

# CCS Green Team – Earth Day 2013

Middle School and High School

Earth Week Education/Celebration April 22-26

## **MONDAY, April 22 – Earth Day 2013**

Color to wear: Green

Fact/Tip for announcements:

Here are some interesting facts about recycling according to the Environmental Protection Agency, (epa.gov):

1. Each person creates about 4.4 pounds of waste every day
2. In 2010, waste recycled by Americans prevented the release of carbon dioxide equivalent to about 36 million cars.
3. The percentage of waste being recycled has increased from 9.6% in 1980, to 34.1% in 2010.
4. Some products that can be made from recycled paper include masking tape, paper towels, hospital gowns and egg cartons.

Lesson Plan: "Junk Mail Overload" (k-12)

[www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/02/lp260-02.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/02/lp260-02.shtml)

"Toxic Technology" (6-12)

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2005/10/25/toxic-technology/>

## **TUESDAY, April 23 – Ocean Health**

Color to wear – Blue

Facts/Tips for announcements:

Even if you live a long distance from an ocean, chemical fertilizers and pesticides applied to your lawn can wash into your storm drain, wash through your watershed and end up in the ocean. These chemicals harm aquatic life. Talk to your parents about keeping pesticide and herbicide use to a minimum. Pesticides actually kill the soil organisms that contribute to a healthy lawn.

Lesson Plan:

"Ocean Connections" (3-8)

"The Tremendous Travels of Trash" (6-8)

"An Imbalance in Our Oceans" (9-12)

"Human Impacts on Marine Ecosystems" (9-12)

[www.education.nationalgeographic.com/](http://www.education.nationalgeographic.com/)

Open "teaching resources" and search under the title of the lesson

## **WEDNESDAY, April 24 –Clean Air**

Color to wear: White

Facts/Tips for announcements:

1. Why support the no-idling effort? Vehicle exhaust is harmful to everyone's health, but it especially affects children, who breathe more and at a faster rate than adults. By turning off your car, our students,

teachers and parents won't breathe in unhealthy fumes as they enter school.

2. Vehicle idling creates unnecessary pollution. By not idling, you reduce car exhaust and prevent up to 3 pounds of pollution per month from going into the air.

3. You can be a part of the solution by walking or biking when possible, and bundling your driving errands.

Lesson Plan: "Air Pollution: What's the Solution?" (6-12)  
[ciese.org/curriculum/airproj/](http://ciese.org/curriculum/airproj/)

### **THURSDAY, April 25 – Carbon Footprint Awareness**

Color to wear: Black

Fact/Tip for announcements:

Imagine going to school or work in a building that's doing its part to help the environment by "eating" pollution in the air. It's not science fiction! A new building material created by the company Alcoa helps clean itself and the air around it. Activated by sunlight, the panels of these buildings are able to break down pollutants on the surface and in the air. A building covered with 10,000 square feet of these "smog-eating" panels would have the same ability to clean the air as 80 trees.

. Read more at [www.responsibilityproject.com](http://www.responsibilityproject.com)

Lesson Plan: "Ecological Footprint"  
<http://www.ctenergyeducation.com/lesson.htm?id=fqe4v3ol>

### **FRIDAY, April 26 – Wise Up & Power Down**

Color to wear: Yellow

Facts/Tip for announcements:

Five easy ways to save energy:

1. Turn off lights, computers and other electronics when you're not using them.
2. Replace conventional light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, which use much less electricity.
3. Mom is right...don't leave the refrigerator door open so long. Cold air escapes and wastes electricity.
4. Take a short shower instead of a bath.
5. Plant a tree. It creates shade to keep your house cool, cleans the air, and looks beautiful....it's a win-win-win.

Lesson Plan: Knowledge is 'Power' (K-12)  
[www.wattwatchers.org](http://www.wattwatchers.org)

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS**

1. Earth Day Poetry – the haiku form of poetry traditionally uses themes from nature and has a simple, structured format.
2. Rap or song contest – kids and their friends can teach others about environmental problems and solutions by creating a song or rap. Record on video to share in class.
3. Trash to Treasure – art projects using recycled or repurposed items.
4. Zero Waste Lunch Challenge – kids bring lunch from home with all reusable containers, flatware and a fabric napkin. Contribute nothing to the landfills.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

National Environmental Education Week: [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)

Earth Day Network: [www.earthday.org/education](http://www.earthday.org/education)

The Clean Air Campaign: [www.cleanaircampaign.org/kids-schools](http://www.cleanaircampaign.org/kids-schools)

Green Reading for Students: [www.eeweek.org/resources/green\\_reading](http://www.eeweek.org/resources/green_reading)

U.S. Dept. of Energy Lesson Plans: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/default.aspx>

Environmental Links: [www.ecoearth.info](http://www.ecoearth.info), [www.responsibilityproject.com](http://www.responsibilityproject.com)