

Educators' Resource Guide

Wood County Solid Waste Management District

2010

Environmental Education is our Specialty!

Sustainability and environmental stewardship is an increasingly important part of education as our society becomes more aware of the strong link between the health of our environment and our own health and well-being.

So if you are looking for an environmentally based program to supplement activities for your class, scout group, club or any other organization, this guide is for you. Here you will find tours, presentations and other material that we have to offer.

What Do We Do?

Our mission as a Solid Waste Management District is to assure there is sufficient capacity available to dispose of local waste and to implement programs to reduce, reuse, and recycle 50% of the waste that is generated by local businesses and residents. We are also here to ensure that 90% of Wood County residents have access to recycling and can participate in recycling programs.

Two Solid Waste District staff members are dedicated to educating the community about safe solid waste disposal and recycling. Not only do we participate in various community events to provide information and educate the public on solid waste and recycling, but we have an extensive amount of educational programs available for local schools and community organizations. Whether its providing tours, in school presentations or loan kits, we can be a great supplement to your program!



Our Education staff offers three different tours, all of which provide in-depth and behind-the-scenes views **at no charge to your school or organization!** Our tours can be taken individually or all at once depending on what fits your schedule and curriculum. We highly recommend calling our office at least three months in advance. These tours are very popular and our schedules fill up fast!

Wood County Landfill (Seasonal)

Learn about the final resting place of our trash as you journey to the working face at the top of the landfill! This tour generally takes about 45 minutes but can be adjusted to fit a busy schedule and is available from 9 am to 3 pm on weekdays. This tour can be an extension of our Edible Landfill presentation. Call early to schedule your tour.

Bowling Green Recycling Center

Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility that sorts and processes the majority of Wood County's recyclables. This 30-45 minute tour takes you through the history of the Bowling Green Recycling center from its early days to the booming business it is today. New among the BGRC's



Take a break from the classroom! **Field Trips and Tours**

Bowling Green Wind Farm(Seasonal)

The Bowling Green Wind Farm is a joint project between the City of Bowling Green and AMP Ohio and is the first utility sized wind farm in Ohio. Take this unique opportunity to walk under these amazing machines! Your tour group will not only get to stand right underneath all 391 feet of one of the wind turbine towers, but they will also get to stand inside the ground level of a wind turbine!

During this tour your class will learn the story of how Bowling Green became home to Ohio's first Utility sized wind farm and all of its amazing features. As with our Landfill tour, the Bowling Green Wind Farm tour is seasonal and weather dependant. This tour can be taken alone or along with either our Bowling Green Recycling Center tours and Wood County Landfill tours. This tour is generally 45 minutes long.

impressive machinery is a new comingled sort-line, which was installed in late 2008 and can now be seen as part of the tour. It is recommended that tours are taken during business hours (8:30 am-3:00pm, M-F)so that groups can get the full experience of the day-to-day operations.

Some tours are seasonal and weather dependent. Reservations fill up quickly so we suggest calling us at least a few months in advance to ensure that we can accommodate your group. To schedule or for more information, call us at 419-354-9297.

Classroom Activities and Presentations

Preschool-Second Grade

Litter Playground and the Happy Recyclables

Students learn about why litter harms our Earth and the importance of recycling. Our education staff comes with a large playground scene covered with litter and students receive the opportunity to help clean up the mess while learning about what common recyclable items turn into when they are recycled. The basics of composting are also introduced as "nature's way of recycling". Children will learn about what is recyclable, compostable, what belongs in the trash and why. After the playground is cleaned up, the Happy Recyclable characters are brought out with an activity that reinforces their knowledge of what is recyclable in our area. Approx 45 minutes long.

Paper Making

Your class will go in depth learning about the paper recycling process which includes a hands-on craft activity-homemade paper! The classroom becomes a paper mill as students use old paper to make new pulp, which is pressed, decorated and dried right in the classroom. Approx 45-60 minutes, depending on group size.

