



# Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

March 2008

Region 8 Serves San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern Counties

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## EE Success Stories

### CREEC Social Networking – Gatherings for Environmental Educators – SB and SLO

#### Region 8 CREEC Network Gatherings

Come network and gather with fellow environmental educators in your area. Share resources and program information. A literature table will be available for all agencies and the host agency will have the first portion of the evening to showcase their EE opportunities. At future gatherings, guest speakers and EE experts will be featured. The next two gatherings are in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo:

#### 1. Santa Barbara County CREEC Network Gathering – March 21, 5pm – 7pm at the Santa Barbara Zoo

Tiffany Musgrove and her staff of educators at the zoo will host an evening of networking and socializing. Meet at the Elephant Deck at 5pm.  
RSVP: Teresa Lees at [trees@slocoe.org](mailto:trees@slocoe.org) or 805-782-7265

#### 2. San Luis Obispo County CREEC Network Gathering – April 18, 5pm – 7pm at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden Education Center in El Chorro Regional Park

Come see the new Sustainable Education Center at the SLO Botanical Garden and network with area environmental educators.  
RSVP: Teresa Lees at [trees@slocoe.org](mailto:trees@slocoe.org)

## EE Resources

### FREE Climate Change Curriculum and Cameras Available to Document Climate Change Solutions

*Facing the Future* is pleased to announce the release of *Climate Change: Connections and Solutions*. (<http://www.facingthefuture.org/Curriculum/BuyFacingtheFutureCurriculum/tabid/59/Default.aspx#Curriculum%20Unit>) These 2-week curriculum units, one for middle and one for high school, encourage students to think critically about climate change and to collaborate to devise solutions. Students learn about climate change within a systems framework, examining interconnections among environmental, social, and economic issues.

Through a generous grant from Hewlett-Packard Company, *Facing the Future* also invites you to apply for a *Climate Change Camera Grant*.

(<http://www.facingthefuture.org/ForEducators/CameraGrant/tabid/199/Default.aspx>)

You have the opportunity to collaborate with other educators and give your students a chance to document climate change and the positive actions that they are taking in their communities. You could receive a classroom set of digital cameras to use in conjunction with *Facing the Future's Climate Change: Connections and Solutions* units. Until March 7th, *Facing the Future* will be accepting applications from U.S. educators to receive one of 30 classroom sets of 5 HP Photosmart R847Digital Cameras.

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8

Teresa "Tree" Lees

CREEC 8 Coordinator

[trees@slocoe.org](mailto:trees@slocoe.org)

805-782-7265

[www.creec.org/region8](http://www.creec.org/region8)

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## IWMA “SLO Take Back Program”

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) announces the implementation of the "SLO Take Back Program" for household batteries, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Nearly every retailer throughout San Luis Obispo County who sells household batteries or fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) will now take those items back from the public *for free*. Consumers who want to shop green can now safely and easily recycle these products.

More than 300 local businesses are providing this free service to the public. Participants range from national chain stores such as Costco and Kmart to local stores such as Farris Lighting. Nearly every retailer who sells either batteries, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in San Luis Obispo County are participating, a few stores, such as Home Depot and target, are not. A complete list of businesses where you can safely recycle these items appears below.

Participating in the "SLO Take Back Program" is free, easy and there is no limit to the number of batteries, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) you can drop off. Bring your household batteries, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) to any of the participating retail stores during regular store hours. You can either put the items in a special collection container or give them to a store employee. This is an ongoing, free service provided to the public. Small businesses in San Luis Obispo County can also participate but must call (805) 481-9213 to make an appointment.

**More EE Resources can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the “Resource Directory” as well as the “For Teachers” or “For Providers” link.**

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## Trainings & Workshops

### Solar Schools Workshops sponsored by PG&E and The NEED Project

March 8, 208 Solar Schools Workshop in Bakersfield

This workshop, designed to provide hands-on materials and training for K-12 teachers, shows you how to incorporate solar energy education activities into your science lessons. All participating teachers will receive a Schools Going Solar kit for their grade level and additional materials created by the NEED Project. The curriculum and training is correlated to California state content standards and will help energize your classroom! Thanks to the support of PG&E there is no cost to attend the workshop. Breakfast and lunch are provided and substitute reimbursement is too! For Saturday workshops, teachers will receive a \$100 stipend to attend!

Registration for workshops is due 10 days prior to the workshop and can be obtained by contacting Barry Scott, PG&E Solar Schools Coordinator. Workshop location will be confirmed in registration confirmation emails.

