

“Community and kids working together to create habits of the heart.”



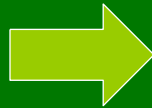
Sustainability



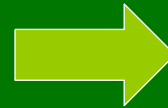
How we can continue as a society without depleting our natural resources

Old Way:

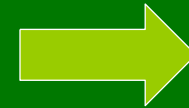
Natural Resources



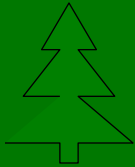
Production



Consumption



Waste



Sustainable Way:



Reuse
Reduce
Recycle

Let's talk about you: Why we as individuals don't do more?

- One person can not make a difference
- Inconvenient
- Time consuming
- Global warming is not real
- Wasteful habits
- Cost
- Lack of information

Some Scary Facts...

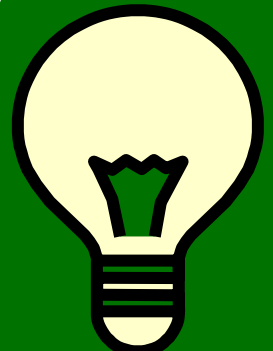
“It’s not just about recycling”



Consumption: “Summer 2008 - the southeastern United States, including Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Florida experienced a severe drought leading to restrictions on water use, caused reservoir levels to drop dangerously, damaged crops and opened up conflicts inside and between states on access and use of declining water resources.” The Earth Institute of Columbia University

CO2 Emissions:

- “Change a light, and you help change the world. Replace the conventional bulbs in your 5 most frequently used light fixtures with bulbs that have the ENERGY STAR and you will help the environment while saving money on energy bills. If every household in the U.S. took this one simple action we would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars.” www.epa.gov



Overdevelopment: Katrina “With a unique confluence of geography, expansive lowlands (particularly in the New Orleans area), wetland loss, deforestation, rapid development, large populations of the poor, and a heavy concentration of industry, the Gulf Coast is extremely vulnerable to hurricanes” Pew Center on Global Climate Change



Eating Habits:

- “70% of all antibiotics are given to farm animals”
- over 1 billion pounds of pesticides are used each year in the U.S.”

Food, Inc. a Robert Kenner film



Health Habits: “The millions of doses of prescription drugs that Americans swallow annually to combat cancer, pain, depression and other ailments do not disappear harmlessly into their digestive systems, researchers have determined, but instead make their way back into the environment where they may contaminate drinking water and pose a threat to aquatic wildlife.” John Hopkins University



Waste: Garbage Island

“An enormous island of trash twice the size of Texas is floating in the Pacific Ocean somewhere between San Francisco and Hawaii.” Chris Parry with the California Coastal Commission in San Francisco

Though the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the most widely publicized of the so-called trash islands, the Atlantic Ocean has one as well in its Sargasso Sea.

www.geography.about.com



What is your Ecological Footprint?

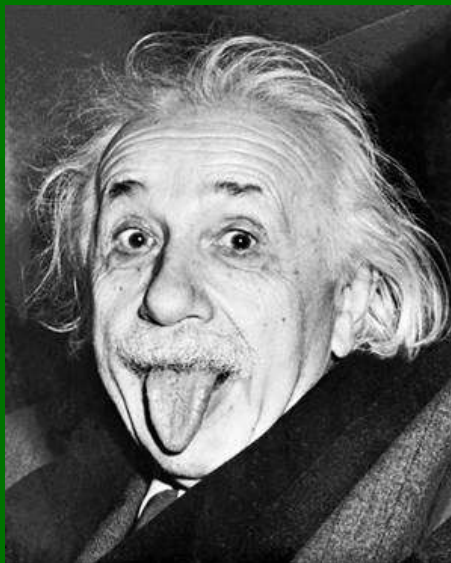


[My Ecological Footprint](http://www.myfootprint.org)
www.myfootprint.org

Isn't this a problem for the science community and government?

Education + Ideas = Industrial Revolution

Education + Ideas = Sustainability



"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

--Albert Einstein

What can Benton Public Schools do???

Does it take a presidential order??

