

THE THREE R'S: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Resources for Educators



Fall, 2015

School Presentations

Solid Waste District offers programs for various grade levels

The Clark County Solid Waste District can provide a variety of educational presentations to fit many age levels and subjects.

Here are brief descriptions of the district's programs for schools:

1. "Keep Clark County Beautiful" is an interactive, humorous skit aimed at 1st- and 2nd-graders. Local storyteller Lisa Holmes and Steve Schlather, the district's program coordinator, portray characters who show the good, the bad, and the beautiful of putting waste in its proper place.

Since the skit debuted in April 2009, it has been seen by over 9,000 children in every public school in Clark County and in a few non-school performances. Teachers have praised the skit as an entertaining and effective way to present solid waste issues to young people.

2. Steve Schlather does solo presenta-



Mother Earth and the Wizard of Waste show how to recycle.

tions, either in costume as the Wizard of Waste or in a more straightforward style (usually for older students). Presentations can be for any grade level and on a variety of topics: waste reduction, recycling, landfills, composting, and more.

3. Tours of the Clark County Recycling Center help to demonstrate facts about recycling. Tours usually are limited to groups of no more than 25. Tours can be offered during daytime hours or in the evenings.

4. The District can provide technical assistance for a school that wants to start or expand a recycling program. This can include consultations, help with an awareness program, help with a waste audit, and/or referrals to businesses that offer recycling services.

For more information about the district's programs, contact Steve Schlather at 521-2022 or sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov.

The Clark County Solid Waste District is dedicated to providing learning opportunities and resources to promote waste reduction practices.

For more information, contact Steve Schlather at 521-2022, or 1602 W. Main St., Springfield, OH 45504 or e-mail at sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov.

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Springfield HS students make compost

Springfield High School students got hands-on experience in composting from a spring 2015 project funded through the Waste Reduction Program of the Clark County Solid Waste District.

The students – Lance Ballentine, Tyler Collins, Erica Henry, and Joseph Stewart – made indoor bioreactors, monitored temperatures of worm composting bins, and built an outdoor compost bin as part of their Problem-Based Learning Activity.

Adam Park, a computer teacher, and Terri Stewart, environmental science, designed the project to help students learn about waste reduction methods, the benefits of composting, gardening skills, and collecting/recording data, among other learning goals.

“Students will become active stewards of a project that involves improving the environment,” Park and Stewart wrote in their application.

Bio-reactors are vessels for a chemical process involving organics and were used as a way to compost in the classroom. The students cut the tops off of milk jugs and 2-liter soda bottles and then punched 40 to 50 small holes in the sides. Leaves, twigs, sawdust, carrots, and lettuce were put in the bottles, then were monitored daily to follow their progress. The students found the vessels didn't compost well, probably from not getting enough moisture early in the process.

Worm composting bins were created by putting wet newspaper in a container, then adding hundreds of red wigglers, a kind of worm that's a voracious eater. The students checked the temperatures in the worm bins every day and found the temperature would rise when they added the produce trimmings (spinach, potato peels, carrots, etc.), then lower again after the



From left, Springfield High School students Joseph Stewart, Tyler Collins, and Lance Ballentine show off the compost bin they built. The Solid Waste District helped purchase materials through its Waste Reduction Program.

The Clark County Solid Waste District can contract with schools to start or expand recycling programs. Contracts can be as much as \$500. Call Steve Schlather at 521-2022 for information.

worms had consumed the materials.

Park and Stewart had hoped to use fruit and vegetable waste from the school district's service center, where the prep work is done for all school food. However, building their own composters took longer than hoped. That project may be put into practice in this school year.

The Waste Reduction Program helped the teachers to buy red wigglers, testing kits, materials for building compost bins, and other supplies. Similar aid is available to schools wanting to start or enhance a recycling program or conduct educational projects about solid waste reduction. For more information, contact Steve Schlather, 521-2022 or sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov.

A classroom on wheels

UD's RiverMobile offers lessons about watersheds, aquifers, ecosystems

The University of Dayton's Rivers Institute offers lessons about water issues through its new River-Mobile, a 53-foot tractor trailer equipped as a classroom on wheels.

