

Environmental lessons brought to you!

Thurston County educators are here to make environmental education easy.

We provide materials and presentations on recycling, natural resources, hazardous waste, and more. You may select one lesson or a series of lessons, each building upon previous presentations.

We use visual aids of various media, hands-on activities, games, and take-home materials to help students enjoy and retain what they've learned.



Other resources

Recycling and waste sorts

Staff members are available to help establish or enhance your school recycling 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. A complete list is available by visiting www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Schools.

Become certified as a Washington Green School!

Join other K-12 schools throughout the state in becoming certified as a Washington Green School. Thurston County Solid Waste offers assistance to local schools wanting to take action in recycling and waste reduction. For more information, to sign up, or to find out about teacher trainings, visit www.wagreenschools.org or email info@wagreenschools.org.

To schedule a presentation or to borrow from our lending library, call Colleen Minion, 786-5269 or email minionc@co.thurston.wa.us.



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www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org



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THURSTON COUNTY
SOLID WASTE

Environmental education program

Presentations for elementary schools



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Waste reduction and recycling lessons



Worms and Worm Bins

Grades K-6, 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 receive magnifying lenses to examine worms up close.

The Magic of Recycling

Grades K-2, 45 minutes

Students learn where their garbage goes, and are then introduced to the three Rs and the concept of natural resources. The lesson concludes with a recycling sort game in which students practice proper sorting of recyclables and non-recyclables.

Closing the Loop

Grades 3-6, 60 minutes

What do the three chasing arrows really mean? By the end of the lesson, students know what the recycling symbol stands for and the importance of "closing the loop." Activities include a recycling relay race, and creation of their own recycling symbol. Students are also able to see and handle several items made from the materials they recycle at home and school, including a T-shirt made from recycled plastic bottles!

Shop SMART

Grades 4-6, 60 minutes

In this case, SMART stands for "Save Money and Reduce Trash"! Students take a look at the choices they can make while shopping, such as choosing durable instead of disposable products. The class will discuss packaging and buying in bulk to reduce waste. Students learn how powerful they can be as consumers by being SMART shoppers.



Battle to Ban the Bag

Grades 4-6, 60-90 minutes

Students are introduced to the controversies surrounding solid waste. By assuming different roles, students present and debate their viewpoints regarding a potential plastic bag ban in their community.

Cautions and Warnings and Dangers, Oh My!

Grades 4-6, 60 minutes

Students examine labels on empty containers of household hazardous waste. The class will take part in a cleaning demonstration, compare products, and discuss safer alternatives.

Trash Talk newsletter for kids

Fourth and fifth grade students in Thurston County can get their own "Trash Talk" publication delivered to the classroom. It features information on recycling, reuse, household hazardous waste, yard waste, waste reduction, and more. The newsletter is informative and offers word searches, crossword puzzles, and other games to make learning fun. If you are a teacher who would like to receive this publication for your students, please contact us (see back panel for contact information).

