



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY

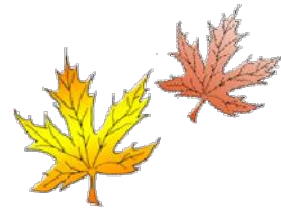


Fall is For Recycling

Fall is the time when nature prepares for the short days of winter which are soon to follow. Well-adapted to seasonal climactic change, many plants begin their yearly energy conservation programs which are triggered by the position of the earth in relation to the sun.

During winter, the sun's rays strike the northern latitudes at such an angle that the amount of energy available for photosynthesis is significantly reduced. In temperate zones, such as the Northern Sierras and Central Valley region, deciduous plants harvest pigments and other valuable compounds found within their leaves to store them in stems, trunks and roots before the leaves are shed.

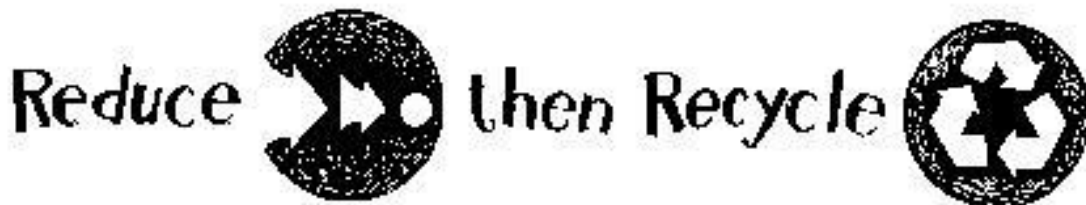
When leaves are sluffed, nutrients are released by invertebrates and other organisms that participate in decomposition. These valuable



resources are then recycled in the nutrient cycle to become available for use by other organisms. Resource conservation and recycling are important processes in which we all have an important role.

This issue of the CREEC Region 3 Newsletter is dedicated to recycling projects occurring throughout the region.

To find out about recycling or other environmental education resources available to you, go to our website at www.CREEC.org/region3 and click on the "Resource Directory" button. You can run an individualized search for programs that serve your county, region, or the state. If you need assistance, please contact your regional coordinator. (See contact information on page 4.)





“Recycling is Simply Elementary” in Davis



“On average, Americans waste 25 percent of the food they prepare.”
www.davisrise.org

The Davis Rise Program is an excellent example of how schools and community partners can pair up to create successful recycling programs that benefit the entire community. The RISE program is a partnership between Davis Waste Removal, Davis Educational Foundation, the RCC Group, LLC, an environmental management firm, the City of Davis, and the Davis Joint Unified School District.

The partnership works together to develop an effective recycling program with the ambitious goal to reduce the solid waste stream at the eight elementary sites by 50 percent. Recent innovations have brought variations of the program into the Junior and Senior High Schools.

By instituting a lunch time waste reduction, recycling and composting

program at the elementary sites, the RISE program saved the school district over \$40,000 in just one year. Some of the savings are returned to the program to pay stipends to recycling coordinators (usually a parent at the school) to maintain the program.

Find out more about the program at: <http://www.davisrise.org/>. You will also find facts about waste in the U.S., information concerning upcoming events, and a flyer on how to pack a good (zero-waste) lunch, among other things.

Check out the RISE Recycled Art Fair: Turn “Junk” into Art on Saturday, Nov. 19 in Central Park, Davis. The fair runs from 9:00 am—1:00 pm and features art created by students as well as professional artists.

City Recycling Agencies Offer Programs for Schools

The City of Sacramento Recycling Program will make classroom presentations to schools served by the program. Fourth grade classes are invited to participate in a field trip to the Conservation Fair in May where they get a look at the inner workings of the city’s recycling system. They also sponsor a program for classrooms to raise money by collecting phone books for recycling program. For more info contact tstratton@cityofsacramento.org.

Division provides outreach and support to West Sacramento teachers. Division staff will make classroom presentations about waste reduction and recycling practices. Their newsletter, “Aim for Green”, provides information about their programs and is available to the general public online at: www.cityofwestsacramento.org

Contact the waste management program that serves your school to find out if they offer programs and support for local schools.

