.
- [11] Huang Zhihai. Exploration of the Current Situation and Countermeasures of Ecological Civilization Education in Universities [J]. Guangxi Social Sciences, 2018 (12): 230-232.
- [12] Wang Fengbo. Ecological Civilization Education in Universities Based on the Concept of "Beautiful China" [J]. School Party Building and Ideological Education, 2020 (4): 79-80.
- [13] Xu Fenghua, Yan Lingnan. Research on Ecological Civilization Education Reform Based on Ecological Justice [J]. Modern Education Management, 2023 (6): 40-49.
- [14] Yue Wei, Chen Junyuan. Practice and Future Prospects of Environmental and Ecological Civilization Education in China [J]. Journal of Education Science, Hunan Normal University, 2022 (2): 1-9.