



# Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

November 2009

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

## In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8  
Teresa "Tree" Lees  
CREEC 8 Coordinator  
tlees@slocoe.org  
805-782-7265  
www.creec.org/region8

## EE Success Stories

### Exemplary EE Programs –COASTKEEPER Video Contest for Marine Protected Areas

Schools along the Central Coast including SLO, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura, Monterey and Kern Counties, grades 4 to college, are encouraged to participate in the first ever Video Contest to raise awareness of the marine protected areas in an effort to protect the scenic coastline and diverse marine life of the Central Coast.

Student entries should be a 30-second or a 60-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) video that features ways to protect one of the Central Coast Marine Protected Areas. To find out more about Marine Protected Areas go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/phase1.asp>. To download the maps of Central Coast MPAs go to: [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/ccmpas\\_guide.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/ccmpas_guide.pdf).

Entries must be received by Friday, January 29, 2010. Winners will be announced in mid-March. Cash prizes will be awarded to your school for one first place winner in each group (Elementary, Middle, High, College/University). To request a complete Contest Entry Packet contact: Environment in the Public Interest Center  
EPI-Center, 1013 Monterey St., Suite 202  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[coastkeeper@epicenteronline.org](mailto:coastkeeper@epicenteronline.org)  
Ph: 805-781-9932

*Each month, a school in Region 8 will be highlighted in this section of the newsletter telling a story of what makes the school an Exemplary EE Program. If you know of schools to showcase, including your own, please e-mail me their/your story. – Teresa "Tree" Lees*

## Final Draft EEI Curriculum Update

The EEI curriculum has undergone a rigorous review by Content Review Experts and Instructional Materials Reviewers approved by the State Board of Education. The Report of Findings will be reviewed by the Curriculum Development & Supplemental Materials Commission this month. The Curriculum Commission will submit its recommendations to the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency. The Secretaries will then submit the materials to the State Board of Education for approval in January 2010.

To review any of the units, visit [www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/default.htm](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/default.htm) For more information on EEI, visit the Cal EPA website: [www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI)

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## EE Resources

### Citizen Climate

The Will Steger Foundation developed Citizen Climate, a new high school curriculum tried to national standards that focuses on global climate solutions. This curriculum emphasizes civic engagement and helps teachers and students understand critical and complex climate solutions being discussed on the national and international stage. It also allows students to formulate statements about what they would like to see happen in climate policy and how these policies and actions can be replicated in their states and local communities. Visit: <http://www.willstegerfoundation.org/index.php/programs/k-12-education-program>.

### Earth Gauge on the Web from National Environmental Education Foundation

#### Widgets, Twitter, Video, Facebook, etc.

Earth Gauge continues to reach the public with environmental and climate information on the Web. Here are some of our latest materials:

- **Climate Facts Widget:** <http://www.earthgauge.net/service/widget> Climate Facts to your Web site.
- **Earth Gauge Kids Widget:** <http://www.earthgauge.net/kids/more> Link to content for kids in grades 5-8. The widget is automatically updated with a new theme each month.
- **Follow Us on Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/earthgauge> Look for regular updates and links to resources.
- **Download Videos:** <http://www.earthgauge.net/resources/public-video> Add environment and climate videos to your Web site.
- **Become a Fan:** The National Environmental Education Foundation, Earth Gauge's parent organization, now has a Facebook page.

### Habitable Planet High School Course from Annenberg Media

The Habitable Planet is a multimedia course for high school teachers and adult learners interested in studying environmental science. The Web site provides access to course content and activities developed by leading scientists and researchers in the field. Annenberg Media offers teacher resources and professional development TV programming across the curriculum. <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/index.html>

*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.*

## Trainings & Workshops

### Ground Water Institute for Teachers – November 5 & 6, 2009 in Oxnard

United Water Conservation District is pleased to announce a tremendous opportunity for local teachers to learn about local water issues and how it represents a great possible career path for their students. Together with the American Ground Water Trust, United is organizing an "Institute for Teachers" on Thursday and Friday, November 5 and 6.

The two-day Institute will provide 25-30 teachers from the Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Fillmore and Camarillo areas with a unique chance to explore various aspects of science as it relates to groundwater. Registration is required. Contact: Andrew Stone 603-228-5444 [astone@agwt.org](mailto:astone@agwt.org) or visit [www.agwt.org](http://www.agwt.org) (under "Institutes").