"Michael Recycle"

This presentation revolves around the wonderfully illustrated children's book by Ellie Bethel. Michael is a superhero who travels to a very dirty town and teaches the community to clean up their act and live green. The book is read to the class or group followed by a discussion about the benefits of recycling and waste reduction. The presentation is then concluded with a simple and fun craft project to supplement the book. Students use old newspapers to make hats and capes similar to what Michael wears in the book. Then they can be decorated with special stickers with recycling messages as well as markers or crayons. This is a great activity for younger age groups and is Approx 30-45 minutes long.

"The Wartville Wizard"

"The Wartville Wizard" is a popular children's book about a man who is sick and tired of cleaning up the neighborhood's trash. He casts a spell on everyone in the neighborhood so that every time someone litters, that piece of litter will become permanently stuck to them. Soon people all over town are covered in their own trash. As a supplement to the reading, students will be able to pick their favorite character from the book and make a stick puppet to later reenact the story. Approx 30 minutes long.



Older Age Groups

Edible Landfill

Students will learn all the ways trash is managed with an emphasis on sanitary landfills. Students will learn about the construction process and technology behind landfills as they build their own landfill model out of food items! A different item will represent each layer of a landfill which can be eaten at the end of the presentation! Our Edible Landfill presentation is appropriate for 3rd grade-adult and pairs well with our Wood County Landfill Tour. Approx 45 minutes.

Fred the Fish

Fred, a pretend fish, lives in a cool and clean river but when he decides to travel down stream he discovers that people are polluting his stream. Students will help demonstrate what pollution does to our water with the use of household materials that give the visual effect of pollution. During the demonstration a discussion is led about what can be done to prevent contaminating our water. This presentation is suitable for most age groups and is approx 30 minutes.

Flubber

Learn about plastic, what it's made from and how it's recycled. Many visual examples are brought to the classroom to show the different types of plastic, its different physical characteristics, and what it looks like as it moves along the recycling process. Your class will then get to perform their own science experiment by making their own plastic polymer by mixing a few household ingredients. What they are left with is a stretchy, oozy, bouncy plastic goo. Approx 45 minutes.

Ask about our loan boxes!

We have a variety of loan boxes based on our activities and presentations for teachers to borrow if scheduling is a problem. Ask us what we have available.

Windows On Waste

Developed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, WOW has recently been formatted to fit the Ohio academic content standards! There are over a dozen different lessons designed with an emphasis on solid waste, recycling and litter prevention with various hands-on activities and lesson plans. The guidebook is available for loan from our lending library as well as several loan boxes with supplies for many WOW activities including Trashology 101, This is Your Lifecycle and Nature's Way With Waste. Call our office for details. 419-354-9297.

Adult Programs

We offer some presentations and programs geared towards adult groups as well as school age groups. These presentations include:

Recycling 101-Learn the basics about what can and cannot be recycled in this area and why. Examples are brought in as well as a variety of brochures on proper disposal and recycling of less common items.

Composting 101-A crash course on the basics of composting. Great for those interested in trying composting for the first time or those needing a refresher. Includes a section on vermicomposting with worms.

Home Safe Home-Groups will learn about Earth and money saving alternatives to cleaning their homes. Recipes, ideas, and make it, take it are shared. Also includes information on proper disposal of household hazardous wastes.

If you cannot find an adult program you are interested in please contact us. We can often format an environmentally related program to suit your group.

Lending Library

The Solid Waste District office on Dunbridge Road has an extensive library of books, videos and other media for teachers to borrow. Our library is updated regularly and includes the latest environmentally based books on many topics. Anyone is welcome to stop by during office hours to browse our selection. Books and other media can be checked out at no cost and returned at a later date.

Visit Our Website

www.wcswmd.org

There you can find an extensive list of the programs we offer including presentations and tours. Information on recycling and waste disposal is also available and we update the site regularly with upcoming events such as volunteer opportunities and large-scale collections like recycle-round up and Clean Your Files Day. You can also find printable versions of our brochures and Household Recycling Guide.

Contact Us!

If you would like more information about the many programs we offer, feel free to contact us. We are also available to answer any solid waste or recycling questions residents may have. Ask for Amanda or Erica.

Wood County Solid Waste Management District

639 S. Dunbridge Road
Bowling Green OH, 43402
Phone (419)354-9297
email agamby@co.wood.oh.us
or
ebruielly@co.wood.oh.us