

Stepping Lightly in Atlanta Awards Contest™



KEEP ATLANTA BEAUTIFUL

CALLING FOR ENTRIES!!

Our **ecological footprint** tells us how much land and water we need to live. If it's too big, it means there may not be enough to go around. That's why it's so important to step lightly, for Atlanta and for our planet.

This **Earth Day**, tell us how lightly YOU will step by submitting a project that shows how you have reduced your ecological footprint in your home, classroom, school or community.

Go to www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org for contest details, rules and entry forms. Open to all youth aged 5-18. Includes public and private schools, home schools, clubs and organizations in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MARCH 26, 2010

In Partnership With:





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 1, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Stepping Lightly in Atlanta Awards Contest

Calling for Student Entries

Atlanta's future leaders are invited to demonstrate environmental stewardship projects by entering the Stepping Lightly in Atlanta™ Awards Contest. Keep Atlanta Beautiful is now calling for entries from individual students or student groups aged 5-18. The contest is held in conjunction with the Keep Atlanta Beautiful ~ Earth Day Celebration and is an environmental stewardship-based competition. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to go towards an environmental project or club in the winner's school or affiliated organization. This competition is tied to the Georgia Performance Standards.

The goal of the Stepping Lightly in Atlanta™ Awards Contest is to empower students to be advocates for a sustainable environment in their own community. Students are invited to submit entries for model projects that demonstrate how they have reduced their ecological footprint in their home, class, school or community. Students can choose from a variety of environmental issues to concentrate on such as water conservation, waste reduction, energy and transportation.

Eligible participants must reside in one of the following counties in the Atlanta Metropolitan area as defined by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC): Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Rockdale.

Guidelines and applications for the Stepping Lightly in Atlanta™ Awards Contest are available at www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org. Entries must be submitted by March 26, 2010.

###

Competition Guidelines

Keep Atlanta Beautiful is calling for entries for the 2010 Stepping Lightly in Atlanta™ Awards Contest, an environmental stewardship-based contest for individual and groups aged 5-18.

The goal of the Stepping Lightly in Atlanta Awards Contest is to empower students to be stewards and advocates for a sustainable environment in their home, class, school or community. Students can choose a variety of environmental issues to concentrate on, see “Environmental Topics and Resources” page or visit www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org for ideas.

Instructions for Entry

1

Fill out the entry form. Enter as an **Individual or a Group**. “Groups” include public and private schools, home schools, clubs and organizations. Complete the appropriate Entry Form and be sure to answer each question (typed or legibly written in ink.) Have an adult fill out the Participation & Media Release Form.

2

Choose an environmental issue to focus on. Study the issue and learn why it is important in Atlanta. See the “Resources” section in this package or www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org for project ideas. The competition encourages projects that are innovative, action-oriented, place-based (your community), successful and repeatable. Be sure to review the “Judging Criteria” below.

3

Submit your entry and all supporting material: Entries must be RECEIVED by Friday, April 3rd at 4:30 pm, by mail, email or by hand-delivery. Entries received past the deadline, lost in the mail or email are not the responsibility of Keep Atlanta Beautiful and will not be considered.

Contest Details

Eligibility: Participation is open to all students and youth aged 5-18 in the Atlanta metropolitan area. This includes: public and private schools, home schools, clubs and organizations. Eligible participants must reside in one of the following counties in the Atlanta Metropolitan area as defined by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC): Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Rockdale.

Supporting materials: All entrants will be required to submit a DVD of **no longer than two minutes** that illustrates the project in action. This DVD must be in .flv, .wmv, .asf, .avi, .mov, .3gp, .mpg, .mpeg, or .mp4 format, 100 MB limit and will become the property of Keep Atlanta Beautiful. **No project will be considered complete without this.** Entrants are also encouraged to include supporting materials such as photographs and artwork. While we encourage electronic submissions via email and on CD's, you may submit artwork and brochures in hard copy. However, the entire application must be submitted all together. All entries become property of Keep Atlanta Beautiful.

