

Eco Programs



BUTLER COUNTY RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
(513) 887-3972 www.butlercountycycles.org

EcoPrograms are a collection of FREE classroom presentations about:

- Water Resources
- Butler County's Prehistoric Past
- Waste Reduction and Recycling



RECYCLE... It's easy to do!
www.butlercountycycles.org

WATER RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Water is a natural resource that connects and sustains all ecosystems. Butler County is extremely fortunate to have one of the richest groundwater sources in the country: the Great Miami River Buried Valley Aquifer. It provides up to 200 million gallons a day for residents of nine counties, including Butler, Warren, Hamilton, and Montgomery. Try one of these programs to learn more about water resources.

GlitterBug **Preschool - Grade 2**

Water is important to our health, and with the help of soap and some vigorous rubbing, it allows us to prevent the spread of infection. Thanks to water, soap, and the GlitterBug, students learn the proper steps of handwashing! **45-60 minutes**

Fred the Fish **Grades K - 5**

Join "Fred the Fish" as he leaves a pristine nature preserve and travels downstream into increasingly polluted waters. Students narrate Fred's story and observe the sources of water pollution Fred encounters. Will Fred survive? Find out and learn more about our dependence on clean water and the prevention of water pollution. **45 minutes**

Incredible Journey **Grades 2 - 5**

Where will the water you drink this morning be tomorrow? Find out and join in the fun by role-playing a water molecule. With the roll of a die simulate the movement of water within the water cycle. **60 minutes**



Oil Spill **Grades 3 - 6**

In 1989, the Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons of oil (that's 1,000 oil-filled swimming pools!) into Prince William Sound. Simulating an oil spill, students use the scientific method to determine the best cleanup method. This is without clear answers; the debate continues over the best cleanup method and the possibility of full remediation. Students discuss ways they can save oil. **60 minutes**

Clearly for You **Grades 3 - 6**

Our sources of drinking water can be filled with impurities, bacteria, and other microbiological organisms that can cause disease. Butler County Water & Sewer Department must go through several steps to ensure your drinking water is safe. Students simulate the various steps through which water is treated. **45 minutes**

Exploring Our Watershed **Grades 3 - 6**

Using a large, contoured table top model, students use a squirt bottle to "rain" onto fertilized lawns and fields (non-point source pollution), watch the flow of byproducts and waste from industrial locations (point source pollution), observe how these pollutants can enter our groundwater, and evaluate the effects and changes that can occur in a watershed. **60 minutes**



BUTLER COUNTY'S PREHISTORIC PAST PROGRAM

Chances of finding dinosaur fossils here are pretty slim because our state was covered by the sea when dinosaurs dominated the Earth. However, what you will find is an abundance of marine and mammal fossils. Keep an eye out for evidence of prehistoric wildlife, or better yet, call us to schedule the mammoth program.

Mammoth-Size Fun **Preschool - Grade 6**

Named for mammoth fossils discovered in Butler County, this program explores the events that shaped Ohio's landscape during the last Ice Age. Students participate in a fun-filled "fossil dig" and view Butler County's mammoth fossil replicas.



The relationship between prehistoric humans and woolly mammoths mirrors the delicate balance between modern-day humans and today's endangered species. Habitat loss and degradation are by far the most serious problems for today's wildlife. The mammoth serves as a reminder of the responsibility that individuals have in protecting animals from extinction and preserving animal habitats. **45-60 minutes**

"...the best part was seeing the woolly mammoth fossils and learning about them."

- Alynn, 4th grader in Mr. Huth and Mrs. Sturgill's class at Fillmore Elementary

"Thank you. We need as much environmental education as we can get to the children if we are going to save our natural world! And they love it, because it is real to them."

- Gail Reynolds, 3rd grade teacher at Kramer Elementary



WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Americans throw out about five pounds of garbage everyday. That's a lot of garbage! Many things that are thrown away are valuable resources which can be recycled. **Recycling** is important. It saves landfill space, resources, and energy and creates jobs. **Litter** drags down a community's image and is dismally contagious—nothing invites people to litter like a place that is already littered. Ask for a program on waste reduction and/or litter prevention.

Hug the Earth **Preschool - Grade 2**

Being good to the earth shows you care.



Children sit in a circle to talk about the ways in which they care for the earth and its resources, and pass around an earth pillow to give it a big hug. Students play a Simon-Says-like game as they listen for examples of what's good/bad for the earth. The students learn what is recyclable and what is not. **30 minutes**

"My students truly enjoyed your presentation. Even a month later, when discussing soil conservation, students remembered how recycling helps save landfill space."

