

Environment News

Everybody should recycle
Air pollution makes carbon dioxide
Recycle paper and save trees
Trees turn carbon dioxide into oxygen
Have a heart and recycle.

Anamae

It has been a while since the Environment News has been featured in the Indian Time. We are pleased to have a page on Environment issues in this weeks paper. The grade four students of the Akwesasne Mohawk School on Cornwall Island submitted this information which shows a real concern for our Mother Earth. The staff of Indian Time encourages submissions for articles by all members of the community. We would like to honor the efforts of our youths by printing the report in its entirety.

Everyone should help the earth
Anybody who doesn't is crazy
Reduce at least some garbage
The earth is fragile
Help save the Earth.

Taylor Bova

RECYCLING SURVEY

Our class surveyed people on Cornwall Island on March 10, 1992. We surveyed 20 household items. Our class wanted to find out how many people are recycling because recycling just started a few months ago. We think people should recycle because we do at school.

Our survey showed almost everyone is recycling most things that are recyclable. People are recycling but things like cardboard boxes, magazines, newspapers and plastics need more effort. 13 out of 20 people said they are concerned about the environment and recycling is one way to make a difference. However, a few said its too much trouble. This chart shows what people said when asked if they recycle these items:

	Yes	No	Don't Use
Aluminum cans	19	1	
Cardboard boxes	16	3	1
Computer paper	6	2	12
Glass bottles, jars	17	1	2
Magazines	16	4	
Newspapers	15	5	
Paper grocery bags	13	4	
Plastic bottles & tubs	13	2	2

The following chart shows how many bags are recycled over a two (2) week period

No. of Homes	No. of Bags
1	0
1	1
3	2
4	3
2	4
2	5
7	More

This chart shows the numbers of bags of regular garbage put out on Fridays before recycling started and after it started:

Before Recycling	After Recycling	No. of Bags
0	6	1
1	5	2
3	5	3
6	2	4
1	1	5
2	0	6
6	1	More

When asked if they were pleased with being able to recycle now, 18 replied yes and 2 said no. Other comments they made were:

It's about time the government worked with the community as a native community should - in the best interest of Mother Earth.

- It's a pain in the butt.

- It's great! It's saving our landfills.

Even though recycling is off to a good start, it is hard work. Recycling saves trees, natural resources, space and energy. Recycling also helps reduce air and water pollution. If we don't recycle, we will destroy Mother Earth for the future.

Gr. 4 Class, AMS

Mr. Garrow, Leah, Abram, Stephanie, Austin, Toby, Anamae, Charmaine, Ryan, Annie, Owen, David, Kora, Justin, Ryan, Kawisohkwas, Ashley, Bobbie Sue, Brodie, Charlene, Ilona, Jess, Sarah, Taylor.



Why does it rain so much
Earth is great and wet
Trees adapt or die
Landfill sites are filling up
And we are too
Nobody can stop it
Does it help much
Some animals adapt or die.

Sarah Thompson

Eggs are as fragile as the Earth, so be careful with the Earth
All people have to live on the Earth, so don't ruin it for our grandchildren

Recycling can help the Earth a little so you can start recycling
The Earth is a very special place

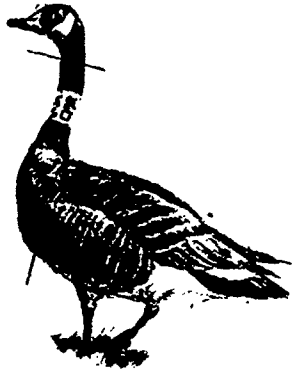
Help the Earth.

Charlene Thompson



Reuse your toys again instead of throwing it in a garbage
Everybody should recycle
U "u" should care for our beautiful Earth.
Some people don't even care about the environment
Environments are in danger.

Ashley Thompson



Everybody is counting on it
Never let it down
Very little people
Is counting on you
Rain Forests are coming down
Our ozone is disappearing
Near my house
Me, myself, and I, are trying hard to help
Everybody can make it happen
Now all most everyone helps
The environment needs our help.