If you have questions or need further information about the PG&E Solar Schools Workshop contact NEED at 800-875-5029 or e-mail Barry Scott, PG&E Solar Schools Coordinator at [bscott@need.org](mailto:bscott@need.org). Fax registration forms to 800-847-1820.

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**Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds Teacher's Workshop**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 4-6pm**

South Coast Watershed Resource Center, SANTA BARBARA  
Register by March 25.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 4-6pm**

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, SAN LUIS OBISPO  
Register by March 25.

The California Coastal Commission is offering a free workshop, which will introduce formal and informal educators to the Commission's science activity guide for teachers, *Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds*. Participants will receive a free copy of the book, try out some of the activities, and get an overview of the other free educational resources and programs the Coastal Commission has available. *Waves, Wetlands, and Watershed* is aligned for grades 3 through 8, but also includes community action activities appropriate for all ages.

*Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds* is a classroom activity guide for teachers that addresses California's critical coastal and marine issues such as endangered species, marine debris, coastal geology, water use, and much more. It is aligned to the California State Science Content Standards for grades 3 through 8, and includes Community Action lessons adaptable for all ages up to and beyond grade 12. The connection between inland areas and the ocean is emphasized throughout, so the lessons are relevant for students living in all regions of California. For more information, visit

[www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/waves/waves1.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/waves/waves1.html)

Professional growth credit is offered through the University of the Pacific when additional work is performed.

Contact Information:

Annie Kohut Frankel

[afrankel@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:afrankel@coastal.ca.gov)

(415) 497-5888 or

(800) COAST4U

45 Fremont Street, STE 2000

San Francisco, CA 94105

**April 2 & 3 - Garden Based Learning Workshop #3 at San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden in El Chorro Regional Park from 9am - 2pm**

UCCE Master Gardeners are offering a series of three workshops in support of school gardens. Creating and Sustaining Your Garden Based Learning School Garden workshops will give a comprehensive overview of how to start, use and sustain your GBL School Garden Program. All three workshops will address California Content Standards, lessons plans and hands on demonstrations. The cost for all three workshops combined is \$50.

Workshop Three: Plants, Seeds, Transplanting, Harvesting, Weed Control, Maintaining and Sustaining Your Garden, Classroom Management, Lesson Plans and Hands on Demonstrations

Interested teachers and volunteers can access the flyer, online registration, or a downloadable registration form on the Cooperative Extension website at

[http://cesanluisobispo.ucdavis.edu/Master%5FGardener/Garden\\_Based\\_Learning.htm](http://cesanluisobispo.ucdavis.edu/Master%5FGardener/Garden_Based_Learning.htm)

Or call Cindy Muther, Master Gardener at 466-9018 to confirm which date you will attend.

**Population Connection Training Institute – August 2-3, 2008**

Population Connection is hosting a two-day training institute this summer for educators (formal and non-formal) around the state who would like to be trained to facilitate workshops using Population Connection curricula. Our program presents over 500 workshops each year for pre-service groups, professional development and conference audiences. Most are presented by volunteer facilitators who have gone through this training and want to share the hands-on materials with peers and future teachers.

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8

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For this event, we have funding from a few major donors/family foundations in San Francisco. It will be held at the Fort Mason Conference Center on August 2-3, 2008. We will be able to provide travel stipends and lodging for those traveling from other parts of the state. It will be a great event and I'm hoping you can help me get the word out to anyone you think might be interested. All of the information and an application form can be found at our program website: [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org).

### Environmental Educator Training Program – Marin Headlands

Details: Our residential Environmental Educators Training Program provides teachers and non-traditional educators with skills to create hands-on science standard relevant curriculum for students. The program has been presented in partnership with the National Park Service since 1997. It includes 5 days of instruction, field trips, seaside lodging and all meals. Cost is \$575; scholarships are available.

When: Session 1: July 28 – August 1; Session 2: August 11 – August 15, 2008

Where: Marin Headlands, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Who: Headlands Institute in partnership with National Park Service. For over 30 years, Headlands Institute has been providing educational adventures in nature's classroom to inspire a personal connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it.

