



Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

September 2009

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

EE Success Stories

Exemplary EE Programs – “Green Academy” to start at Atascadero High School- San Luis Obispo County FALL 2009

Sixty incoming freshmen have reenrolled in the Green Academy, where together they will take four years of classes with an emphasis on the environment. Green Academy students will learn about energy and water use on campus, how much waste is generated as well as ways to reduce all resources used on campus. Students will also have the opportunity to work with mentors from the community on issues such as an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions or establishing worm bins from the school district food waste.

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

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EE Resources

COASTWEEKS 2009 Calendar now Online!

Coastweeks is a three week celebration of our coast and waterways, taking place September 19th through October 11th. The California Coastal Commission has created an online calendar of events which you can find linked from www.coastforyou.org, or directly at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html. There are currently about 200 events happening throughout the state, including such varied activities as kayak tours, speakers, hiking trips, festivals, restoration events, and much more. Coastweeks starts with the **25th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day** on September 19th, a massive volunteer effort with 70,000 Californians working to clean up our environment.

Check out the calendar and find an event in your area. It's just that easy to get out there and enjoy our coast!

ALSO ON OUR WEBSITE...

This summer we asked the public to send us their stories of coastal stewardship. We've posted them on our website at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/steward/stories.html in order to honor these stewards and inspire the rest of us to get out there and help protect our coast and ocean. For more ideas on how you can help, please visit our Coastal Stewardship Pledge at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/steward/pledge_form.html.

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Nature Clubs for Families

Spending time outdoors improves the physical and mental well-being of children and adults alike. This toolkit, developed by Children & Nature Network, was designed for families interested in spending more time outdoors and starting a local Nature Club. It includes a Quick Start Guide with simple instructions on how to start a Nature Club, as well as activity ideas, tips and checklists for getting started. The kit is available in both English and Spanish. [Download the toolkit:](http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/NCFE_toolkit.pdf)
http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/NCFE_toolkit.pdf

Climate Change, Wildlife and Wildlands Toolkit

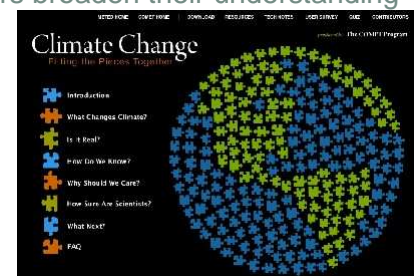
This new and improved kit is designed for classroom teachers and informal educators in parks, refuges, forest lands, nature centers, zoos, aquariums, science centers, etc. and is aimed at the middle school grade level. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with six other federal agencies, developed the kit to aid educators in teaching how climate change is affecting our nation's wildlife and public lands and how everyone can become "climate stewards." [Learn more:](http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/toolkit/materials)
<http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/toolkit/materials>

Climate Change Resources for Health Professionals



NEEF has created a climate change [webpage](http://www.neefusa.org/health/cc_initiative.htm) http://www.neefusa.org/health/cc_initiative.htm for health professionals that gives an overview of the potential health effects as well as a list of additional resources. Two new online courses developed by NEEF and the Cooperative Program on Operational Meteorology Education and

Training are included among the resources. [Climate Change: Fitting the Pieces Together](#) provides a basic overview of climate change science and answers frequently asked questions. [Weather and Health](#) was created to help meteorologists, health care professionals and others broaden their understanding of the impacts of weather and climate on public health. Both courses are offered at no cost, and require free registration. If you are interested in partnering with a local meteorologist who covers health and environment stories in your area, contact [Ann Posegate](mailto:posegate@neefusa.org) at posegate@neefusa.org



Meeting Standards Naturally

Meeting Standards Naturally was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership to assist K-12 educators in promoting academic excellence and environmental literacy. The program explores how teaching about the environment can be used to achieve national education standards for core disciplines such as math, science and social studies. It includes 43 sample K-12 classroom activities that demonstrate how environmental lessons can support specific grade level education standards. [Learn more:](http://eetap.org/html/meeting_standards_naturally.php)
http://eetap.org/html/meeting_standards_naturally.php

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

Online Professional Development from the Wildlife Conservation Society

Wildlife Conservation Society's Online Teacher Training Courses are designed for K-12 educators of every discipline who are interested in adding a new dimension to their lessons. Upcoming courses include Fundamentals of Environmental Education, Conservation Biology for Educators and Energy, Climate and Wildlife Connections. Scholarships are available. [Learn more](#)

