

A.C.O.R.N

Athens-Clarke Opportunities and Resources Newsletter - In a Nutshell

An Environmental Education Newsletter for Athens-Clarke County Educators -
December 2007

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Give the Gift of Green this Holiday Season

Visit the following websites and check-out these "green" gifts:

www.greensender.com

<http://www.greenhome.com/products/>

<http://www.reusablebags.com/>

<http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greengifts/index.cfm>

<http://www.newdream.org/>

www.uncommongoods.com

<http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2005/11/22/giftguide/>

http://www.treehugger.com/files/2005/11/holiday_gifts_f.php

<http://www.usalandlord.com/shcoshti.html> - water conservation gifts

Don't forget Helix and Frontier in downtown Athens! They have great "recycled" and fair trade gifts!

'Tis the Season to TREECYCLE!!!

Did you know that Christmas trees are a renewable, recyclable resource? Give holiday trees a second life as compost, mulch, or wildlife habitat, and give children the opportunity to become actively involved in solid waste solutions. On Saturday January 5th Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful will hold the annual "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas Tree Recycling event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We need your help in encouraging students and parents to take part in this recycling effort. Call KACCB to receive flyers that can be sent home with your students!

Litter It Costs You

Students can be part of the litter solution! The statewide anti-litter initiative- Litter. It Cost You- invites young people to get involved in cleaning up and preventing litter in Georgia. The new state litter mascot, "Buster the Brown Trasher", helps to educate students about litter issues through fun and entertaining activities. Call KACCB to request free Buster's Litter Blasting Activity Book for each student in your classroom. Help teach your students how to keep our state clean and beautiful!

Get your students involved in community service activities:

Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway Program

Interested in getting your student clubs involved in community service events? Call KACCB or visit www.keepathensbeautiful.org to find out more about our Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway Program. Show students that getting involved is easy and encourage them to take action! ** This is a Green School Activity

Do a playground clean-up before the holiday break!

Organize a school/playground clean sweep before the holiday vacation! Call KACCB to request clean-up supplies and vests as well as free litter bags for students to take home. Take an active part in keeping your school and home environment litter free! ** This is a Green School Activity

Invite Binny to your school

Binny, the recycling bin mascot, would like to come to your school and/or classroom to visit and encourage students to make less waste. Contact the ACC Recycling Division to make an appointment with Binny.

Free Backpacks - small Cingular Wireless Backpacks Available

The Teacher Reuse Store is overrun with backpacks - hundreds of backpacks. Contact the ACC Recycling Division if you would like some. They would make great student holiday gifts.

Bags for Bears - November Update

October
November

Athens Academy
Athens Montessori

Barnett Shoals
8,360
10,912

Barrow
24,538
14,702

Chase
10,113
10,231

Clarke Central
2,825
4,097

Clarke Middle
7,279
5,511

Cleveland
5,314
16,313

Colham Ferry
6,509
6,861

Coile Middle

Fowler Drive
18,630
19,548

Friendship
2,473
4,421

Gaines
1,261
3,340

Hillsman Middle
Madison County

Oconee County Primary
N/A
2,170

Oglethorpe Avenue
24,794
80,977

Oglethorpe Primary
4,000
10,400

Rocky Branch
2,500
3,278

St. Joseph's
11,379
27,989

South Jackson
5,398
12,892

Timothy
2,005
4,298

Whit Davis
11,786
22,881

TOTAL-TO-DATE: 409,986 bags/wraps

Next Bag Count Deadline:

Friday, December 21st

** This is a Green School Activity

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

Reuse those holiday cards -

<http://jas.familyfun.go.com/crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=11884>

<http://kikipotamus.wordpress.com/2007/01/01/tiny-gift-boxes-from-holiday-cards/>

Send us your classroom reuse ideas and receive a recycled surprise, send entries to suki@acc-recycle.org.

This newsletter is a monthly newsletter from ACC Stormwater, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, ACC Public Utilities Department and ACC Solid Waste Department, Recycling Division. If you didn't receive this newsletter directly and would like to be put on the e-mail list, contact Suki at suki@acc-recycle.org

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

The International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) Committee announces its first-ever poster contest, open to municipal, facility, and state agency representatives - students (all ages), homeowners, commercial composters, green industry businesses, youth groups, everyone! Whether or not you have celebrated or been involved in ICAW in the past, they want you to participate this year by submitting a poster. The Possibilities Are Endless....Compost! The winning poster will be used to promote the 13th Annual International Compost Awareness Week, May 4-10, 2008 Contest entries should include an official entry form and must be postmarked by December 14, 2007. Complete contest rules and information are available at <http://compostingcouncil.org/section.cfm?id=60>.

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CALENDAR

December

21 Bags for Bears December Total Due

24 - January 4 Holiday Break - Have a happy and green holiday season!!

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BRAG BOARD!

IF you have a great Environmental Education accomplishment that you would like to share, contact Suki Janssen, suki@acc-recycle.org. The accomplishment can be for an individual or a school (examples include: award, grant, prize, activity, etc.).