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### Fresh Fruit & Vegetables Training – Various sites & dates

## Free Professional Development Training Opportunity For School Personnel and Community Partners

### Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: A Centerpiece for a Healthy School Environment

#### Part I – Fall/Winter Season

This FREE, two-day training provides tools to support an increase of fresh fruits and vegetables on school campuses through interactive and skill-building activities.

Day ONE – 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Nutrition education promoting fruit and vegetable consumption

Garden-enhanced nutrition education

Academic connections to nutritious school gardens

Greening school campuses: gardening, composting, and more

Team-building and communication strategies to support your effort

Day TWO – 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Connecting schools with local farms

Serving and promoting seasonal fruit and vegetable snacks

Safe culinary skills from garden to classroom

**Register now, go to or click on: [www.lifelab.org/ffv.php](http://www.lifelab.org/ffv.php)**

Early registration encouraged, as seating is limited. The first 20 people to register at each location will receive a set of 140 beautiful fresh fruit and vegetable photo cards. Register now!

Registration ends two weeks prior to each training date.

### Water Leaders Training 2010

**Deadline: December 7, 2009**

The Water Education Foundation of California offers a program that educates young professional from diverse backgrounds about water issues. Each class member is assigned a top level policy-maker as a mentor as the class researches and analyzes a specific water topic. Class members are expected to attend a January orientation, the Bay-Delta Tour, one other Foundation tour, and the March 25-26 Executive Briefing. Class members also spend time shadowing their mentor and work on a class research report. Tuition is \$2,500 and there is a \$25 application fee. Scholarship funding is available. The class begins January 2010. To apply, visit: <http://www.watereducation.org/userfiles/2010WaterLeaders.pdf>

### Pathways to the Future Teacher Institute – December 10-11, 2009

Part of Green Schools Summit – Pasadena, CA

The Green Technology Teacher Training Institutes produces professional development events for teachers with the purpose of familiarizing them with standards-based curriculum resources that are related to the green economy. We do this through an event called "Pathways to the Future" a two-day conference for teachers in grades 5-12. It's an extremely informative and fun event that gives teachers opportunities to hear from green industry professionals in order to find out what's really happening in the green economy sector, and then helps them to plan how to integrate that information into their curriculum.

The Early Bird registration is only \$265 for the full two-day program, but you must register by December 1<sup>st</sup>! We also have scholarship opportunities for this event (and the sooner we get in applications, the better, as they are limited).

<http://www.green-technology.org/TI-new/>

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## NOAA Teacher at Sea Program

**Deadline: December 31, 2009**

This program sends teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. Participants can expect to be at sea anywhere from one week to one month, with the average cruise lasting 12-14 days. The mission is a clearer insight into our ocean planet and to increase environmental literacy for teachers. To apply, visit: <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/apply/index.html>.

**More Trainings & Workshops can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "For Teachers" link at [www.creec.org/region8/](http://www.creec.org/region8/)**

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## Community Events

### Morro Bay Arbor Day Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 10- 4 PM in Morro Bay

Lila Keiser Park, across from M B High School off Atascadero Rd

**Bring a shovel or come and watch:** a huge barren strip of ground will be transformed into an aesthetic wonderland of Calif. Native trees and plants in celebration of Morro Bay Arbor Day. Ground breaking ceremony starts at 10AM with a flag salute by Cub Scout Den 214 and the local 4-H and ends at 4 PM with the Salinan Indian tribe blessing the planting. Local landscape professionals will be available all day to answer questions and provide information about the benefits of drought tolerant landscapes.

The M B Tree Committee, Morro Bay BEAUTIFUL, and our Parks Dept. Welcome the entire community to come enjoy and/or participate.  
Information: Noah at 772-7668

### *Morro Coast Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count – Dec. 19, 2009 in Los Osos*

Saturday, December 19th, Dawn to Dusk count area is a circle 15 miles in diameter, centered at Turri Road and Los Osos Valley Road.