- Pam Thompson, 4th grade teacher at Cherokee Elementary

Incredible Landfill **Grades 3 - 6**

Today's landfills, which use modern technology to protect our environment, have replaced the open dumps of the past. This program takes students on a virtual trip to a landfill by using edible material. Each ingredient's purpose is explained as students construct their own delicious landfill. **60 minutes**

The Lorax **Grades 1 - 4**

In The Lorax, Dr. Seuss offers an imaginative and rhythmic tale of resource depletion and the necessity for conservation. Students use hand-held puppets to help tell the story and discuss the importance of trees and conservation. **45 minutes**

Papermaking & Recycling **Kindergarten - Grade 6**

Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, and 11 barrels of oil. Students learn about the paper-making process by creating recycled paper. **60 minutes+**

"Thank you for teaching me about the 3-Rs and how to make paper. I think I might be an environmentalist some day."

- Elijah, 4th grader in Mrs. Bower's class at Marshall Elementary

Teddy Bear Picnic **Kindergarten - Grade 6**

Students collect and bury lunch leftovers and make predictions regarding decomposition time. A few months later, leftovers are dug up to observe changes. This program emphasizes the scientific method, composting, and litter (inorganic material doesn't just disappear). Permission from your school to bury trash is required. **45 minutes**

Show'Em Sherlock **Grades 3 - 6**

Who's in the mood to solve a mystery? Student "detectives" share clues, interpret information, and discover which of five recyclable materials is their group's identity. **45 minutes**

Two Thumbs Up Grades K - 5

This program covers resources—natural vs. people-made, renewable vs. nonrenewable. Students discuss natural or people-made resources, view real-life resources to complete the “Where Do Things Come From?” handout, and use dough in a resource-depletion game that encourages recycling.

45 minutes

Where Does My Garbage Go? Kindergarten - Grade 6

An award-winning 26-minute video produced by Bullfrog Films takes students on a journey to a landfill, recycling center, and factory. After the video, garbage is distributed to students who must decide to trash or recycle their garbage. Recyclables are sorted and an old, holey sock offers a lesson in reuse. 45-60 minutes

Going Global Grades 4 - 6

Students cooperate in groups to make as many greeting cards as they can, given the uneven distribution of resources (paper, scissors, markers, and glue). This exercise provides a lesson in futility as well as international trade and the potential global implications of depleting scarce resources.

45 minutes

“I have learned to not litter. I have learned to not pollute. To recycle. I have learned to reuse. I have learned many things. Now I know what to do.”

- Brooke, 2nd grader in Mrs. Hatterschide's class at Heritage Elementary

Lifecycle Bingo Grades 4 - 6

Recycling benefits can be measured by looking at a product's lifecycle in the manufacturing process. Students use a key to match definitions with lifecycle symbols in a modified bingo game.

45 minutes

When They're Gone, They're Gone Grades 4 - 6

Students learn to distinguish **renewable** from **nonrenewable** natural resources and hunt for hidden “minerals” in the form of colored craft beads. Students learn about the distribution of and international competition for scarce resources. 45 minutes



Magic Dragon Glasses Preschool - Grade 2

The Lollipop Dragon's delight is nearly ruined when the people of Tum Tum “litter” at his birthday party. After the story, students search for the dragon and find litter. Students help pick up the litter and are rewarded with a special treat. 30 minutes

Fishing for Litter Habits Preschool - Grades 2 - 5

Students go on a fishing trip for litter habits. As each student “catches” a litter habit, each habit is read to the class. Students explain why the habit is good or bad and then graph the results.

45 minutes

Litter Sticks To People! puppet show Preschool - Grade 5

Watch how a neat and tidy old man from Wartville becomes a wizard with **POWER** over trash. Don't miss this five-star performance that's fun for all ages! 40 minutes

Wartville Wizard Grades K - 2

Using props and costumes, students role-play “The Wartville Wizard.” Can the wizard teach this town of litterbugs the true meaning of litter-free? 60 minutes

SCHOOL RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

One practical way to introduce students to the benefits of waste reduction and recycling is to implement a **School Recycling Program**. A well-developed **School Recycling Program** helps students make a difference, generates additional school revenue, and increases community recycling efforts. Contact Butler County Recycling & Solid Waste District at (513) 887-3406 for **FREE technical assistance** to help your school implement one or more of these programs:

Aluminum Can Recycling

- "Recycle Challenge"—is a national pilot program sponsored by Rumpke Recycling to help schools earn money through aluminum can recycling. Contact Rumpke Recycling, (513) 242-4401, or visit www.therecyclechallenge.com.