Athens Montessori School has been declared a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation as part of their worldwide network of mini-refuges. This is in recognition of our conscientious planning, landscaping and sustainable gardening which allows wildlife to find a quality habitat - food, water, cover and places to raise their young. Additionally, there energy conservation efforts - replacing indoor lights by compact flourescents has resulted in a significant drop in their electricity consumption (varying from 15% to 30% across their 7 buildings.)

Congratulations to Jenna Thiel from Gaines Elementary, for being the first teacher to check out the book, "How the Land of Litter Became the Kingdom of Clean" By Dave Street! All of her students received the "Words of Litter" magnets to help supplement the lesson plan.

Coile Middle School received a Foundation of Excellence grant for their composting efforts.

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

ACC staff programs and partnership with ACC schools during the month of November.

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REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

Recycling Needs - MORE BINS ARE HERE!!

Need more bins? The recycling bins have arrived just let us know if you need more bins. Currently, we have curbside recycling bins, roll-carts and dumpsters to help make your school recycling program easy. Just call the ACC Recycling Division.

FREE Binny posters

NEW this year, we have Binny recycling posters. Just contact Andrew Lentini, andrew@acc-recycle.org for copies.

Administrators/Teachers - Recycle Ink Jet Cartridges and Cell phones in your School!

Recycling is not just for kids! Administrators and teachers - get involved! Recycle your ink jet cartridges-- for FREE. KACCB will provide you with postage paid envelopes and a dispenser that can be placed in the main office or in the teacher break room. Your efforts will help the environment while keeping reusable items out of the landfill. In addition, KACCB is offering each school a cell phone recycling drop off container. Once full, KACCB will pick up the phones or your school can easily send it (as the container is also a postage paid shipping box!). Call KACCB for more details. ** This is a Green School Activity.

Need Tools for a School Beautification Project?

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful has a gardening tool bank that allows all schools and students to borrow gardening/landscaping hand tools. KACCB wants to help you get your students involved in creating outdoor classroom environments. Call KACCB to reserve tools or to assist you in your project. KACCB may have other resources available for your garden projects.

Water Conservation Tips - We need your help!

Please help conserve water at your school and educate the students about the NEED of conserving water locally.

Visit the following websites for ideas:

<http://www.monolake.org/socalwater/wctips.htm>

<http://www.conservewater.utah.gov/Tips/>

http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/appendix_a.shtm

Please share your water conservation tips and/or lesson plans with the ACC Recycling Division and we will share them with others.

Stormwater Green School Activities

Back by popular demand, the ACC Stormwater Department is offering it's A Day at the Stream puppet show for grades

K-3 and the Stormwater Detective mystery activity for grades 4-6. (See their descriptions below.) For older children,

the department has purchased safe, nontoxic test kits that students can use to learn about the importance of water

quality. Your entire school is invited to participate in a contest to help us name our new stormwater mascot, a

loveable green turtle! Look for details about the contest in upcoming editions of the ACORN, and contact Natalie White

if you are interested in any of these stormwater programs at (706) 613-3440 ext. 383 or nataliewhite@co.clarke.ga.us.

A Day at the Stream Puppet Show

This puppet show educates children about stormwater pollution and how their everyday activities can contribute to or

reduce this environmental problem. This show involves music, sound effects and songs (as well as some very colorful

characters!) and is best suited for grades K-3. ** This is a Green School Activity.

The Stormwater Detective Mystery Book

Have your students become STORMWATER DETECTIVES! Three mysterious cases of pollution are going on in

Centerville, and YOU (the reader) have been called to help! This choose-your-own-adventure style storybook lets each

student "investigate" sites in town to determine where the pollution is coming from, and what can be done to stop it.

Students can work in small groups or individually. Designed for 4th through 6th grade students, this program lasts about

an hour. ** This is a Green School Activity.

KACCB has resources for YOU to use in your classroom.

Reserve the use of the book "How the Land of Litter Became the Kingdom of Clean" by Dave Street. We will send the book and the teachers guide to you borrow. E-mail sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us for more information.

Words of Litter

Use words of litter for language arts. The first teacher to respond will receive the KACCB Words of Litter magnet for each child in their classroom! There are over 50 words included on each magnet.

Bee Bee Clean

Set up a classroom visit with the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful mascot BEE BEE Clean! BEE BEE will talk trash with your students and help them learn learn to put waste in it's place. Call KACCB to schedule a time. ** This is a Green School Activity

Youth Clean Community Challenge

Get your school/classroom involved in the statewide youth clean community challenge. Register online at www.litteritcostsyoudo.org (under the school/kids tab). The Youth Clean Community Challenge is designed to encourage youth organizations and schools to take an active role in developing litter education, enforcement and eradication/clean-up activities. Elementary school-aged groups can win up to \$500 for litter prevention programs. Middle/high school-aged groups can win up to \$2000 for litter prevention programs.

Environmental Education Materials

Visit WWW.EEINGEORGIA.ORG for environmental resources and projects for your students!

Water Conservation Information

Have questions about the drought? EPD has put together an informative list of frequently asked questions about the drought and watering ban. View it at:http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/outdoor_watering_faq.pdf.

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