K – 12 Environmental Education Programs, Curricula & Resources

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management (DWM) is proud to offer a range of programs, curricula and resources to support the integration of environmental education into formal and informal learning environments. This document provides an overview of materials and services available free of charge specifically to educators in the K-12 setting. Environmental education programs available through the county seek to connect youth to the natural environment to build awareness of critical issues and motivate participation in conservation-minded behaviors such as waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and saving natural resources used for energy and fuel. It is hoped that by making resources readily available educators can easily access programming that not only meets state education standards but exposes youth to key environmental issues in ways that inspire positive behavior change. For more information please call or email the Clinton County Environmental Educator at 989-224-5177 or conserve@clinton-county.org or visit online at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to be directed to Department of Waste Management Programs.

K-12 Core Program Descriptions

Clinton County DWM has developed a core group of programs that fulfill Michigan Education Content Standards for K-12 grade groups. For information on programs offered including grade level content expectations covered by each program, please call, email or visit online. Program titles are as follows:

• Keeping the Earth Healthy: The Hidden Life of Decomposers
• The Incredible Story of Paper
• Re-Thinking our Lifestyle: Recycling
• The Price We Pay: Using Plastics and Discovering Alternatives
• Developing a School Waste Free Lunch Program
• Green Design

Additional Programs Available

Clinton County DWM can work with educators to develop unique programming to meet individual needs. Assistance is also available for projects and activities such as rain garden development and programs through Annie’s Big Nature Lesson! Contact the Environmental Educator for further information.
Teaching Resources Available

Clinton County DWM maintains a number of resources to encourage and support local educators to integrate environmental issues in classroom lesson programming through Annie’s Big Nature Lesson at Lincoln Brick Park in Grand Ledge. Resources include:

- **Equipment:** handheld magnifiers, filed microscopes, lab microscope, field binoculars, aquatic dip nets, insect nets, compasses, bird song identifiers, Geomate GPS units for kids, digital cameras, and field containers for observation of insects and small amphibians.

- **Children’s Books:** a small library of recommended books for elementary-aged children that promote positive and creative learning. These books will help youth acquire knowledge of the natural environment and ecology, while fostering respect and appreciation for animals, plants, insects and the earth’s natural resources.

- **Teacher’s Resource Books & Games:** great number of resources intended to increase educators’ knowledge in environmental education and assist them in developing and implementing these materials into lesson plans.

- **Field Guides:** used to actively explore the out-of-doors with students. These are an excellent resource for use in field identification, scavenger hunts and to teach the use of keys.

- **DVD, CD Audio and VHS Tapes:** use to introduce conservation and sustainability concepts to children through music, art, stories and real-world filmed experiences; an excellent way to reinforce and introduce concepts and explore new ways of thinking about the earth resources.

**Environmental Education Curricula & Materials**

The following environmental education curricula & materials are available for teachers to reference to develop their own classroom programming. These are already correlated to grade level educational standards as follows:

- **Closing the Loop – Integrated Waste Management Activities at School and Home** (K-12)
- **Counting On People – Elementary Population and Environmental Activities** (K-5)
- **EPA Teachers Guide to Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling** (K-12)
- **Friends Involved in Sport Fishing Heritage - Project FISH** (K-12)
- **Glass Packaging Institute** (K-12)
- **Leopold Education Project – LEP** (K-12)
- **Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support – MEECS**
  - Ecosystems & Biodiversity (Grades 4-6)
  - Water Quality (Grades 6-8)
  - Air Quality (Grades 7-9)
  - Energy Resources (Grades 7-9)
- **Product Life Cycles – The Science and Economics of “Green Design”** (Middle School)
- **Project Learning Tree – PLT** (pre-school, K-12)
- **Project WILD - Wildlife Focused Conservation Education Program** (pre-school, K-12)
- **Smart Consumers – Explores Consumer Issues and the Environment** (grade 4-12)
- **Waste Information Series for Education – WISE** (K-12)
- **Water Education for Teachers - Project WET** (K-12)
- **Wonders of Wetlands – WOW** (K-12)