



The Environmental Educator

Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Issue: # 1

Spring 2011



Greetings, fellow educator! Looking forward to spring, we hope this issue provides some great educational resources to supplement your spring semester lessons. We continue to create new resources and provide funding for you and your students, including professional development opportunities. As always, if you think someone else might benefit from this publication, feel free to forward it along.

Thanks,
The Parks & Land Use Education Team

News



**FREE RECYCLING EDUCATION PROGRAMS!
CELEBRATE EARTH DAY THE EASY WAY!**

TWO OPTIONS FOR YOU:

**1) A free field trip to the Waukesha County Materials Recycling Facility
(bus included)**

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Quick Links

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Featured Website
[Mapping World Statistics](#)

Excellent for middle/high school. Use the map to select a subject & watch the country's size change relative to selected data. Topics include people, planet, business, politics and more.



2) We will come & present to your classroom, entire grade or entire school!

Please contact us to set up a presentation today! Call 262-896-8312 or recycling@waukeshacounty.gov

Photo: Brookfield Elementary students created a recycling video and put on an all-school assembly in conjunction with Waukesha County Recycling & its mascot, Recycle Raccoon, to promote the school's recycling program. Now updated with brand new bins purchased through county Green Schools funds, the school reports they have cut their trash in half!



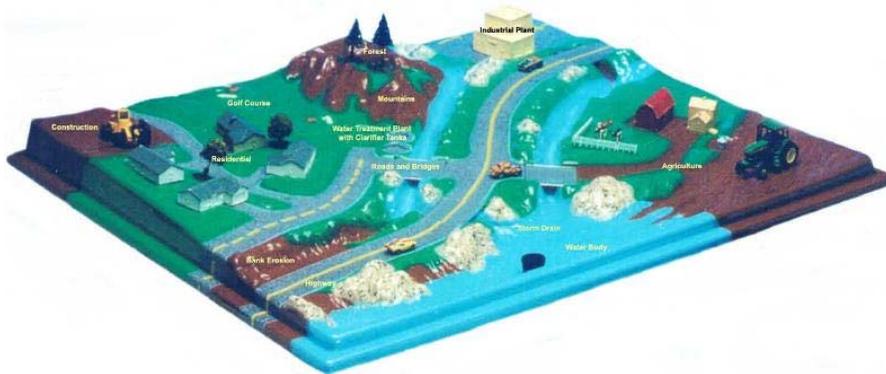
School Milk Carton Recycling Pilot Successfully Reduces Trash!

With the assistance of "motivational recycling parent" Karin Rajnicek, Waukesha STEM Academy students at Randall piloted a milk carton recycling program for one week, resulting in a pleased custodian and impressed lunch room supervisors. John, the

custodian, said he'd never seen such a beneficial reduction of trash with less mess, weight and smell in 11 years on the job. Cartons must be emptied of liquid for recycling, and students enthusiastically did so. The result was diversion of 1442 cartons to the county recycling facility, with an average of 40 lbs. less trash per day. Between the cartons and other recyclables, there was very little trash that needed to be emptied, representing a potential cost savings for the district if fully implemented.

Waukesha County now includes a variety of cartons in their residential program, and is interested in working with Tetrapak & the Carton Council to assist school districts with starting their own programs. For more information, call 262-896-8317.

Presentations



What is a Watershed?

Did you know: We all live in a watershed--even if you are in the desert! Kids love learning about runoff and watersheds with this interactive model. Kids get to add a variety of pollutants to the model and then make it rain to see runoff pollution in action. This presentation works great with 3rd to 5th

Field Trip Opportunities

For when your class wants to be on the go! [Parks](#)

Eble Park and Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arenas offer a great field trip opportunity, all year around.

[Retzer Nature Center](#)

Choose from many different programs. Come to us or we can come to you! Try a "flip-flop" program with the Waukesha School's Planetarium.