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WSJ.com

JULY 29, 2009

In a Savings Shocker, the Government Discovers That Paper Has Two Sides
*Front-and-Back Copies, Other Wonders Help Agencies Save \$102 Million --
.006% of Deficit*

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

WASHINGTON -- With the budget deficit soaring toward \$2 trillion, the Department of Justice has figured out how to play its part: double-sided photocopying.....

"I mean, emailing around the daily press clips instead of printing them out and distributing them? That should not have been necessitated by a presidential order."...

The Justice Department estimates it can save **\$573,000** through fiscal 2010 by setting up its printers and copiers to use both sides of the paper. By emailing some documents instead of printing them out, the Department of Homeland Security will save **\$318,000**.

The Board and Central Administration

- Priority on sustainability in future building and remodeling projects. (LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.)
- Monitor and chart energy usage in each building working towards a goal of saving waste and money
- Develop district wide recycling program
- Develop sustainability curriculum
- Identify a green team manager for each building
- Model green behavior

Building site green team manager

- Start student teams
- Monitor recycling and energy efficiency
- Encourage purchase of recycled and recyclable materials
- Implement paper saving practices
- Model green team practices
- Work with cafeteria on student-run composting site
- Organize activities for National Green Week, Environmental Awareness Week and Earth Day

Teachers

- Integrate provided sustainability lesson plans into curriculum
- Model green practices (for example use only lights necessary and utilize outdoor lighting as much as possible, turn off lights, monitors, projectors, etc when not in use, and control thermostat)

Cafeteria Staff

- Offer v Serve-students choose items to eliminate waste
- Refillable condiment dispensers
- Eliminate disposables-styrofoam cups, plastic ware, etc. *Or* Purchase biodegradable products
- Recycle steel cans and other recyclables
- Eliminate plastic drink bottles

Custodial Staff

- Monitor classroom energy (thermostats, etc.)
- Monitor recycling
- Recycle large items such as cardboard
- Work with maintenance on recycling and energy efficiency

Integrating Sustainability into Curriculum

English: Do you already teach a novel? For example: Call of the Wild. Add an activity on sustainability such as climate change affect on the Iditarod.

Social Studies: Do you cover frameworks involving public policy? Have kids find out what our local council and legislature is doing.

Math: Do you teach graphs, percentages? Calculate and chart kids global footprints.

Health: Are your kids aware of waste in the water supply?

We have lot of resources and sample lesson plans for these and all other disciplines and grade levels. Let us hear from you:

Sheri Shilling and Tamme Adams

What is available now in our community?

- New Focus (Neeley Street)
- Recycle bins - newspaper, steel cans, aluminum cans, cardboard – located at City Hall
- Drop off for aluminum cans for Habitat for Humanity locations (CADC offices and alley by Mazzios)
- Walmart bag recycling
- Home Depot – batteries and mercury light bulbs
- Shaw Recycling (Bauxite) – aluminum and metal
- Saline County Landfill
- Best Buy – electronics
- Office Depot – printer cartridges
- Benton Police Department - drop off for unused prescription drugs

What does Benton need?

- Curbside recycling.
- Educating community about benefits and need for sustainable practices



What's available now at Benton Public Schools?

- Paper pick up at all buildings
- Aluminum can and plastic cap recycling at BJH
- Aluminum tab collection for Ronald McDonald House
- Announcements sent electronically at BJH
- Two sided copying encouraged
- Newly added Energy Manager

What's going on with Benton students now?

BJH Planet Savers organized March 2009



BJH Planet Savers at Work ...

EARTH DAY



Cleaning up Tyndall Park



Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House



National Green Week @ BJH

Tuesday

Dim the Lights

Wednesday

Wipe Out Waste (plastic
bag recycling
competition)

Thursday

Stomp Out Waste (can
smashing competition?)

Friday

Wear green

Environmental Awareness Week at BJH



Recycling at our local U.S. Post Office

Our students at BJH worked with our local Post Master to set up recycling. Now there are recycle bins for people to drop their unwanted junk mail and magazines into.



Participation by Benton students at the Grass Roots Youth Summit 2010 Sponsored by Metroplan



"Unless someone like
you cares a whole
awful lot, Nothing is
going to get better.
It's not."

- *Dr. Seuss, from The Lorax*