Judging Criteria:

1. **Project Choice:** Student(s) chose a project that creatively addressed an environmental issue in Atlanta.
2. **Project Success:** Student(s) were able to show how their project helped improve Atlanta's environment.
3. **Student Involvement and Understanding:** Student(s) led the planning, completing and documenting for the project.
4. **Outreach:** Student(s) strived to educate others in their community about the issue.
5. **Presentation:** Student(s) provided a clear, concise overview of the project with supporting materials.
6. **DVD:** Student(s) were able to visually communicate their project through a DVD, which will be no longer than two minutes.

Prizes: Winners will be notified in April 2010. Judges will select a Grand Prize Winner, as well as group and individual category winners for K-5th grade, 6th-8th and 9th-12th grade. **A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to the Grand Prize winner to be used for an environmental project at their school or affiliated club.** Group winners from each grade category will receive a framed Atlanta City Council proclamation of environmental stewardship. Individual winners will receive a framed certificate. All students whose entries are submitted will receive a free pass to Zoo Atlanta.

WSB-TV People's Choice Award: The top twelve finalists as selected by the judges will have their projects displayed on WSB-TV's Going Green Georgia Website, where site visitors can vote for their favorite project. Winners will receive a framed certificate.

SAMPLE

2009 Stepping Light in Atlanta Competition
Judging sheet

School/Group Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Please rate the entries according to the following point scale:

Fair
2

Average
3

Good
4

Exceptional
5

		Points awarded
Choice		
<i>-innovative</i>		
The students use a creative solution or an innovative use of resources to address an environmental issue. (5 points)		
<i>-researched</i>		
Students research the problem and its application to the metro Atlanta area. (5 points)		
Success		
<i>-beneficial</i>		
Students clearly discuss how the project will help improve Atlanta's environment. (5 points)		
<i>-measurable</i>		
Students are able to show a measurable impact on an environmental issue in the Atlanta metro area. (5 points)		
Student Involvement and Understanding		
<i>-student driven</i>		
Students are instrumental in the development, design, and implementation of the project. (5 points)		
<i>-student understanding</i>		
Students show a thorough understanding of the subject matter and how their project fits into the "big picture". (5 points)		
Outreach		
<i>-educational</i>		
The project promotes public awareness of the environmental issue. (5 points)		
<i>-scale</i>		
The project is ambitious, shows a link to community partnerships, or is self-sustaining. (5 points)		
Presentation		
<i>-overview</i>		
Students provide a clear and concise overview of the project in which they describe the goals of the project as well as why goals were or were not achieved. (5 points)		
<i>-supporting materials</i>		
Supporting materials provide clear and appropriate documentation of the project. (5 points)		
<i>-DVD</i>		
No longer than 2 minutes (5 points)		
Judges Total		

Comments:



Student Entry Form: **INDIVIDUAL**

Eligible applicants include all students and youth aged 5-18 in the Atlanta metropolitan area. (See "competition guidelines" section under "eligibility" for geographical definition.) Make additional copies of this form if needed.

Please check one: **K- 5th grade** **6th-8th** **9th-12th grade**

Name of sponsoring adult:

Sponsor phone number:

Sponsor email:

Sponsor mailing address (street, city, state, zip):

Name of school or organization (If you are not sponsored by a school or organization, please list the school or organization to receive any prize money that might be awarded):

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Limit of 2 pages, total. Entrants are encouraged to include supporting materials. Entrants are required to submit a DVD of no longer than two minutes to show their project in action. **No project will be considered complete without this.** This DVD must be in .flv, .wmv, .asf, .avi, .mov, .3gp, .mpg, .mpeg, or .mp4 format, 100 MB limit and will become the property of Keep Atlanta Beautiful. While we encourage electronic submissions via email or on CD, you may submit artwork and brochures in hard copy. However, the entire application **must** be submitted all together.