Owen Leaf

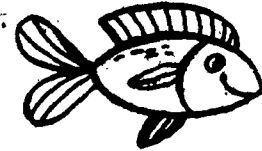
Atmosphere is a thick blanket
Together our atmosphere will be better
Mother Earth needs you
Our planet will disappear
Show you care
Peace for Mother Earth
Hoorah for Mother Earth
Everybody should pitch in
Remember to be clean
Earth is a nice place to live.



Charmaine David

Reuse things
Especially toys
Care for our Earth
You should recycle because I do
Cars pollute our Earth
Leave your garbage inside, not outside
Everybody should care for our Earth.

Ashley Thompson



My Garbage Poem

Garbage is killing Mother Earth
Air pollution makes carbon dioxide
Recycle paper and save trees
Buy environmental safe products
Aluminum cans can be recycled
Garbage is filling up our landfills, so recycle
Everybody should cut down on garbage.

Anamae

Try to keep the earth healthy
Recycle, I do
Earthy things are beautiful
All people should recycle
Share the beautiful things on Earth
United States is a beautiful place
Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Recover
Everyone should care for the Earth.

Ilona Thompson



Lawn Care

Now that spring has arrived, and all that stuff in the garden is poking up green, it's time for action -- lots of it. Let's take the largest chunk first, which is usually the lawn. It has been estimated that homeowners use up to 10 times more toxic products per acre than farmers. A healthy lawn is possible without pesticides.

The first and most important treatment is de-thatching. Old grass clippings sink into the soil and prevent the air, sunlight, fertilizer and water from reaching the grass roots. Thatch also provides a breeding place for pests and weeds. De-thatching should be done in early spring and early fall, and will solve about 80% of your lawn problems. With a small lawn, use a special lawn groom rake but with a very large area; give yourself a treat and rent a power de-thatcher for one day. You'd be amazed at how much stuff comes up--but don't throw it away--put it in your compost pile.

Next, have your mower in top shape, well oiled and with freshly sharpened or new blades. Dull blades can cause more damage than most diseases and pests. Don't cut the grass too short, the sun will burn the roots. Between 2 and 3 inches is about right, to strengthen growth.

Have a good talk with your local gardening center experts. They

usually know the kind of soil in the neighborhood and can recommend the right type of fertilizer. Grass needs phosphorous, potassium, nitrogen, as well as sulphur and iron, so look for these ingredients on the package. Experts recommend your first lawn feeding be at half the recommended dose, as should the last feeding of the year. In between time feed every three weeks (either liquid or dry food) at about 30% of the recommended rate. If you're fortunate enough to have your compost ready, put it in a box with a 1 cm sieve on the bottom and walk all over your lawn, giving it a good banquet.

Your lawn needs watering about once a week--early morning is best. In the spring it may get enough from April showers. If not, give it a good soaking--1 to 2 inches. An easy way to measure is to put 3 similar cans--or measuring cups, in three different locations under the sprinkler, combine the contents and divide by 3, that should give you an accurate measurement. Homeowners are notoriously profligate with water, frequently overwatering by 20-40%.

For more information please call NRTEE Committee secretaries at (613) 992-7189.

Source: News Canada, April 1992

Environmental Code of Ethics & Conference Statement

As adopted at the 1991 Protecting Mother Earth:

The Toxic Threat To Indian Lands Conference

Bear Butte, South Dakota - June 10, 1991

Indigenous Peoples are alive and an integral part of the natural world. We have always resisted the degradation and destruction of our Mother Earth, and continue this resistance today. From the Amazon to the Arctic, our peoples strive to maintain our traditional relations with the Earth, and to defend our rights to self determination on our land. We understand clearly that to get to the land you must first get to the people, that is why many Indigenous Nations have become extinct, and that is also why our resistance is crucial to the protection of our land. The survival of our peoples is tied to the survival of our Mother.

