



Thurston County Resource Stewardship

Worms and Worm Bins

K - 5th Grades, 60 minutes

Bring wildlife into your classroom! After learning about the importance of worms in the environment and their role in transforming garbage into natural fertilizer, students use magnifying lenses to examine worms up close. Certified Master Recycler Composter volunteers will provide the free lessons on a limited schedule. Please contact Cori Carlton at 867-2162 or carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us to check availability.



Thurston County Environmental Health

Cautions, Warnings and Dangers, Oh My!

4th and 5th Grades, 60 minutes

Students examine labels from various household hazardous waste products. The class will take part in a cleaning experiment, learn signal words, and discuss proper disposal.

Hazards on the Homefront

6th - 12th Grades, 50 to 90 minutes

Students how to read hazardous product labels and proper use, storage, and disposal of such products. Students learn about common household products that can be harmful to their health and the environment, as well as safer alternatives. Hands-on activities may include a fast-paced bingo game or an experiment to determine the more effective of two cleaning products, depending on the age group and time availability.

Earth-Friendly Car Care

Grades 10 - 12, 35 minutes

Drivers can reduce their impacts on the environment in many ways. This interactive presentation includes discussions about recycled motor oil, water pollution, fuel efficiency, trip reduction, and hazardous materials disposal.

We request groups of 10 to 30 students and can schedule multiple presentations to accommodate everyone. To schedule a presentation, contact Elisa Kaufmann at 867-2579 or kaufmae@co.thurston.wa.us.



Other resources

Recycling and waste sorts

Staff members are available to help establish or enhance your school recycling, waste reduction or composting program and to help organize a waste sort. We'll meet you on-site to figure out the best approach for your school's individual needs.

Lending library

Our library has a wide variety of environmental books and media available for all ages. Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Schools for a complete list.

Trash Talk newsletter

Fourth and fifth grade students in Thurston County can get their own "Trash Talk" publication delivered to your classroom FREE! It features information on recycling, reuse, household hazardous waste, compost, waste reduction, and more.

The informative newsletter offers word searches, crossword puzzles, and other games to make learning fun. If you are a fourth or fifth grade teacher interested in receiving this publication for your students, please contact us.

To schedule a free presentation or request other resources, contact Colleen Minion at 867-2280 or minionc@co.thurston.wa.us.



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www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org



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Environmental education program

Free elementary and middle school presentations



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Environmental lessons brought to your classroom!

Thurston County solid waste staff are here to make environmental education easy. We use visual aids of various media, hands-on activities, and take-home materials to help students enjoy and retain what they've learned. Lessons are designed by grade level and cover consumerism, wasted food, recycling and more. Presentations are approximately 60 minutes. To schedule a free presentation, contact Colleen Minion at 867-2280 or minionc@co.thurston.wa.us.

Waste Less Food

Farm to Fork

2nd and 3rd Grades

Students will learn about the basics of the food production system as it relates to natural resource use and the problem of wasted food in our country. In a collaborative, hands-on activity, students will learn about wasted food's effect on the environment and brainstorm ways that they and their families can prevent it at home.



Recycling

Introduction to Recycling

2nd and 3rd Grades

Students will explore the basics of recycling. They will learn about natural resources and play a game to match everyday objects with the resources they are made from. After discussing the importance of recycling, they will participate in an activity to learn what is recyclable in Thurston County. Students come away with a

What's Your Foodprint?

4th and 5th Grades

Students will learn how wasting food impacts the environment and how to waste less at home by measuring their "foodprint." After brainstorming ways to reduce their personal foodprints they will take tips and tools home. They can help save money, and the environment at the same time!

Food: Too Good to Waste

6th - 8th Grades

The average family throws away 25 percent of the food they buy. Students will learn what they can do at home to stop wasted food from happening. This includes learning how long foods stay safe if properly stored and how to trust their eyes and nose rather than the "sell by date." Students will problem-solve in groups to turn a list of food items into a full day's meals for a family of four, and will learn to maximize their food rather than letting it go to waste.

better understanding of the recycling process and the environmental benefits of recycling.

Closing the Loop

4th and 5th Grades

Students learn about the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) and how to use them to reduce waste and help the environment. Students will see how used objects get turned into new products through the recycling process. Students then do an activity to help them gain an understanding of what can be recycled in Thurston County.

Consumerism

Wants vs. Needs

2nd and 3rd Grades

What is the difference between "wanting" something and "needing" something? By making connections between consumer culture and natural resource use, students begin to understand how their everyday actions impact the environment. They will learn about the core messages in ads that advertisers use to convince consumers to buy their products. Finally, students will brainstorm alternatives to buying and giving things that are new.

Analyzing Ads

4th and 5th Grades

After watching a short video on kids and consumerism, students will learn about the environmental impacts of buying new items. They will then examine their own wants and

needs and reflect on alternatives to buying new. In groups, they will look at examples of advertisements and think critically about the marketing techniques used and the messages that the advertisements are trying to send. Learning these strategies empowers students to make wise choices when buying new.

Consumption Consequences

6th - 8th Grades

Students will examine the environmental consequences of the choices they make while shopping. The class will discuss the natural resources used in creating, packaging, and shipping items, and how reducing and reusing can preserve these resources. By playing a game in which they obtain items on a shopping list through various means such as buying new or used, borrowing, etc., they will learn how their consumption choices can affect the environment.

Design a MRF

6th - 8th Grades

Recycling is often touted as the "right" thing to do; this introduces students to recycling as a business. Starting with the large-scale sorting process, students work in groups to design their own Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). After they gain an understanding of the importance of sorting to a business, they will problem-solve in groups by role-playing being the person in charge.

Increase the Recycling Rate

6th - 8th Grades

Students will be introduced to some of the challenges present in the field of solid waste management. In small groups, students will brainstorm solutions to recycling barriers and will come up with ideas to increase the recycling rate. They will learn about the benefits of recycling and think about the reasons why some people do not recycle.