- 1. Describe your project.** *What was the environmental issue? What were the project goals? Where did the project take place? What was the time involved?*
- 2. What was your role in this project?**
- 3. How does your project benefit Atlanta's environment and your community? Be specific!** *What did your project improve? How do you know that you made a difference? How did you meet your project goals?*
- 4. To what extent did your project involve the community? How did you communicate your message to the community?** *For example: assemblies, bulletin announcements, videos, brochures, newsletters, posters, skits, plays, speakers, articles and letters to the editor.*
- 5. Can this project be continued or repeated in the future? Please explain.**
- 6. What have you learned from doing this project?**

**DEADLINE: Friday
March 26, 2010, 4:30
p.m. by mail, e-mail or
hand-delivery.**

Mail completed form (and supplemental info or artwork) to:

Keep Atlanta Beautiful: Stepping Lightly in Atlanta Awards Contest
855 Peachtree St., Suite 1602
Atlanta, GA 30308

Or email to: peggy.denby@keepatlantabeautiful.org

Questions? Call Peggy Denby at 404-249-5853 email peggy.denby@keepatlantabeautiful.org



Student Entry Form: **GROUP**

Eligible applicants include all students and youth aged 5-18 in the Atlanta metropolitan area. (See "competition guidelines" section under "eligibility" for geographical definition.) Make additional copies of this form if needed.

Please check one: **K- 5th grade** **6th-8th** **9th-12th grade**

Name of sponsoring adult:

Sponsor phone number:

Sponsor email:

Sponsor mailing address (street, city, state, zip):

Name of school or organization (If you are not sponsored by a school or organization, please list the school or organization to receive any prize money that might be awarded):

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Limit of 2 pages, total. Entrants are encouraged to include supporting materials. Entrants are required to submit a DVD of no longer than two minutes to show their project in action. **No project will be considered complete without this.** This DVD must be in .flv, .wmv, .asf, .avi, .mov, .3gp, .mpg, .mpeg, or .mp4 format, 100 MB limit and will become the property of Keep Atlanta Beautiful. While we encourage electronic submissions via email or on CD, you may submit artwork and brochures in hard copy. However, the entire application **must** be submitted all together.

1. Describe your project. *What was the environmental issue? What were the project goals? Where did the project take place? What was the time involved?*

2. What role did the students play in this project?

3. How does your project benefit Atlanta's environment and your community? Be specific! *What did your project improve? How do you know that you made a difference? How did you meet your project goals?*

4. To what extent did your project involve the community, and how did you communicate your message to the community? *For example: assemblies, bulletin announcements, videos, brochures, newsletters, posters, skits, plays, speakers, articles, and letters to an editor.*

5. Can this project be continued or repeated in the future? Please explain.

6. What have you learned from doing this project?

**DEADLINE: Friday
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Participation and Media Release Form

(This form must be completed by EACH participating student and returned with the Entry Form)

My child _____ (print name) at _____ (name of school/organization) will participate in the Stepping Lightly in Atlanta Awards Contest.

Student's Grade (please check one): ___ K- 5th grade ___ 6th-8th ___ 9th-12th grade

Name of School or organization:

Name of Teacher or sponsoring adult:

Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian:

Address, City, State and Zip Code:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Alternate number:

Best time to reach you:

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

DATE

Media Release for Minors

As the parent or legal guardian, I give Keep Atlanta Beautiful permission to use the photographs, video footage, writings or drawings submitted in the student's application and photographs of my child taken in conjunction with the Keep Atlanta Beautiful Earth Day Celebration for promotional purposes and for educational purposes. I understand that I will not receive any compensation for the use of such photographs.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

DATE

Environmental Topics and Resources

Waste Reduction: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

In 2006, United States residents, businesses, and institutions produced more than 251 million tons of garbage, which is approximately **4.6 pounds of garbage per person per day!** That's a lot of waste! You can help make a positive change by consuming and throwing away less, reusing products you already have, and recycling as much as possible.

Project Ideas:

- There are many different projects that a class or individual can implement. Ideas for curriculum and activities on solid waste management can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>.
- In Georgia, food waste makes up the largest fraction of disposed waste (learn more about the state of waste in Georgia by checking out the GA Statewide Waste Characterization Study: www.dca.state.ga.us/development/EnvironmentalManagement/publications/GeorgiaMSWCharacterizationStudy.pdf)
- As an alternative to going in the trash, create a compost bin! www.epa.gov/compost/

Energy/Alternative Transportation

Energy plays an important role in living lighter on the earth. When fossil fuels are burned for energy they emit "greenhouse gases," which become trapped in our atmosphere. These gases contribute to an overall warming of the earth, or climate change (<http://epa.gov/climatechange/index.html>). Transportation also plays a big part in the amount of energy that we consume and the amount of greenhouse gasses that we emit. In 2006, the Department of Energy estimated that transportation amounted for 28% of the total energy consumed, by sector. By finding alternative modes of transportation, like riding bikes, walking, or taking a bus or train, we can lessen our transportation-related impacts.