Link and registration: <http://yni.org/hi/adulted/index.php>

Contact: Sofia Qureshi [sureshi@yni.org](mailto:sureshi@yni.org) 415 332 5771 ext. 22

### Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) – June and July 2008

## Forestry Institute for Teachers

FIT provides K-12 educators with an increased understanding and appreciation of California's forest ecosystems and the complex issues involved in managing them. FIT offers four sessions in different Northern California locations. Application Information is due on March 14, 2008. Meals, lodging, and curriculum materials are all free. Apply online at [www.forestryinstitute.org](http://www.forestryinstitute.org)

### Coast Alive! Teacher Institutes – Summer 2008

Coast Alive! In partnership with the California Institute for Biodiversity offer this field experience to strengthen teacher's skills in science pedagogy, and leadership.

Coast Alive! Earth, Wind, Fire, Water Institute – June 2008  
Southern California

Coast Alive! Land-Sea Interface Institute – August 3 – 8th  
East Bay Regional Park District – San Francisco Bay Area

For more information contact Roger Renn at 888-325-3288 or email [roger@calalive.org](mailto:roger@calalive.org)

**More Trainings & Workshops can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "For Teachers" link.**

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### Community Events

**"Leave No Child Inside" community meeting at SB Museum of Natural History  
March 14 – 3:30pm**

Come join the discussion about possible solutions to the "Nature Deficit Disorder" plaguing our society and network on ways to reconnect children to nature. RSVP with Elaine Gibson at [egibson@sbnature2.org](mailto:egibson@sbnature2.org) or calling 805-682-4711 x165.

## **MEDIA AND THE ENVIRONMENT: COMMUNICATING ABOUT SANTA BARBARA'S OCEAN, AIR AND LAND**

Tuesday March 18th, 7-9 pm

Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 E. Anapamu St.

Refreshments will be provided

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UC Santa Barbara students will present and answer questions about projects developed with and for local environmental agencies. Undergraduate and graduate students participating in the Green Screen environmental media program will show short films funded by the UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund (<http://spf.as.ucsb.edu/home.htm>) that highlight issues facing coastal and marine habitats along the UCSB shoreline. Graduate students will present and invite comments on public communication campaigns promoting environmental awareness and action using traditional and new media.

Three projects for the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District ([www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org)) include discussion of air pollution and climate change messages on YouTube and Facebook and how to reach audiences through these new media, how to communicate about air safety issues (such as those related to the recent Zaca Fire), and how to encourage younger adults to use more alternative transportation. Two projects for the Santa Barbara Environmental Services Division (Recycling: <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Recycling-Trash/>) offer research-based recommendations on how to better communicate with businesses and schools to increase recycling efforts. Film-makers, project writers, and project coordinators will encourage audience comments and questions.

The event is presented by The Carsey-Wolf Center for Film, Television, and New Media; The Environmental Media Research Focus Group of The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center; The Department of Communication; The Department of Film & Media Studies; the Shoreline Preservation/Coastal Fund; the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District; and the Santa Barbara Environmental Services Division. See [www.cftnm.ucsb.edu](http://www.cftnm.ucsb.edu) for more information.

### **Wilderness Youth Project – Santa Barbara**

Spring Break programs – Backpacking in SB Backcountry for Ages 11 – 14 March 24 – 27

Spring Sprouts – Ages 5 – 8 March 24 – 28 and March 31 – April 4

Info and registration at [www.wyp.org](http://www.wyp.org) or 805-964-8096.

### **San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Healthy Air Summits**

The San Joaquin Valley APCD announces Healthy Air Living, a new, comprehensive outreach initiative through strategies that clean up our air. Healthy Air Living is a critical component of the APCD long-term strategy for reaching attainment of health-based air quality standards. The public, business, municipalities and local organization are welcomed and encouraged to attend. For more information visit: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

**March 25 – Healthy Air Living Summit at Holiday Inn Select in Bakersfield**

**March 26 – Healthy Air Living Summit at Raddison Hotel in Fresno**

**March 27 – Healthy Air Living Summit at Doubletree Hotel in Modesto**

### **Earth Day is Coming!!! (Central Coast and Central Valley)**

**April 12, 2008 – Earth Day Festivities at Oxnard City Park**

**April 12, 2008 – Beyond Earth Day – Galaxy Theatres in Riverbank**

**April 17, 2008 – Earth Day at Edwards Air Force Base near the BX**

**April 19, 2008 – Earth Day Festival at Graceada Park in Modesto**

**April 20, 2008 – Earth Day at Recreation Park in Visalia**

**April 20, 2008 – Earth Day Festival at Victory Park in Stockton**

**April 20, 2008 – Earth Day Festivities at Sunken Gardens in Santa Barbara**

**April 20, 2008 – Earth Day Street Faire at Natural History Museum in Santa Maria**

**April 26, 2008 – Earth Day Festivities at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo**

**April 26, 2008 – Earth Day at Cal State University Bakersfield**

For more information on Earth Day events, visit the Region 8 CREEC Network website and EE Calendar at [www.creec.org/region8](http://www.creec.org/region8)