<http://www.wcs.org/teachers/online-professional-development.aspx>

GLOBE Teacher Training Workshops

Around the world, students are making scientific observations and reporting environmental data to GLOBE for use in research. For a school to participate in GLOBE, at least one teacher must be trained in the GLOBE protocols and education activities by attending a GLOBE Teacher Workshop. Upcoming workshops are scheduled around the country. [Learn more:](#)

<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/workshop/registration.pl?lang=en&nav=1>

Project Learning Tree Educator Workshops

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is an award winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education program for educators and students, pre-K through grade 12. PLT is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad, and it continues to set the standard for environmental education excellence. Educator workshops are planned around the country. [Search for a workshop near you:](#) <http://www.plt.org/events/index.cfm>

Wetlands Educator Workshops

Environmental Concern works to increase understanding of, foster appreciation for and encourage the stewardship of wetland systems. WOW! the Wonders of Wetlands and POW! the Planning of Wetlands workshops are designed for formal and non-formal educators who are interested in learning more about wetlands and who would like to bring the excitement of wetland education into their classroom. Upcoming workshops will be held around the country. [Learn more](#)

http://www.wetland.org/education_schedule.htm

Plant It, Grow It, Eat It: Garden-Enhanced Nutrition Education Workshop September 17, 2009 Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm, Santa Cruz

Description: Make the connection from seed to table in this fun and delicious one-day workshop. Explore ways to teach nutrition through gardening, harvesting and meal preparation in Life Lab's Chez Panisse Garden Kitchen. You'll learn effective ways to encourage kids grades 2-8 to eat more fruits and vegetables as part of a healthy lifestyle. Participants will sample the bounty of the farm and harvest to prepare a nutritious lunch. You'll receive an activity packet with gardening and nutrition lessons, recipes, and garden kitchen resources. Cost: \$150, with one unit of graduate education credit available for an additional \$60 fee.

Location: Life Lab's Garden Classroom at UCSC
Santa Cruz, California

Contact Information:

Juliana Grinvalsky, Life Lab Science Program, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA, 95064, admin@lifelab.org, (831)459-2001, fax: (831)459-3483

Event Home Page: <http://www.lifelab.org/workshops.php>

Digging In: A Guide to Community Based Habitat Restoration – September 24

Thursday, September 24, 8:30am-4:30pm
Martin Luther King Junior Regional Shoreline Center, Oakland

The Coastal Commission is hosting this workshop in partnership with Save The Bay. Speakers include Darcie Collins, PhD of Save The Bay; Susan Schwartz of Friends of Five Creeks, and Myla Ablog of Literacy for Environmental Justice. Participants will receive a copy of *Digging In* and lunch will be provided. A tour of the Martin Luther King Shoreline restoration area and nursery led by Save the Bay staff will conclude the workshop. Space is limited. For more information, email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov or call (800) COAST-4U. To reserve a space, mail a \$30 check, payable to "Tides Center/Marine Educ. Project", along with your name, affiliation, and email address to:

*California Coastal Commission
Public Education Program - Digging In
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105*

For more information and an event flyer, please visit
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/UNBweb/diggingin.html>.

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

Community Events

Green car show at the Central Coast Home & Garden Expo September 5, 10 AM - 5 PM

Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 South Thornburg, Santa Maria
See many of the greenest vehicles all in one place at CEC's green car show, as part of the Central Coast Home & Garden Expo. Check out the latest hybrid, clean diesel, and fuel efficient vehicles.

DAY OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL FOOD - SEPTEMBER 7 "Eat-Ins" to Support Stronger Child Nutrition Act

The Center is partnering with Slow Food USA and other organizations to promote a National Day of Action on September 7 (Labor Day). The event is part of Slow Food's Time for Lunch Campaign, "Get Real Food in Schools." With the Child Nutrition Act up for reauthorization, eat-ins across the country will demonstrate public support for strengthening school food standards, purchasing locally, establishing gardens, and teaching children to eat well.
[Learn about the Time for Lunch Campaign >](#)

http://www.slowfoodusa.org/index.php/campaign/time_for_lunch/about/

[Read about the CEL Rethinking School Lunch program >](#)

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/programs/rsl.html>

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Register for National Public Lands Day
http://www.publiclandsday.org/pre_reg.htm