Project Ideas:

- Project ideas, including how to perform an emissions inventory at your school, can be found at: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/school.html>.
- The website, "Kilowatt Ours," has energy-related curriculum (<http://www.kilowattours.org/curriculum/>).
- Programs like the "Walking School Bus" (www.walkingschoolbus.org/) allow you to be healthy and live lighter. Maybe you can start something similar at your school?

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

Indoor air pollution can be 2 to 5 times as great as outdoor air pollution. In schools, poor indoor air quality (IAQ) can lead to absenteeism, poor concentration, decreased productivity and performance, increased respiratory illnesses and the presence of asthma triggers. IAQ is something every school, teacher, parent and student should be concerned about!

Project Ideas:

- Locate contributors to indoor air pollution in your school or recreation center. Develop a plan to address those factors or add features to the space that promote good air quality. EPA has compiled IAQ information, curricula and lesson plan ideas at: www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/teachers.html

Environmental Topics and Resources (cont'd)

Water Conservation / Green Storm Water Management

Georgia is experiencing a historic drought. At the same time, Atlanta's population is growing rapidly, putting more demand on the rain that we do receive. It is critical to conserve every drop of water that we can and to try to manage the rain that does fall on-site; we need it here in Atlanta - no use sending it to the storm sewers!

Project Ideas:

- We can use green storm water management (also known as green infrastructure) techniques to collect the water that falls on our property.
- You could build and decorate rain barrels and use the water for landscaping or washing cars?
- Maybe even build a rain garden to collect the water that falls and allow it to soak into the ground (http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298)!

Agriculture and School Gardens

Do you know where your food comes from? Most likely, it traveled over 1,500 miles, and used extensive amounts of energy, water, pesticides and fertilizers to reach your plate. However, by growing our own food and buying from local farmers markets, we can make more sustainable food choices.

Project Ideas:

- Plant an organic school garden (www.kidsgardening.org/) – and use a rain barrel to provide it with water. School gardens can be integrated into the educational curriculum to teach children not only about plants, but about other subjects as well. Gardens can also teach about history, economics, poetry, science, and math.
- Use food waste to generate compost for the garden (www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/composting/index.htm).
- Take trips to local farms and farmers markets or have farmers talk to classes to teach the importance of sustainable agriculture. See the Local Food Guide at www.georgiaorganics.org.
- Create a recipe book about healthy snacks that use local ingredients. Talk to your principal and food service providers at school about buying local foods.
- Try eating only food grown within 100 miles of your house for a day or a week and write about your experiences. See georgiaorganics.org or www.foodroutes.org.

Native Landscaping / Beautification / Habitat Restoration

Traditional landscaping with turf grass is economically and environmentally costly. However, native plants provide a beautiful, hardy, drought resistant, and low maintenance landscape while benefiting the environment (www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/owners.htm). By replacing concrete and turf grass with a garden or natural area, we improve air and water quality, and provide beautification and habitat benefits. The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign's Landscape and Human Health Laboratory has also found that a green setting reduces attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms (www.lhhl.uiuc.edu/adhd.htm). Their current research is exploring the effects of schoolyard nature on a child's capacity to learn. Going green is a win-win!

Project Ideas:

- Plant a school or recreation center garden.
- Make a site more attractive and help bring back a piece of urban ecological habitat. Educate others on the benefits.
- Learn more and teach others about the plants native to Georgia by visiting the Georgia Native Plants Society website (<http://www.gnps.org/resources/schoolyardnational.html>). The schoolyard gardening resources section provides extensive information.