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### Ecology of Leadership Program – April 5, 2008 in Santa Barbara

Unitarian Society  
1535 Santa Barbara Street  
9:00 am to 5:30 pm

We are happy to announce a 1-day workshop introducing The Ecology of Leadership Program to the extended Southern California community. It is free of charge when you pre-register online. [www.regenerativedesign.org/courses-events/leadership](http://www.regenerativedesign.org/courses-events/leadership)

Developed and launched at the Regenerative Design Institute in Bolinas, CA, by James Stark and Christopher Kuntzsch, the program offers a project and community-based leadership development journey which blends inquiry and skill development, as well as connection to self and the natural world, with principles of systems thinking and Permaculture. What emerges is a unique and regenerative model of leadership that supports those seeking to make a difference in their lives and their communities in stepping more fully into their gifts and passions, and onto their paths of service in the world. The program prepares the soil for the formation of a vibrant, local leadership circle that supports program participants in continuing to evolve themselves and their leadership work in the greater Santa Barbara community.

### National Environmental Education Week – April 13-19, 2008

Over 100 educational institutions have already registered to participate in National Environmental Education Week, April 13- 19, 2008. In conjunction with the start of the school



National Environmental Education Week

year in September, EE Week will launch a redesigned website featuring standards-based K-12th grade activities and lesson plans, professional development opportunities, and a Promotional Toolkit with printable flyers, sample announcements, and template press releases. The 2008 theme will also be announced, so stay tuned for further details! If you work with children in a school, nature center, zoo, museum, aquarium, or other educational institution, you can join EE Week's efforts and gain national exposure for your work. To register for EE Week (it only takes 5 minutes and is free) go to [www.EEWeek.org/register.htm](http://www.EEWeek.org/register.htm) . All inquiries about EE Week can be directed to [EEWeek@neefusa.org](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org) or 202-261-6484.

### April 26, 2008 - Arbor Day Festivities at Laguna Lake from 10am - 12pm

San Luis Obispo is celebrating its 25th Anniversary as a Tree City USA on April 26th, 2008. We are sponsoring a large gathering of students and interested citizens to celebrate the day at Laguna Lake Park Commemorative Tree Grove. We will plant trees, showcase the art and prose contest and announce our new Heritage Trees for the City! An art and poetry student contest is part of the festivities. For more information contact Keith Pellemeier at the City of San Luis at 781-7022 or [kpelleme@slocity.org](mailto:kpelleme@slocity.org)

### May 3, 2008 - WaterFest at the Sunken Gardens in Atascadero from 10am - 2pm

Come celebrate with us and learn how you can help protect and conserve water while you play!  
<http://www.slowaterfest.org>

Goals of Water Fest are:

Continue local efforts to increase water awareness and to provide a coordinated educational message for the region; Celebrate the high quality waters of the Central Coast, in order to encourage citizens to protect the resource; Host a festival that celebrates water as a valuable natural resource; Provide a venue for organizations & businesses to demonstrate their water protection efforts and promote water friendly products; and Attract an audience that represents a cross-section of local residents.



**More Community Events can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the “EE Calendar” link.**

## **Contests & Grants**

### **Energy Calendar Contest**

This is announcing the 2009 Energy Calendar Contest sponsored by the California Energy Commission. The contest runs from now until Friday, April 25, 2008 when all artwork must be received. Winners will be notified by May 9, 2008. For more in-depth information, please go to our award winning website at: [www.energyquest.ca.gov](http://www.energyquest.ca.gov) .

### **Arbor Day Poster Contest – Deadline March 3, 2008**

The National Arbor Day Foundation also sponsors a "Trees are Terrific" poster contest for Fifth Graders. Here is the website to find out more:

<http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/index.cfm>

### **May 17, 2008 – Central Coast Regional High School Envirothon Competition to take place in El Chorro Regional Park from 8am - 4pm**

The California Envirothon ([www.caenvirothon.com](http://www.caenvirothon.com)) is a statewide, outdoor natural resource education program for high school students, Grades 9-12 sponsored by area Resource Conservation Districts. In the field, students are challenged to work as a team to answer written questions and conduct hands-on projects focusing on environmental knowledge. The regional competition event will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Students from all over Central Coast of California join together to explore the environment in five disciplines: Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils and a Current Environmental Issue. This year the theme for the environmental topic is "Recreational Impacts of Natural Resources."