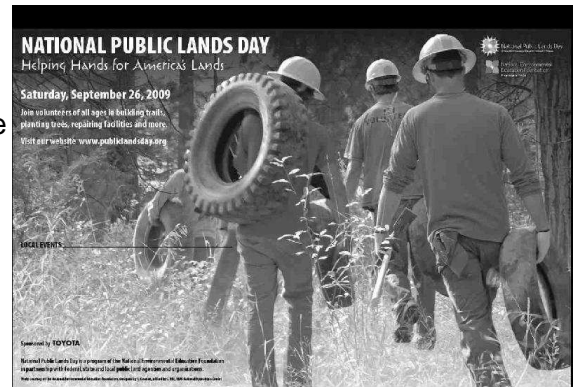
Sept. 26, 2009

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It's never too late to [register](#) your National Public Lands Day event. [Register now](#) and receive our FREE promotional materials before we run out.

Our 2009 [promotional poster](#) and [rack card](#) feature 2008 photo contest winners. These are great resources to help promote your event locally. Supplies are limited. [Register now](#) to make sure you receive them on time for your event.



Water Resources <http://publiclandsday.org/library/index/water.htm>

Free Resources to Educate Volunteers

This year, NPLD volunteers will focus on protecting our nation's water resources. Learn about estuaries, rivers, oceans, drinking water, fish, groundwater, watersheds and water safety while discovering related resources, games and activities for volunteers on our [Public Lands and Water Resource Library](#).



Coastal Clean Up Day – September 19, 2009

Each fall, people all over the country participate in *COASTWEEKS*, a celebration of our coastal and water resources. This year the event takes place from September 19 to October 11, kicked off by the 25th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. The California Coastal Commission will feature and publicize a calendar of events in a special section of our website. Special events created for *COASTWEEKS* and prescheduled coast- and water-related events are eligible. We encourage events from throughout the state. This celebration is a great way to expand your outreach and to participate in a nation-wide effort to encourage appreciation and preservation of our coast and our inland waterways. And it's free!

If you'd like to publicize your coast- or water-related event(s) on our website during *COASTWEEKS*, visit www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html to download an event form, or refer me to event information on your website. Please forward this email to other organizations in California working for our coast and waterways. If you have any questions or would like the form emailed, mailed or faxed to you, please contact me. Thank you for all your good work!

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20th Anniversary Event at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden Sept. 27, 2009 in El Chorro Regional Park, SLO

Celebrate all things "green and sustainable" at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden's *Connections With Nature* event, awards ceremony, and 20th anniversary festivities. You'll enjoy a day of fun, learning, and tribute as you share great food and music with your family and friends!

<http://www.slobg.org/ConnectionsWNature.htm>

Eco-Friendly Carnival – October 3, 2009 in Santa Barbara

Washington Elementary School in Santa Barbara, CA is planning its **Second Annual Eco-Friendly Carnival** on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 1:00-4:00pm.

Our goal for this Eco-Carnival is to increase awareness and education about how to become greener in life and also to extend this type of education into the classrooms. This year we will be extending our invitation to all Santa Barbara families because as a community, the more we become aware of our practices of greening our life, the better impact we can have.

The Eco-Carnival will have regular booths with games, but this year we plan to offer a "green walk" where companies may promote and demonstrate their eco-friendly businesses to the children, parents and Santa Barbara community. If we can provide you with more information, call 805-729-3777.

GROWING – Festival of Conservation, Cultivation & Consumption – Oct 3

Templeton Community Services District and Nature's Touch Nursery & Harvest are happy to host the first annual GROWING Festival. This festival will take place on Saturday, October 3 at the Templeton Park. This event celebrates SLO County farmers, businesses, restaurants, and residents who recognize the importance of conservation and sustainability in their approach to cultivation and consumption. If you, or someone you know, fall into this category and would like to find out more, please contact me at 434-4914.

Santa Barbara CAN "Creating Sustainable Communities" program OCTOBER 7, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**Santa Maria Public Library, Shepard Hall
421 South McClelland Street, Santa Maria**

Join CEC at the Santa Barbara County Action Network's workshop on "Best Practices in Sustainable Transportation, Energy Use, Landscaping & Community Gardening." A panel of speakers, including Michael Chiacos from CEC, will discuss how to reduce our carbon footprint; public transit and energy conservation in Santa Maria; green building practices; and the latest trends in community gardening and backyard harvesting

Autumn Garden Festival – October 10th in Atascadero

The Atascadero Mutual Water Company is hosting a free sustainable landscape symposium on Saturday, October 10th 8:30am to 4pm at the Colony House in Atascadero. Call 461-7217 x22 to reserve a space.