Additional Resources

Calculators

When appropriate to the project, applicants should try to quantify the environmental benefits achieved. The following calculators may be useful:

Individual Emissions Calculator:

—> <http://epa.gov/climatechange/index.html>

GHG Emissions and Energy Savings from different solid waste management scenarios:

—> http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/calculators/Warm_Form.html

Environmental Benefits of Recycling:

—> www.nerc.org/documents/environmental_benefits_calculator.html

Ecological Footprint Calculator:

—> www.myfootprint.org

Atlanta Area Resources

Georgia Green and Health Schools —> www.greenandhealthy.org

Clean Air Campaign —> www.cleanaircampaign.com/

Georgia Native Plants Society —> www.gnps.org

Georgia Organics —> www.georgiaorganics.org/

Water Smart —> www.watersmart.net/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Resources

Publications from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can be downloaded or ordered, free of charge.

—> www.epa.gov/nscep/

Publications specific for teachers:

—> www.epa.gov/teachers/order-publications.htm

K-12 Lesson Plans from Earth Day Network and Redefining Progress

These lesson plans have been created by **Earth Day Network** and **Redefining Progress** as an additional resource to help you in your classroom on Earth Day or any day:

—> www.earthday.net/programs/teachers/default.aspx

—> www.rprogress.org/education/lesson_plans.htm

Other Notable Organizations and Resources:

Center for Ecoliteracy —> www.ecoliteracy.org/index.html

Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education —> www.sustainabilityed.org/index.php

Sustainability Education Guide —> ceres.ca.gov/tcsf/seg/seg.pdf

Green Schools *Initiative* —> www.greenschools.net/

Roots and Shoots —> www.rootsandshoots.org/

Sustainability Education Handbook Resource Guide for k-12 teachers:

—> www.urbanoptions.org/learnmore/sustainable-education-handbook

Georgia Performance Standards

The Stepping Lightly in Atlanta Awards Contest can be aligned with many of the Georgia Performance Standards. Some suggestions are listed below.

Kindergarten – Grade 12

SKCS1, S1CS1, S2CS1, S3CS1, S4CS1, S5CS1, S6CSI, S7CSI, S8SCI, S9CSI

Students will be aware of curiosity, honesty, openness and skepticism in science and will exhibit traits in their own efforts to understand how the world works.

SKCS5, S1CS5, S2CS5, S3CS5, S4CS5, S5CS5

Students will communicate ideas and activities clearly.

Grade 2

S2E3. Students will observe and record changes in their surroundings and infer the causes of the changes.

Grade 3

S3L1. Students will investigate the habitats of different organisms and the dependence of organisms on their habitat.

- a. Differentiate between habitats of Georgia (mountains, marsh/swamp, coast, Piedmont, Atlantic Ocean) and the organisms that live there.
- b. Identify features of green plants that allow them to live and thrive in different regions of Georgia.
- c. Identify features of animals that allow them to live and thrive in different regions of Georgia.
- d. Explain what will happen to an organism if the habitat is changed.

S3L2. Students will recognize the effects of pollution and humans on the environment.

- a. Explain the effects of pollution (such as littering) to the habitats of plants and animals.
- b. Identify ways to protect the environment.
 - Conservation of resources
 - Recycling of materials

Grade 4:

S4L1. Students will describe the roles of organisms and the flow of energy within an ecosystem.

- a. Identify the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers in a community.
- b. Demonstrate the flow of energy through a food web/food chain beginning with sunlight and including producers, consumers, and decomposers.
- c. Predict how changes in the environment would affect a community (ecosystem) of organisms.
- d. Predict effects on a population if some of the plants or animals in the community are scarce or if there are too many.

Georgia Performance Standards (cont'd)

Grade 5:

S5L4. Students will relate how microorganisms benefit or harm larger organisms.

- a. Identify beneficial microorganisms and explain why they are beneficial.
- b. Identify harmful microorganisms and explain why they are harmful.

Grade 6:

S6E6. Students will describe various sources of energy, and with their uses, and conservation.

Grade 7:

S7L4. Students will examine the dependence of organisms on one another and their environments.

- a. Demonstrate in a food web that matter is transferred from one organism to another and can recycle between organisms and their environments.
- b. Explain in a food web that sunlight is the source of energy and that this energy moves from organism to organism.
- c. Recognize that changes in environmental conditions can affect the survival of both individuals and entire species.
- d. Categorize relationships between organisms that are competitive or mutually beneficial.
- e. Describe the characteristics of Earth's major terrestrial biomes (i.e. tropical rain forest, savannah, temperate, desert, taiga, tundra, and mountain) and aquatic communities (i.e. freshwater, estuaries, and marine).