In order to participate in the May 17, 2008 Central Coast Regional Envirothon email Teresa Lees at the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education ([trees@slococ.org](mailto:trees@slococ.org)) your school's team information. Teams consist of five high school students and one adult advisor. All participating high school teams will be treated to lunch, ice cream social and prizes.

Local information is also available on the local RCD website at <http://www.coastalrcd.org/envirothon.html>. You can also view a video of the Canon Envirothon on the ETC Portal by going to Professional Resources in the CREEC box.

### **British Petroleum A+ for Energy Grant Program – Deadline is March 7, 2008**

Teachers can apply for \$5K or \$10K grants for teaching energy or energy conservation in their classrooms. To learn about the program and for application information go to <http://www.bp.com/subsection.do?categoryId=9020242&contentId=7000037056>

### **Captain Planet Foundation Grant – Deadline March 31, 2008**

Captain Planet accepts applications for funding project that help students better grasp environmental issues. Project must focus on hands-on activities that promote interactions and cooperation within a group. For more information visit the website:

[www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html](http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html)

### **National Gardening Association Grants**

The NGA works with sponsoring companies and organizations to provide in-kind grants to projects that actively engage kids in the garden and improve the quality of life for their communities. To be eligible for these awards your schools or organization must plan to garden with at least 15 kids between the ages of 3 and 18. For more information go to:

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>

**More Contest & Grant Opportunities can be found on the CREEC 8 website in the “Funding Opportunities” and Student Contests” links.**

## Conferences/Classes

### 2008 AEOE Statewide Conference – April 25-27, 2008

Save the date: AEOE goes back to Malibu and Camp Hess Kramer on April 25-27 for its 2008 Statewide Conference, “UNLESS We Care.” We love this site for its beauty, great facilities, and convenient location (even when driving from northern California). If you are interested in volunteering for the conference committee or presenting a workshop, contact Tara at [tmurgatroyd@ymca.org](mailto:tmurgatroyd@ymca.org) or [www.aeoe.org](http://www.aeoe.org)



Go to <http://www.aeoe.org/conference/spring/2008/index.html> for the latest conference updates, including keynotes and entertainment.

The AEOE Workshop strands include:  
*Unless We Practice Sustainability: Living Lightly*  
*Unless We Teach*  
*Unless We Celebrate Diversity*  
*Unless We Meet Science Standards*  
*Unless We Include the Classroom*

### Diversity and EE Workshop – Pre AEOE Workshop April 24, 2008 – Camp Hess Kramer – Malibu, CA 10am – 3pm \$30

Presenter: Jack Shu, independent consultant specializing in cultural diversity, focuses environmental and outdoor educators to develop strategies to increase cultural competency within your organization and to clarify what is meant by diversity. For more information contact Emily Wang 415-332-5771 or [ewang@yni.org](mailto:ewang@yni.org)

### Service Learning Leadership Institute – March 3 – 5, 2008 San Jose, CA

The California Service-Learning Leadership Institute is designed to serve all people in California who are engaged in service-learning and youth service. Workshops will integrate principles of high-quality youth development. For more information contact [dhill@yscal.org](mailto:dhill@yscal.org) or 650-458-6399.

### CABE Conference – San Jose McEnery Convention Center March 6 – 8, 2008

Connecting Cultures, Reclaiming our Future is the theme for this year's California Association for Bilingual Education Conference. There will be workshops offered in the Multicultural Environmental Education strand and CEEIN members will staff a booth together. A CREEC Network workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 6 at 2:15 – 3:30pm in the Hilton Hotel, Room San Carlos II. To learn more go to [www.bilingualeducation.org/](http://www.bilingualeducation.org/)

**More Conferences can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the “EE Calendar” or “For Providers” links.**

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## EE Provider Highlights - Kern County Providers

### Kern Council of Governments – Linda Urata, Rideshare Coordinator Better Planning , Better Transportation

Kern COG is an association of city and county governments primarily created to address regional transportation issues. Its Member Agencies include the County of Kern and the eleven incorporated cities within Kern County. Go to their virtual “Learning Center” at [www.kerncog.org](http://www.kerncog.org)

### San Joaquin Valley Air pollution Control District – Brenda Turner, Education Rep.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Valley Air District) is committed to improving the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through effective and cooperative air quality programs. Go to the Programs link to find resources “For Kids” and their “Elementary School Curriculum” Blue Sky, Brown Sky at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)