Please join in and support this annual event. Audubon membership is not required, but national rules will not permit us to accept a count from an unregistered observer. There is a \$5.00 registration fee (required by National Audubon). The \$5.00 fee goes toward the compilation and publication costs of the data in the American Birds Magazine.

To register and for more information contact Bert and Elaine Townsend, CBC Coordinators (805) 543-1373, [betownsend@sbcglobal.net](mailto:betownsend@sbcglobal.net)

Potluck dinner after count, 6pm, Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School behind the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education offices.

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

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## Conferences/Classes

### AEOE Northern California Conference

Nov 6-8: AEOE Northern Fall Conference at Walden West Outdoor School in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains, near Saratoga.

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Cost: \$45 when registered online or postmarked by 10/30/09. AEOE is piloting an online registration system, which will be up-and-running soon. Like the southern conference, the \$45 includes four meals, lodging in dorms or camping, and workshops! Presenters get in free. For the first time in many years, the conference is close to SF Bay Area programs. For full conference details, contact information, registration forms, workshop presenter forms, and volunteer information, go to <http://www.aeoe.org/nfall09.html>

### **Green Schools Conference – Bringing Sustainability to a New Generation December 9 – 11, 2009, Pasadena, CA**

Come to the nation's largest green schools event for information, education and resources that will help you discover how to take schools buildings into the green economy. Find out how you can save on energy costs and other green building technology. To register or for more information, visit: <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/>

### **Spring Statewide AEOE Conference**

April 30 May 2: AEOE Statewide Conference at Camp Hess Kramer in the Santa Monica Mountains, walking distance to tide pools and beaches of Malibu. The conference committees and AEOE Board are working hard to coordinate another great conference. If you would like to be involved this year, please contact Coleen Ryan at [ryancoleen@gmail.com](mailto:ryancoleen@gmail.com) The keynote speaker will be well known actor, environmentalist and educator Ed Begley Jr. For full conference details as they become available, go to <http://www.aeoe.org/statewide09.html>

***More Conferences/Classes can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "EE Calendar" or "For Providers" links.***

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## **EE Grants & Contests**

### **WHALE TAIL Grants**

**Deadline: November 16, 2009**

The California Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants Program is now accepting proposals for coastal and marine education projects. This program funds projects encouraging people to value and take action to improve the health of California's coast, marine life, or watersheds that connect with the coast. Educational coastal habitat restoration and beach maintenance projects are also eligible. Emphasis is on reaching underserved students and members of the public. Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies may apply. Applicants may request up to \$50,000, and 25-50% of the funding will be allocated in small grants below \$10,000. A total of \$352,000 will be distributed. For full guidelines and an application, see the link at <http://www.coastforyou.org/> or call (800) Coast-4U.

### **Recycle Rex's Recycle Challenge**

**Hey Kids and Teachers! Grades K-6<sup>th</sup>**

Recycle Rex invites YOU to take my "Recycle Challenge!" The folks at the Department of Conservation would like to challenge your class to see how many aluminum and plastic California Redemption Value (CRV) beverage containers you can collect and recycle from November 16, 2009 to March 13, 2010! Register forms are available on the Department of Conservation's website. The winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2010. To register, visit: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dor/rre/Pages/index.aspx>

### **National Public Lands Grants (from NEEF)**

**Deadline: December 1, 2009**

The [Public Lands Program Capacity Building Grants](http://www.publiclandsday.org/grants/index.htm) are designed to provide funding to strengthen the organizational effectiveness of community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits whose mission is focused on serving a public lands site in the United States. Capacity Building can take many forms, including, but not limited to, strategic planning, marketing, volunteer development, leadership capacity, improved fundraising, assessments or staff training.

<http://www.publiclandsday.org/grants/index.htm>

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Communities across America are rediscovering the benefits of service and volunteerism. Friends Groups can be invaluable partners to the public land agencies and the public lands they serve. While dedicated and passionate, they are often underfunded and understaffed. The National Environmental Education Foundation's Public Lands Program (PLP) Capacity Building Grants are intended to help these vital organizations get the support they need to increase their efforts.

### **Generation Green: Youth Voices and Visions Writing Contest**

**Deadline: December 4, 2009**

The National Council for Science and the Environment is calling on high school students to submit articles on the new green economy. Articles should be 500 words in length and may be opinion pieces, research showcases or articles that detail community programs. The content should be designed to express personal perspectives and experiences, identifying key issues and solutions. For information, visit:

<http://ncseonline.org/conference/greeneconomy/cms.cfm?id+3302>.