Grade 8:

S8P2. Students will be familiar with the forms and transformations of energy.

Grades 9-12:

Biology

SB2. Students will assess the dependence of all organisms on one another and the flow of energy and matter within their ecosystems.

- a. Investigate the relationships among organisms, populations, communities, ecosystems, and biomes.
- b. Explain the flow of matter and energy through ecosystems by
 - Arranging components of a food chain according to energy flow.
 - Comparing the quantity of energy in the steps of an energy pyramid.
 - Explaining the need for cycling of major nutrients (C, O, H, N, P).
- c. Relate environmental conditions to succession changes in ecosystems.
- d. Assess and explain human activities that influence and modify the environment such as global warming, population growth, pesticide use, and water and power consumption.
- e. Relate plant adaptations, including tropisms, to the ability to survive stressful environmental conditions.
- f. Relate animal adaptations, including behaviors, to the ability to survive stressful environmental conditions.

Physical Science

SPS7. Students will relate transformations and flow of energy within a system.

- a. Identify energy transformations within a system (e.g. lighting of a match).

Georgia Performance Standards (cont'd)

Chemistry

SC7. Students will characterize the properties that describe solutions and the nature of acids and bases.

Environmental Science

SEV1. Students will investigate the flow of energy and cycling of matter within an ecosystem and relate these phenomena to human society.

SEV2. Students will demonstrate an understanding that the Earth is one interconnected system.

SEV3. Students will describe stability and change in ecosystems.

SEV4. Students will understand and describe availability, allocation and conservation of energy and other resources

SEV5. Students will recognize that human beings are part of the global ecosystem and will evaluate the effects of human activities and technology on ecosystems.

Anatomy and Physiology

SAP4. Students will analyze the physical, chemical, and biological properties of process systems as these relate to transportation, absorption and excretion, including the cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, excretory and immune systems.

d. Examine various conditions that change normal body functions (e.g. tissue rejection, allergies, injury, diseases and disorders) and how the body responds.

Earth Systems

SES6. Students will explain how life on Earth responds to and shapes Earth systems

Physics

SP3. Students will evaluate the forms and transformations of energy.

Social studies

SS1E2. The student will explain that people have to make choices about goods and services because of scarcity.

Social Studies information processing skills (Grades K-12): Identify issues and/or problems and alternative solutions

SSUSH24. The student will analyze the impact of social change movements and organizations of the 1960s.

e. Explain Rachel Carson and Silent Spring, Earth Day, the creation of the EPA, and the modern environmentalist movement.

SSWG4. The student will describe the interaction of physical and human systems that have shaped contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa.

SSWG8. The student will describe the interaction of physical and human systems that have shaped contemporary Canada and the United States.

g. Analyze how transportation and communications improvements led to the growth of industry in the United States and the consequences of such growth, especially environmentally, for both Canada and the United States.

K-12 Lesson Plan Resources and Links

These lesson plans have been created by **Earth Day Network** and **Redefining Progress** as an additional resource to help you in your classroom on Earth Day or any day! Go to any of the websites below to download the lesson plans in PDF format. Also be sure to check out our **website links**:

—> www.rprogress.org/education/lesson_plans.htm for more information!

This text and following materials have been posted on the City of Atlanta website with permission from

—> Earth Day Network, www.earthday.net and

—> Redefining Progress, www.redefiningprogress.org.

For your convenience, we have provided Picture Files as a supplement for **Food and You**, **The Trash We Pass**, and **Have and Have-Not**.

—> Picture Files, www.redefiningprogress.org/newprograms/sustIndi/education/picturefiles.shtml.

Farm to School

This website provides a variety of lessons on insects, plants, seeds, and soil for all ages. The Growing Minds Program in North Carolina is a model farm to school program.

—> <http://growing-minds.org/lessons.php>

The Trash We Pass

This lesson brings environmental education to middle school (4–7th grade) social studies, math, and science classes by asking students to have fun analyzing garbage and recycling options.

—> www.rprogress.org/education/k-12pdf/thetrashwepass.pdf#search=%22The%20Trash%20We%20Pass%22

Sustainable Dining

Designed for lower high school (7–10th grade) economics, home economics, and general education classes, students will learn about sustainably produced groceries as a valuable and environmentally friendly option for grocery shopping.