[Recycling](#)

Bus Funding Available

Limited school field trip funds are available for bus service to the Materials Recycling Facility. Contact our office for details: 262-896-8317

[Water](#)

Choose a river or stream close to your school and we will meet you there with all the equipment to run your students through stations to test for dissolved oxygen, clarity, temperature, and biotic index. Call 896-8305 to schedule a trip.



graders, but can also be used for older learners. We will bring the model to your classroom---for free! Call 262-896-8305 to schedule.

Teaching *Wood & Paper* or *Trees* FOSS Units?

If you are teaching these FOSS Units or covering these subjects in other curriculum, we can bring activities to your classroom to enhance your lessons. Options include a *What's Made from Trees* game, papermaking (we provide all materials), a video on papermaking and paper recycling, plus samples of paper made from other materials (Elephant dung, papyrus, rice).

Call 262-896-8317 for more information.



Additional Department Programs & Presentations

Each department has unique presentations usually lasting 45 minutes to an hour. We can work with you to make sure the presentations coincide with your curriculum objectives.

[Animal Welfare](#)

Animal bite prevention, humane animal education, humane animal careers.

[Parks](#)

Waukesha County Parks' interactive calendar with a wide variety of monthly events.

[Recycling](#)

Earth Week presentations, Natural Resources, Composting, MS/High School Consumerism lessons & AP-Env Science add-ons. Call 896-8317

[Water](#)

Soils, groundwater, water cycle, storm drain stenciling, water quality testing, and a wide variety of other presentations.

Earth Day

Check out our full week of **FREE** Retzer [Earth Week Activities](#).

Materials & Resources

Classroom Composting Kit: *Great Spring Teaching Tool!*

Whether you are investigating insects or studying soil, this "Rot Is Hot" composting education kit is loaded with fun, engaging materials for lower to middle elementary grades, including lesson plans & copy templates, dvds, books, observation equipment, posters, giveaways and more! Start out with a visit from our



specialist to your classroom for an exciting powerpoint introduction. We'll also bring compost "critters" for students to observe directly (seasonal), then leave the kit with you for 2 weeks. Any teacher in Waukesha County can borrow the kit FREE. For reservations, call 262-896-8317.

Professional Development



**Earn Credits with a Discount This Summer!
Tuition Scholarships Available for our Class:**

Environmental STEM

Waukesha County will be presenting a 4-day session on integrating the best of environmental STEM resources into your curriculum at *Brookfield Central High School* this summer. **Limited tuition scholarships are**

available to teachers who live or teach in Waukesha County. Free registration for the first 20 participants; 2 free grad credits for the first 5 participants; 1 free grad credit for the second 5 participants. For more information, see the [Wisconsin Education Innovations](#) website.

August 1-4

Grades 4-12

3 credits

Environmental STEM Course Description

Are you looking for a way to integrate STEM education into your curriculum? Environmental Education provides a rich foundation for these popular concepts. Join us for a fast paced, community-based environmentally driven integration of science, technology, engineering and math. Ready-to-use and local resources will dominate our emphasis on natural resources, soil and water education. We will also take community field trips to see environmental STEM concepts in the real world and explore local partnerships. Whether you have a little or a lot of experience with environmental education or STEM concepts, this course will increase your knowledge, use and resource base with these important topics taught by local specialists.



Project WET Training--for credit!

Project WET is a national hands-on curriculum supplement designed by teachers. It covers all aspects of water from physical properties to pollution to ethical issues debates. Project WET training will held at Retzer Nature Center on August 25th and 26th. Come only on the 25th for \$25 or come for both days and get one graduate credit for an additional \$90. [See flyer](#)

**Date: August 25 and 26, 2011
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Retzer Nature Center**

Don't want to wait until August? We are offering a workshop in April at Concordia Mequon at the new Center for Environmental studies on April 2nd. This class can also be taken for credit through Concordia. Additional assignments will be made for credit. [See flyer](#)

**Date: April 2nd, 2011
9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Concordia University, Mequon**



Water Monitoring Training

Sign up now to learn how to test a river or stream for dissolved oxygen, clarity temperature, biotic index and flow. Data is collected and shared in a statewide database. All equipment is provided. Training will be held May 14th. Call 262-896-8305 to register.

Date: May 22nd from 8:30 to 2:30