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

Conferences/Classes

Register Today: Green Clean Schools National Summit

<http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/programs/gcs/summit.php>



Concerned about healthy and clean schools for students and staff? Concerned about the environment? What to be part of a national movement to promote green cleaning in schools? Then join industry leaders, national school stakeholder groups and non-profit advocates on September 15, 2009 for the [Second Annual Green Clean Schools National Summit](#) in Washington DC.

Awards to Spotlight Green Cleaning Programs



The **Green Cleaning Award for Schools and Universities**, presented by American School & University magazine with HSC and the Green Cleaning Network, is in its third year of recognizing outstanding green cleaning programs in schools. The judging criteria for the award are based on the five simple steps to green cleaning outlined in HSC's *Guide*.

<http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/programs/gcs/award.php>

California Ag in the Classroom Conference – October 23-24, Rohnert Park, CA

The 2009 CFAITC Conference will provide garden and nutrition-based lesson plan ideas, hands-on gardening activities that can be easily adapted for multiple grade levels and abilities, exciting field trips to some of the North Bay's most innovative school garden sites, tremendous networking opportunities, and introduce you to inspirational individuals who have truly transformed their gardens into a living outdoor laboratory. Step into the kitchens of this region's booming culinary culture, and out into the fields that make this fertile valley and its surrounding environs a productive and progressive agricultural hotspot.

<http://www.cfaitc.org/conference/>

Green Schools Summit – December 9 -11 in Pasadena

The 2009 [Green California Schools Summit](#), coming to the Pasadena Convention Center from December 9-11, offers you unequalled access to decision makers from California's green schools movement.

Here's the most recent example of this: the Office of the State Architect has obtained space on the exhibition floor to host an information center. This office approves public school construction plans and consults with the Office of Public School Construction regarding the allocation of Proposition 1D funding for green school projects. David Thorman, the State Architect, has called for all new schools to be "grid neutral."

Find out more at: <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/>

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

EE Grants & Contests

Care for Our Earth Grants – Santa Barbara County Schools Save Energy, Cut Traffic and Pollution

Santa Barbara County 4th-12th grade teachers are invited to apply for \$200 grants to perform environmental service projects with students in one of two areas: reducing energy use at schools; or cutting traffic and pollution at schools. The Care for Our Earth Grants program is a partnership effort of Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, the Santa Barbara County Education Office, and the Southern California Gas Company. The deadline for applications is November 20, 2009; download the application form at <http://www.sbceo.org/~impact2/>. For additional information, see <http://www.OurAir.org/teachers.htm>, or contact Petti Pfau at 964-4711 x5282 or pmpfau@sbceo.org to apply.

Hooked on Hydroponics - Application deadline Sept. 18, 2009

When children and teens explore how to grow plants hydroponically, questions can lead to active investigations and problem solving. To be Hooked on Hydroponics, schools and youth organizations must plan to engage in 15 children between the ages of 6 and 18 during the 2010 school year. We will provide appropriate kits and curricula on hydroponics. [Learn more:](#) <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/HOH.asp>

Bright Green Dream Challenge - Entry deadline Sept. 25, 2009

The Bright Green Dream Challenge encourages teachers and students to improve their environment and propose creative solutions for increasing energy efficiency in their environment and reducing their carbon footprint. The winning entry will be used for a classroom upgrade to be installed in their school later this year. [Learn more:](#) <http://www.greenovationnation.com/Dream/>

Lowe's Toolbox for Education - Application deadline Oct. 16 '09

Any individual nonprofit public K-12 public school or associated parent organization is eligible for the Toolbox for Education grant program. Grant requests should emphasize safety, energy efficiency enhancement or landscaping and clean-up type projects. Winning projects include a reading garden to a school nature trail to a peer tutoring center. Each school can receive up to \$5,000 for their improvement project. [Learn more:](#) <http://www.lowe.com/education>