### **Increase Your Green Competition**

**Deadline: December 8, 2009**

DoSomething.org is calling on students to green their schools. Students who make the biggest effort to reduce their school's carbon footprint could win up to \$1,500 to further their efforts. Schools are eligible for a first-place prize of a \$1,500 grant, a banner, a plaque, an eco-friendly gift bag and a chance to be visited by the biotour bus. Three \$500 second place prizes will also be awarded. For more information, visit:

[http://sss.dosomething.org/increase\\_your\\_green](http://sss.dosomething.org/increase_your_green).

### **DISNEY LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COMPETITION FOR THE CLASSROOM, DISNEY'S PLANET CHALLENGE**

**Deadline to apply is December 18, 2009**

Disney announced the nationwide launch of Disney's Planet Challenge, a project-based environmental competition for 4th – 6th grade classrooms that will empower students to make a difference in school, at home and in their local communities. With more than 15 years experience running highly-acclaimed classroom environmental competitions in regional markets including California and Florida (as "Disney's Environmental Challenge®"), Disney developed the new Disney's Planet Challenge in response to growing demand across all 50 states. Program collaborations with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the K-12 Alliance and state and federal government agencies ensure academic and environmental excellence. Participation in the program is free, and enrollment is open today at [www.disney.com/planetchallenge](http://www.disney.com/planetchallenge).

### **Disney has teamed up with DonorsChoose.org to help fund your class project**

Disney has a very exciting announcement to share with you today! We have collaborated with DonorsChoose.org, an online charity that connects individual donors with public school classrooms in need, to fund 50 percent of your DPC environmental projects. Through the DonorsChoose "Double Your Impact" program, Disney will match all donations from family, community members and other donors dollar for dollar. That way, you will be able to reach your fundraising goal twice as fast!

Funding is limited, so be sure to sign your project up as soon as possible. To get started is easy - visit [www.donorschoose.org/teachers](http://www.donorschoose.org/teachers) and fill out your grant application. Once your project is accepted and live on the site, you can send the link to all of your friends, family and community members to donate directly to your wonderful project.

### President's Environmental Youth Awards

**Deadline: December 31, 2009**

Since 1971, the US EPA has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America in grades K-12 for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. To be eligible to compete submit to your local EOA regional office evidence of your completed project along with your application. To apply, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/enviored/peya/index.html>

### Nominations open for the 2010 Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award

**Deadline: January 15, 2010**

The Richard C. Bartlett Award is presented annually by the National Environmental Education Foundation to an outstanding teacher who has successfully integrated environmental education into his or her daily curriculum. The 2010 prize will be given to a *high school* teacher who can serve as an inspiration and model for both students and colleagues. **The winner receives a \$5,000 award and a trip to Washington D.C.** where he or she meets with representatives from the environmental education community to further his or her education network. Do you know a teacher who stands out among the rest? If so, please nominate him/her for the 2010 Richard C. Bartlett Award. Nominations will be accepted through **January 15, 2010**. To learn more or submit your nomination visit <http://www.neefusa.org/bartlettaward.htm>

### Coastal Art & Poetry Contest

**Deadline: January 30, 2010**

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. All winners and honorable mentions will receive tickets for their families to visit the Aquarium of the Pacific, courtesy of the Aquarium. Students may have their work featured on Commission web pages and materials, and winning entries will be exhibited throughout the state. For rules and entry form, visit [www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html) (or follow the links from [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org)), email [coast4u@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:coast4u@coastal.ca.gov), or call (800) Coast-4U. Contest flyers (PDF or hard copy) are available upon request.

### Siemens "We Can Change the World" Challenge

**Deadlines: January 31, 2010 for elementary groups and March 15, 2010 for middle school groups**

The Siemens "We Can Change the World" challenge offers students the opportunity to make a sustainable change, matched to academic concepts and skills. Teams of students find an adult mentor who will play an active role in guiding student development of the project and submission of materials. Visit: <http://wecanchange.com/>

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Please submit items to Teresa "Tree" Lees for the next  
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