The Evolution of the Waste Can



Likewise, the City of West Sacramento Refuse and Recycling



California Integrated Waste Management Offers Resources for Educators

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) believes that through education, current and future waste generators will respect and conserve natural resources by making informed waste prevention choices. The Board and its Office of Education and the Environment (OEE) provides standards-based K-12 curriculum and assistance for schools and districts.

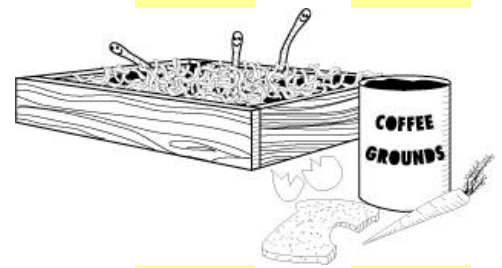
Closing the Loop is an example of curriculum designed as an excellent resource for incorporating waste prevention, recycling, and composting concepts into the classroom in an interdisciplinary, action-oriented way that is aligned with CA Content Standards. Available in units for K-3 or 4-6, *Closing the Loop* activities can be

downloaded in PDF format from the CIWMB website:
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/>

Activities teach students about conserving resources, reducing, reusing, and recycling in the classroom, vermicompositng (using worms for decomposing waste), the nutrient cycle, and much more.

Be sure to check out other resources on the CIWMB website, including *The Adventures of Vermi the Worm!*, an interactive game that teaches 8- to 10-year-olds about waste management concepts by following Vermi through the school garden.

The CIWMB website also offers tips and case studies for reducing waste (and saving money) at your school site.



<http://ehso.com/ehshome/natureclipart.php>

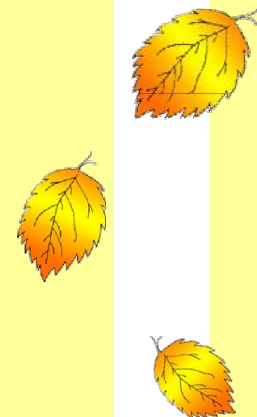
RAFT (Resource Area For Teachers) Coming to Sacramento Area This Spring

The Resource Area For Teachers (RAFT) provides teachers and community groups with creative tools and materials to promote hands-on learning in science, math, art, and technology. Local businesses donate items such as manufacturing by-products or surplus office supplies which are then transformed into hands-on learning experiences for students.

It's a win-win as businesses reduce their waste and teachers

get hands-on learning materials.

To find out more about RAFT, visit www.raft.net which describes the program in San Jose. The Sacramento branch will be opening in Spring 2006. If you know a business that would like to donate materials or you would like to get involved in helping to design educational activities, contact Mark Anderson, sacraft@grant.k12.ca.us.





Demonstration Garden Opens in Nevada County

Nevada County Recycles celebrated the opening of the new Full Circle Demonstration Garden on September 30.

scraps from the kitchen to worms to fertilize the garden which grows some of the vegetables eaten in the facility.

The Full Circle Demonstration Garden, located at the Rood Center in Nevada City, involves inmates from the local correctional facility in vermicomposting. Inmates use compost created by feeding

The garden project will provide a wonderful educational opportunity for the community.

For more information about the project or classes, visit www.NevadaCountyRecycles.com

Kids Gardening Website Features Composting Resources

Mother Nature is the ultimate recycler: She returns living organisms back to the earth after they die. Take advantage of the abundant learning opportunities by setting up your own composting experiments. You can

construct basic compost piles outside or create an indoor worm composting bin. The National Gardening website includes lesson plans and activities as well as an online store where you can find composting supplies on sale now, www.kidsgardening.com.

ABOUT CREEC

The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network is an educational project supported by the California Department of Education, Environmental Education Program, in collaboration with state, regional and local partners. The CREEC Network is the best source for Environmental Education resources in California.

The CREEC Network in Region 3 supports educators in Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. Visit our website at www.creec.org/region3 to find out more about environmental education resources in Region 3.

Leaf clipart seen on these pages and fun fall activities for kids can be found at: <http://www.kidsturncentral.com>

Other free clipart about recycling can be downloaded from the CIWMB website. <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/>



YOUR CREEC REGION 3
COORDINATORS:

DEBORAH BRUNS
YOLO COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
BRUNS@YCOE.ORG

OR

LESLIE SMITH
NEVADA COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
LSMITH@NUHSD.K12.CA.US