—> www.rprogress.org/education/k-12pdf/sustainabledining.pdf#search=%22sustainable%20dining%22

Renewable Energy

In this lesson targeting high school history, science, and math classes, students will analyze the use of energy in their every day lives and consider the advantages and disadvantages of environmentally friendly renewable energy sources.

—> www.rprogress.org/education/k-12pdf/renewableenergy.pdf#search=%22renewable%20energy%22

Ecological Footprint Quiz

An Ecological footprint Quiz is a tool that can be used to estimate the impact each of us has on the planet. The quiz is populated with data such as the impacts of fuel usage and dietary choices so that all you need to provide are answers to a series of basic lifestyle questions to arrive at your ecological footprint and how many planets would be required if everyone lived the way you live.

—> Redefining Progress & Earth Day Network www.myfootprint.org



2009 Finalist Project Descriptions

(for videos of 2009 projects, go to www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org)

Water Conservation—Fayetteville Intermediate School, Gifted and Talented Program—2009 Grand Prize Winner

Third, fourth and fifth grade students in the gifted and talented program at Fayetteville Intermediate School were very concerned with the on-going drought in Georgia and its implications on the state and our community, and wanted to know what they could do to help conserve water and share knowledge with their family and friends. The students decided they would invent a device to put in your toilet tank that would displace the water, thus conserving water with every flush. After testing several devices, the students decided a full water bottle would do the trick. They then partnered with their local Home Depot who supplied water bottles and toilets for demonstrations and allowed them to set up on a Saturday and pass out water bottles and valuable information to the community.

Mrs. Kraften's 1st Grade Organic Garden—Imagine Wesley International Academy—2009 WSB-TV People's Choice Award Winner

Ari is a student in Mrs. Kraften's 1st grade class and a participant in the Urban Organic Garden Project at Imagine Wesley International Academy. The project addressed the environmental issues of waste reduction, water conservation and agriculture and school gardens. The goals were to buy the least amount of materials possible and utilize what found objects, things considered "trash," and use retained rain water as our water source. The project started in Mrs. Kraften's home and was then expanded to each of the 1st grade boys' homes.

Each of the students helped clean up tire waste and wood around East Atlanta as well as caring and tending each of their own gardens. They contribute to the composting efforts weekly with vegetable and fruit trimmings, coffee grinds and egg shells. They also water their gardens with rain water collected in their own rain buckets.

The entire first grade class and their families participated in cleaning up tires and wood scraps in areas of Atlanta. Everything for the project was found or donated with the exception of organic potting soil.

Marist Environmental Club—Marist School—Winner, Grade 9-12

The Marist Environmental Club is working for sustainability in the school and spreading their ideas through the community. The focus has been on a garden, The Green Cup Challenge to reduce energy use at the school, a recycling program and reusable lunch bags.

The garden was designed by Marist mothers, overseen by Marist teachers, and built by Marist students so there is strong community support for the project. The school is redoing the cafeteria to make it more energy efficient and products grown in the Marist garden will be sold in the cafeteria.

The recycling program at Marist reaches into every classroom and helps Marist save tons of paper and plastic products. Additionally, the club is reducing paper bag consumption by selling cloth bags with the Marist Environmental Club logo. Each bag sold is the equivalent of taking 10 cans out of a garbage dump and saving 180 paper bags per year. The club has sold 75 bags, or saved 13,500 paper bags.

Paper Recycling Program—Alfretta Harper Elementary, Harper Explorers—Winner

The idea for the program came when the school participated in Clayton County Public Schools first recycled Christmas tree competition in December of 2008. Interest in reusing everyday items grew when the school placed 2nd in the competition and students thought more on how to expand on the idea. They set a goal to begin a recycling drive and share what they learned with teachers and students. Their first task was to put recycling bins around the school for paper and the Explorers club made hand-painted paper recycling bins. Excitement mounted as they set up an entire week's worth of Harper's Goin' Green" initiatives to raise awareness for the program. Activities included a phone book recycling drive where students and teachers recycled more than 500 telephone books and an educational tips and trivia televised through the schools morning news.