Single Stream & Cardboard Recycling

- Rumpke can provide your school with a 6 yard container for collecting plastic, glass, paper, cardboard and steel. Charges for service begin at \$35 per month. Call Rumpke Recycling at (513) 242-4401.

Newspaper and Mixed Paper Recycling

- Abitibi Paper Retriever Program—provides an eight cubic yard container for newsprint and mixed paper at no cost to schools. Schools earn funds from their collection efforts. www.PaperRetriever.com.
- Mindlin Recycling—provides a 40 cubic yard roll-off recycling dumpster for newsprint and mixed paper, Contact: Jared Zollett (937) 746-2222, zolletje@gmail.com.



Ink Jet and Laser Cartridge Recycling

- Queen City Office Machines—provides collection containers and pays \$1 per recyclable ink jet cartridge and up to \$5 per laser jet toner cartridge. Contact: Queen City Office Machines, (513) 251-7200.
- Office Depot—provides toner and electronic recycling. www.officedepot.com.

Cell Phone Recycling

- EcoPhones—provides collection containers, FREE marketing materials and pays \$3 per digital cell phone. Contact: EcoPhones, (888) 326-7466, or visit www.ecophones.com.
- Recellular—is another resource. (800) 441-1544, or visit www.recellular.com.



Battery Recycling

- Butler County Solid Waste District—provides free battery recycling collection boxes. Supplies are limited. Contact: Butler County Recycling & Solid Waste District, (513) 887-3653.

Special Event Recycling

- Butler County Solid Waste District—offers containers for recycling plastic bottles and aluminum cans at special events (e.g. carnivals and festivals). Contact: Butler County Recycling & Solid Waste District, (513) 887-3653.

Grant Funds Available

- Every year Butler County Recycling & Solid Waste District awards over \$20,000 in Grant Funding to area schools, businesses and non-profits to start or expand recycling programs. Grant applications are available in October and due in mid-December. Contact the District at (513) 887-3406 or visit www.butlercountyrecycles.org.

OTHER SERVICES

EcoLibrary

Our EcoLibrary is brimming with books, videos, and curriculum guides. Visit www.butlercountyrecycles.org and click on "Education & Outreach" to access our library catalog.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

If your group would like to learn more about our wastewater treatment process, Butler County Water & Sewer Department offers free tours of both our LeSourdsville Regional and Upper Mill Creek Water Reclamation Facilities. The tour takes about 70-90 minutes. To schedule a tour, please contact Butler County Water & Sewer Department at (513) 887-3686.

Local Environmental Educators

In addition to the District's EcoPrograms, here are some additional environmental education resources in Butler County:

- Sharon Edwards
Environmental Mobile Unit
(513) 523-4324
- Tim McLelland
Groundwater Consortium
(513) 785-2464
- Butler County MetroParks
(513) 867-5835
- Lynn White
Butler Soil & Water Conservation District
(513) 887-3720



An Annual Competition for 4th and 5th graders held every year in October.

For over 20 years our annual Recycled Sculpture Contest has encouraged all 4th and 5th graders to create sculptures to heighten community awareness of reuse and recycling by turning trash into treasured works of art.

Students compete at the school level in September. In October the top three sculptures from each participating school are submitted to be judged in a week-long, county-wide show at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts. All participants, teachers, parents, siblings, and grandparents are invited to a Halloween-themed reception honoring the final six winners. And did we mention PRIZES??!!??

Watch for a "Recycled Sculpture Contest" information folder in your school mailbox in early September or contact our Environmental Educator, Sue Stephenson, at 513-887-3972 (stephensons@butlercountyohio.org) to make sure you and your class are included.



BUTLER COUNTY TEACHERS, WHY CHOOSE ECOPROGRAMS?

We want to bring environmental consciousness to the forefront of education, nurture the environmental steward in your students, and help you meet Ohio's Academic Standards. The environmental programs listed in this guide support and enhance the standards to which you are teaching.

Programs can be modified to meet your specific requirements, including customizing programs to meet the needs of junior high and high school students.

We offer additional resources, such as teacher workshops, grant funding, promotional materials, and help with implementing school recycling programs.

Our programs are **FREE** and our environmental educator, **Suzanne Stephenson**, comes to your classroom. Scheduling is easy and convenient. Just call or email us at (513) 887-3972 or stephensons@butlercountyohio.org.



Check out our
web site at
www.butlercountyrecycles.org

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Butler County
OHIO
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