



# Talkin' Trash

Fall 2007

A Teacher's Newsletter from the Ecology Action Center

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## ***Trashed the Movie***

**This is the story of garbage...American style.**

Over 600 people came together for the world premiere of *Trashed* on July 26, 2007 in Chicago. The topic of the movie is one that affects every American. The movie gives an inside look at the garbage business in North America. *Trashed* discusses the impact that garbage has on Americans and the environment in a humorous, but serious way. It questions what the environment will be like if things continue the way they currently are. The movie also discusses the individuals who are trying to change the way garbage negatively affects the environment.

The movie was produced and directed by Bill Kirkos. It has a running time of 77 minutes. To purchase the DVD or find more information, please visit [www.trashedmovie.com](http://www.trashedmovie.com).

The EAC will be showing *Trashed* in the Normal Public Library Community Room on Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. There will be free popcorn and soda.

Teachers can schedule a private screening of *Trashed* by contacting the EAC at (309) 454-3169.

## **McLean County Recycles Day Calendar Contest**

Our annual **McLean County Recycles Day** calendar for 2008 will be published this November featuring the artwork of McLean County elementary school students.

We are looking for 12 original pictures depicting ways to save our natural resources. Topics can include reducing the amount of garbage in our landfills by recycling, reusing materials, or by purchasing products with less packaging. Other topics can include composting, energy efficiency, renewable energy, or water conservation.

Drawings must be on 8 ½ x 11" paper using landscape format (i.e., 8 ½" tall by 11" wide). You may use markers, paint, or crayons. Be sure to make it brightly colored to stand out on the calendar.

In the picture, include a message related to the theme of the drawing. Please **DO NOT** write the month on your picture. We will assign months. On the back of your drawing, include your name, school, grade, and a contact number where we can reach you.

Entries must be received by Wednesday, October 31, 2007. Winners will be notified and prizes will be awarded during a celebration at the Children's Discovery Museum on Saturday, November 10, 2007.

### **Ecology Action Center**

202 W. College Avenue  
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Phone: (309) 454-3169  
Fax: (309) 454-7508  
[www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org)

9-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.



# Sustainable Schools

*Although 75% of our trash can be recycled, the EPA set a national goal of 25% for 1992.*

*The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year.*

## Classroom Programs

### 3rd grade: Clean Water

Students learn about the water cycle and the importance of reducing water pollution through hands-on activities including making a watershed and interacting with the Enviroscape model.

### 4th grade: 3R's

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle with interactive kits to teach the children why and how to recycle in their communities. Students learn about the importance of natural resources. A second program is available where students make recycled paper and explore aluminum recycling, learn how to create a waste-free lunch, and discuss worm composting through hands-on.

**Reminder to teachers:** We are scheduling programs for the 2007-08 school year. Call now to reserve your preferred date.

## Win the Traveling Globe Award for your School

Now is your chance to win the world for your school... or at least an award that looks like the world. The contest is open to all Bloomington and Normal Junior and Senior High Schools. Awards and prizes will be given to the school that recycles the most AND to the school that improves the most.

For details about this contest please contact the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169.

## Save Money and the Environment

According to earth911.org, a family of four can save \$3,000 a year by purchasing reusable items. Additionally, a family of four can save \$2,000 a year by buying in bulk.

Here are some tips to help you save:

- Buy a large jug of water instead of plastic water bottles. Better yet, run tap water through a filter and keep in your refrigerator.
- Buy large bottles of juice instead of individual juice boxes.
- Buy items that come in recyclable containers.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Bring cloth bags to the market.
- Use a razor with replaceable blades instead of disposable razors.
- Use cloth napkins, sponges, and wipes instead of paper towels.
- Do not use a disposable camera.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Switch off your lights, computers, TVs, etc. when they are not in use.
- Purchase long-lasting items instead of disposable items.
- Use glass plates and cups instead of paper or plastic.



# You can help!

*It takes plastic bags 10-20 years to decompose.*

*Humans are pouring carbon dioxide into the atmosphere much faster than plants and oceans can absorb it.*

## Waste-free Lunches

It's time to pack your lunch again, but think about this: that cute little packaging results in cute little trash. The average child enrolled in school generates 67 pounds of waste per year from using disposable lunch products. Here are a few simple ways to produce less garbage, save more money, and keep things convenient for children and parents.

- Purchase a fun lunchbox to reuse instead of throw-away paper bags.
- Purchase food in bulk as opposed to small individual packages.
- Package food in reusable food containers instead of plastic baggies.
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.

For more information on ways to make your lunch waste-free, please go to [www.wastefreelunches.org](http://www.wastefreelunches.org).

## How to Slow Global Warming

While there is a lot of controversy surrounding global warming, one thing for certain is human activities (such as the burning of fossil fuels) are changing the Earth's atmosphere. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere since pre-industrial times are well-documented and understood.

This atmospheric buildup of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases is largely the result of human activities. A warming trend of about 1.0 to 1.7°F occurred from 1906-2005 in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, and over the oceans. These greenhouse gases will remain in the atmosphere for periods ranging from decades to centuries. It is certain that atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases will continue to rise over the next few decades unless we make changes. But one can one person do?

- **Convert to energy saving compact florescent light bulbs**—if every household changed out 5 of the most frequently used fixtures, we would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of 10 million cars.
- **Look for energy star qualified products**—such as lighting fixtures, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment and appliances.
- **Seal and insulate your home.** The biggest leaks are usually found in attics and basements.
- **Use water efficiently.** A leaky toilet wastes up to 200 gallons of water a day.
- **Tune your car and check your tires.** A well tuned car is more fuel-efficient, and under-inflated tires can reduce your fuel economy by up to 3%.
- **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**

For more information visit: [www.epa.gov/climatechange](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange)

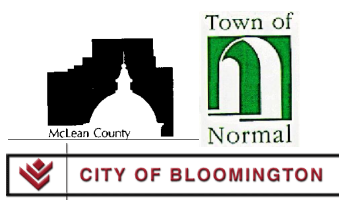
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## Upcoming Events

### Globes in Chicago

A public art project called CoolGlobes is currently on display along Chicago's lakefront to promote awareness about global warming. The project consists of 124 different globes and will be on displayed through September 2007. For more information and pictures of CoolGlobes, please visit [www.coolglobes.org](http://www.coolglobes.org).



"Green Office" by Cathryn Henry-Colcer and Dan Colcer.

### Celebrate International Walk to School Month

Walking to school is a great way to get some exercise and reduce pollution in our air. Students in 50 countries around the world will be participating in the annual Walk to School Month, which takes place in October. For more ideas, go to [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org).

### How to Save money and the environment

See page 2 for tips.