The RiverMobile provides experiential education geared toward middle school students, but can appeal to all ages. This mobile learning studio can be provided free to schools and events anywhere in the Great Miami River watershed, including Clark County.

The RiverMobile has five classrooms:

Exploring Our Watershed helps students identify their hometowns and understand the concept of a regional watershed.

Exploring Our History shows the formation of the Great Miami Valley and the development of our flood protection system.

Exploring Our Aquifer and Water teaches about the water reclamation process and why our buried valley aquifer is a unique natural resource.

Exploring Our Rivers offers a virtual tour of a river ecosystem and shows how to identify plant, fish, and animal species.



The University of Dayton's Rivers Institute makes the RiverMobile available to schools and communities throughout the Great Miami River Watershed.

Exploring Our Global Responsibility helps students understand how they impact local and global watersheds.

To learn more about the RiverMobile, call the Rivers Institute at (937) 229-4665 or go to the Institute's page on the University of Dayton web site, www.udayton.edu.

ODNR offers support to create WILD School Sites

The ODNR Division of Wildlife provides workshops for teachers, consultations, grants, and resource materials to help school site planners select and create WILD School Site projects.

A WILD School Site is any school property used by students, teachers, and the school community as a place to learn about and benefit wildlife and the environment. A WILD School Site

project is any action, small or large, that improves the schoolyard habitat for wildlife and people

You can apply for grants for \$500 from Jan. 1 to May 31 each calendar year. You can find grant information at wildohio.com. For more information contact the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Outdoor Education Section, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G-1, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693, (614) 265-6316 or outdoor.education@dnr.state.oh.us.

Campaign promotes curbside recycling

The Clark County Solid Waste District has launched an awareness campaign, Take It to the Curb, that encourages residents to increase re-



ycling at their homes with curbside recycling. The campaign has a web site, Take2curb.org and a Facebook page. The campaign identifies the Good, Better,

and Best of waste and recycling services.

The "Good" option is for residents to take their recyclables to a drop-off stations. The free service does keep materials out of the landfill. However, one survey found 78 percent of people using drop-off recycling would like to have a station closer to their home. Nothing is closer than the curbside option.

Thus, a "Better" approach is for residents to

use a trash hauler who offers curbside recycling and to sign up for that service. Although adding recycling to trash service usually adds cost, it does saves the time and expense of driving to the drop-off stations.

The "Best" option is for a community to contract for waste and recycling service for all residents. Two communities in Clark County — New Carlisle and Tremont City — currently have contracted trash service. A community contract can include curbside recycling in the price of trash service. Most residents will save money with a community contract. Other advantages include reduced wear and tear on roadways and less illegal dumping.

The District is seeking opportunities to speak about this campaign to PTOs, civic organizations, clubs or other groups. To book a presentation or for more information about the campaign, call 521-2022.

Conference offers outdoor education programs

"Asking Questions, Telling Stories: Understanding and Communication Through Nature" will be the theme of the 40th annual educators conference, 101 Alternatives to the Chalkboard, on Saturday, Oct. 10, at YMCA Camp Kern.

The \$30 cost includes meals. Attendees have the option of staying overnight Friday and Saturday for no added cost.

Ken Bowald, who has led outdoor and environmental education programs for the past 30 years, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday evening. Other sessions are planned on John

Muir, Family Nature Quest, and more. Presenters and small group leaders are being sought. Anyone wanting to present or needing information on the conference should contact Dave Moran, (513) 932-3756 x1527 or dmoran@daytonymca.org. To attend, you must register by Oct. 2.

YMCA Camp Kern is 32 miles northeast of Cincinnati at 5291 State Route 350, Oregonia, Ohio 45054.

The conference is sponsored by YMCA Camp Kern, Environmental Education Council of Ohio, and Ohio Environmental Education Fund.



Visit us on the web at www.32TRASH.org
www.Facebook.com/KeepClarkCountyBeautiful

