



Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge
Grades K-8 School Program

SEEK

Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge

Fall 2010

SEEK Schools Program
is presented by:
Kitsap County
Public Works
Utilities

- Solid Waste Division
- Surface and Stormwater Management Program
- Wastewater Division

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Our goal is to find ways to teach students the importance of conserving resources while giving teachers the support and materials needed to integrate environmental education into classroom curriculum through FREE presentations, hand-on activities, and field trips.

Coming soon.... a new look online!

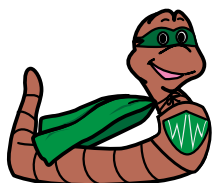
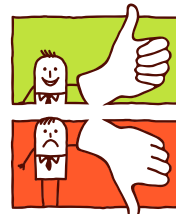
Later this fall we anticipate the launch of our new County web pages specifically designed to provide local teachers with FREE one-stop shopping for classroom lessons related to local utilities—Solid Waste (recycling, composting, litter), Stormwater (water pollution, salmon, water quality), and Wastewater (collection and treatment). Resources include high quality, interactive K-8 classroom presentations and materials to enrich your curriculum.

Free Classroom Presentations

Don't miss this unique opportunity to have an environmental educator come to your classroom. Below are two examples of the many presentations we offer. Schedule yours today!

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down (Grades 3-6, 50 minutes)

While playing a matching game, students discover activities we do that affect the quality of our waterways. They also discover alternatives to these activities to keep our impact minimal. Lesson includes information on watersheds.



Compost, It's About Time (Grades K-3, 60 minutes)

Students will enjoy getting up close and personal with "red wigglers" as they investigate vermicomposting and other composting systems. Your class will discover the important role composting plays in waste reduction and as a natural soil amendment.

Calling all K-8 grade students to help celebrate America Recycles Day!!

To celebrate America Recycles Day, K-8 grade students – public, private and home schools in Kitsap County are invited to participate in the America Recycles Day Poster Contest. Ten posters chosen as grade level winners will be featured on the County website and in local newspapers. In addition, all entries will appear in the County website photo gallery:

www.kitsapgov.com/sw/americanrecyclesday.htm.

On Nov. 8, 2010 the Board of County Commissioners will honor the ten poster contest winners at the regularly scheduled meeting. For poster contest rules and information go to www.kitsapgov.com/sw/.



Central Kitsap Science Kit Pilot Program

This school year, 12 fourth grade teachers from the Central Kitsap School District (CKSD) will pilot Kitsap Science Connections, a new, locally based elementary science kit jointly developed by staff from CKSD, Kitsap County Public Works and Kitsap Public Utility District. Full implementation is scheduled for the 2011-2012 school year. Watch for more updates in future newsletters.

Adopting a "Waste Free Lunch" lifestyle

(Information adapted from <http://wastefreelunches.org/>)

One way to reduce the amount of garbage that goes to the landfill is to adopt a "waste free lunch" lifestyle. Challenge your students to one week of waste free lunches. Here are some helpful tips:

- Pack lunches in reusable lunch bags or boxes instead of paper lunch bags.
- Use reusable utensils instead of disposable.
- Store sandwiches in a reusable wrap, bag or container instead of disposable plastic wraps or sandwich bags.
- Put drinks and other liquids in reusable containers like a thermos, or a recyclable container such as a can or glass bottle instead of juice boxes or pouches.
- Buy bulk snacks and pack them in reusable containers, instead of individually wrapped ones. Buying in bulk is a cost savings as well.
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper.
- Pack whole fruits and vegetables instead of individually wrapped ones.



FREE Voluntary Web-based environmental programs:

- **Cool School Challenge** (*sponsored by Puget Sound Energy*)
At the heart of the Cool School Challenge is the philosophy that big changes start with small steps and that, taken together, simple individual actions create a world of difference. With the guidance of a Challenge Coach, student teams learn how to conduct a classroom energy audit, use an online carbon calculator, and identify major sources of CO₂ emissions and opportunities for shrinking them. For more information go to <http://coolschoolchallenge.org/>.



- **Washington Green Schools**

Washington Green Schools will help your school reduce its environmental and carbon footprint. The program provides resources and tools to involve your school community in assessing the current status of your campus and taking action in the following categories:

- * Energy Efficiency
- * Recycling & Waste Reduction
- * Toxics Reduction & Indoor Air Quality
- * Transportation & Outdoor Air Quality
- * Water Quality & Conservation.



For more information go to: <http://www.wagreenschools.org/>.

Meet the Educators

Pat Kirschbaum has been with Kitsap County Public Works Surface and Stormwater Management Program since 1995 and has a Master's degree in education. Pat is responsible for school and youth education for stormwater programs.

Jo Meints has a Master's degree in elementary education and brings to Kitsap County 11 years of classroom teaching experience as an elementary science specialist. She is responsible for K-12 education for solid waste programs.



Educators Pat Kirschbaum and Jo Meints

Mark your calendars

- **America Recycles Day Poster Contest**
Open to all K-8 students in Kitsap County.
Deadline – October 11, 2010.
- **National Public Works Week**
Interactive tours for grades 3-6.
May 15-21, 2011.
- **Kitsap Water Festival**
A day of learning about water resources for 4th grade students, held at Kitsap County Fairgrounds May 3, 2011.
- **Earth Day Awards:**
Nominate a local deserving community group or project. Nomination form available February 2011 at www.kitsapgov.com/sw/.

Trivia Question

How much dog waste is produced in Kitsap County annually? Don't forget, Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash.

Puget Sound Starts Here

***Email your answer, along with your name, number of students and school address to jmeints@co.kitsap.wa.us, for a free classroom set of bookmarks AND a chance to win a classroom set of flashlights. ***

We are here to help.

Need more information?
Contact:

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www.kitsapgov.com/pw