Indigenous People have a distinct world view from industrial society, and the Europeans who came to our homelands. In the traditional Indigenous world view, all decisions must be made with a view to the seven generations ahead, and must understand the continuity between Natural Law, the teachings of our ancestors, the knowledge of our elders, and the survival of future generations. Our traditions are evidence of ecologically sustainable development, in harmony with the Earth, and the ability of people to live within the instructions of Natural Law.

We understand that a multi-cultural coalition of peoples must work together to defend the Earth from desecration. All peoples must work together. We call on all environmental groups, religious coalitions, and other interests, and Native governments to take strong action on defense of the Earth. We, the undersigned, subscribed to and hold ourselves accountable to the above statement of purpose and the following code of conduct:

1. As Indigenous Peoples, we speak for ourselves, no one else is authorized to speak on our behalf. Environmental groups have no rights to represent Indigenous People. We represent ourselves.

2. We, as signatories will always stand by the strongest position in defense of Natural Law.

3. We, the undersigned will support Indigenous People's rights to self determination.

4. We, the undersigned will not make accommodations for, or deals with, polluters.

5. We, the undersigned support basic principles of environmental justice, including the rights of peoples to a clean environment regardless of race, economic position, gender, or national identity. Violations of environmental justice, we understand to be violations of International Law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.

If you would like more information, please call or write:

Indigenous Environmental Network,
19 Ellicott Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150



Kids Take Action!

Oil spills, deforestation, acid rain, smog... These are just a few of the environmental problems that kids in different parts of the world face each day. What kinds of environmental problems does your community have? Too much trash? Polluted water? How might your answer be different if you lived in Brazil or Bangladesh or Kuwait? (Hint: Watch for environmental news about these countries in the papers or on Tv. If you're not sure where they are, find them on a map.)

Regardless of where you live, you need clean water to drink, fresh air to breathe, and healthy land to live on. And in places where these basic needs are in danger, kids like you are saying Stop! In stead of just watching the planet get more and more polluted, they're taking action. In Ghana, Friends of the Earth youth clubs are organizing community and school clean-up days. In the United Kingdom, they're taking part in "days of action" -- campaigns that involve kids in petition drives, letter-writing efforts, and public presentations. In Honduras, members of a youth group called CAPE are planting thousands of trees where people have cut down too much of the forest.

In our own country, environmental action clubs led by kids are doing everything from reducing waste by setting up school and community recycling programs to protecting the Earth's ozone layer by banning polystyrene trays in their lunch rooms. Does your school have a club working to protect the Earth? If not, why don't YOU start one!

Starting an environmental action club takes time, but it's lots of fun. If you're thinking about getting one together, you may want to join one of the international "networks" of kids (listed below) who are already working to protect the environment. Networks can provide you with tips on how to get started, interesting project ideas, and information about what kids are doing in other parts of the world.

Regardless of whether or not you join a network, you can start organizing your club today. All you really need is a few friends and a problem to solve. Find the friends first -- don't try to do everything yourself.

One you have a group together, come up with a catchy club name. Let people know who you are! Make a list of problems you want to tackle (Hint: Start by taking a tour of your school. Your sure to discover lots of things that need doing.) Narrow your list down to one or two projects. Planting trees or reducing school waste are a couple of ideas you might try first.

If your group is interested in learning more about what's happening to the environment outside our school, write to an organization called Global Response and ask them to send you their free "Young Environmentalist's Action" sheets (See address below). These monthly action alerts will help you figure out what you can do about problems that affect kids in other parts of the world -- from deforestation in Malaysia to factory pollution in Mexico.

Once you've got your club started, write to the Home Planet and tell us about your work!

Children's Alliance for Protection of the Environment (CAPE), P.O. Box 307, Austin, TX 78767

Kids Against Pollution (KAP), P.O. Box 775, Closter, NJ 07624

Global Response, Environmental Action Network, P.O. Box 7490, Boulder, CO 80306-7490

For a free copy of our fact sheet on "Starting A Student Environmental Action Group," write to: Beth Steln, Friends of the Earth, 218 D Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.