Healthy Sprouts Awards - Application deadline Oct. 17, 2009

To encourage the growth of health-focused youth gardens, the National Gardening Association recognizes outstanding programs through the Healthy Sprouts Awards. Schools and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger are eligible for the 2009 Healthy Sprouts Awards, your school or organization must have at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. A Gardener's Kit includes NGA's Eat A Rainbow Kit, 25 packets of seeds and a literature packet. Grants are awarded to schools. [Learn more:](#) <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts>

Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Grants - Oct. 31, 2009

GreenWorks! grants engage PLT educators and their students with their local community in "learning-by-doing" environmental projects. Student leadership, service-learning and community participation are the cornerstones to GreenWorks! projects. These grassroots action projects enable schools and youth organizations across the country to make a positive impact on their communities. Grants are awarded in two funding categories: \$250 - \$1,000 grants and \$1,001 - \$5,000 grants. Proposal requirements are different for each category. http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html

2009 Tree Planting Grants Available from CAL FIRE

Funding is available to assist nonprofit and community-based groups throughout California with tree-planting projects. The program is funded through a contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and unincorporated community-based groups, with a financial sponsor, located in California.

Individual funding requests range from \$1,000 to \$7,500. Applicants may submit only one proposal. Grants are for the costs associated with the purchase and planting of trees, and the maintenance of those trees during the grant period, insuring the long-term viability of the trees.

Proposals must be postmarked by July 31, 2009. Grant recipients will have until February 26, 2010 to complete their project. Click here

[<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102620065888&s=146&e=001noNtBFefzYfYaEzC1MwAQmpWvemD0qIVp5Dspc7gUf72ENmZWLUEr0-AES17Om9GWvxP1vvnvQH-870IE5GUbMaT4EmHD7ANPc38vfsjV4QQYLvlhxLm3sflMosDUtQmIRqoVOliBTkaGXDmlvNDuAbTlPfcUHDRapwhMDCrJqJAsN4oH-nksMGGW4uyMjY82wO>]

to download the guidelines and application in Word format, and click here

[http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102620065888&s=146&e=001noNtBFefzYfYbO2j6vzPJaSlqPqKMLNeSEkD0a077DjBNQyGa5wZKXhm92kNZ69S3JW-h_C8iRvUqrfpC0fE3fu4uZqT91r_e7xmqGh2AtEzGje7PWSTCod_W3CajdEk7_ZVRlhCv6uPNLHlpeJTfli_6Gfnvq2HqcRQV6t_2DXQR_pcq6ZaHJkiYttEV6XO_W] to download the guidelines and application in PDF format, or visit our grants page

[http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102620065888&s=146&e=001noNtBFefzYfYa2GLHjIKfljmoeJI6eYct4OocKIN-m3D4qrX3gWJFCilizSqnhOQ_MLhkBBsOydQceoOPgiLkFFAKxijVCcAT2TE9zRFW3tPTtPNvne2rTimalAK9MurW_uQ--2G68TzU=] for more information. To request a hard copy, please email us at info@californiareleaf.org or call (530) 757-7332.

Wal-Mart Foundation National Grant

Wal-Mart is currently offering two grants to improve education, health and wellness programs for students 12-25 years old. State Giving grants are designed for large-scale sustainable programs, and Store Giving grants are sponsored by regional locations to impact the local community.

Visit the [Wal-Mart Foundation website](http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/203.aspx):

<http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/203.aspx> for more information about these grants.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation National Grant

The Kellogg Foundation funds education, health & well-being programs to promote school readiness and success for underserved populations. This grant can help jump start your PE, After School, or Coordinated School Health program to boost academic achievement and help your students learn and have fun!

Click Here: <http://www.wkkf.org/Default.aspx?LanguageID=0>
for more information

***Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest – November 1, 2009**

Meet Academic Content Standards for California schools through this creative writing contest!

Create a positive learning experience that promotes reading, writing and the arts, and furthers the understanding of agriculture in our lives by using this award-winning contest in your classroom.

Agriculture touches everyone—everyday. Agriculture is the food and fabric of our lives, and we all depend upon agriculture to keep the world going around.

<http://www.cfaitc.org/Imaginethis/Imaginethis.php>

Studies have shown that students who relate what they are learning in the classroom to their daily lives are more inclined to remember the information they have received. Incorporate the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest into your classroom, and provide your students the opportunity to make a meaningful connection between academics, agriculture and their lives.

**This is the end of the September 2009 Region 8 CREEC Newsletter
Please submit items to Teresa “Tree” Lees for the next
CREEC E-Newsletter at tlees@slococoe.org**