



Next Generation Green Schools Program

# Eco Activities for Elementary Schools

2008-2009 School Year

Next Generation is pleased to offer an array of fun, educational, and inspirational activities for elementary schools to empower a new generation and build sustainability from the ground up.

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Interactive lessons, assemblies, presentations, and field trips for classes and entire schools that help students and teachers learn about environmental issues and become excited about working for sustainability.

### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Assembly** (Grades K-4)

An entertaining assembly featuring our popular Mr. Stuff skit that teaches kids to reduce, reuse, recycle, and not litter. Excerpts can be seen online at [www.blip.tv/file/152372/](http://www.blip.tv/file/152372/).

### **Go Organic! Puppet Show** (Grades K-3)

A puppet show featuring friends from the garden that teaches kids the benefits of choosing organic to wildlife, the environment, and people. Stresses interconnectedness and the web of life. Interested teachers can receive a class set of the 'Kid's Guide to Backyard Bugs'. *Supported by MCSTOPPP.*

### **Green Your School Lesson** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)

Reviews environmental problems, introduces sustainability, and empowers students to think about what they can do personally, at home, and at school to help the Earth.

### **Everything Starts With Water Lesson** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)

Explores the importance of water, our watershed, and where our water comes from. This lesson also addresses water issues and conservation in a kid-friendly, experiential format. *Supported by MMWD.*

### **Food for Thought Lesson** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)

Gets students thinking about their food sources and choices, introduces some of the issues surrounding how our food is produced, and looks at easy ways students can make a difference.

### **Green Energy** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)

This interactive lesson reviews the concept of energy and its importance in our lives. We look at energy sources, some problems associated with current sources, and green alternatives. Students explore energy conservation and choices they can make to become more sustainable.

### **School Garden Activities and Lessons** (all ages)

Hands-on, fun activities on a variety of garden topics, including composting, worm bins, organics, plant life cycles, beneficial insects, companion planting, Native American gardening, harvesting and food preparation, and more.

## **ECO ADVENTURE FIELD TRIPS** (Limited to 25 participants per trip)

We take classes and student groups on tailored field trips where they have the opportunity to meet non-profit, green business and government leaders who are making a difference! We handle the logistics and serve as guides, and can sometimes provide food and transportation. Including...

- Organic farms and gardens
- Open space preserves and parks
- Watersheds and reservoirs
- Green businesses and ice cream shops
- Eco-friendly homes
- Resource Recovery Center

## GREENING SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND BEHAVIORS

In addition to environmental education activities, we help students and schools to consider their impact on the environment and provide consultation services to help them green their behaviors and operations. We can also connect them with resources and experts who can support them to become more sustainable. We focus on issues including:

- Waste Reduction
- Recycling and Composting
- Energy Conservation
- Solar Energy
- Organic and Local Food
- School Gardens
- Walk and Bike to School
- Water Conservation
- Green Building
- Green Business / School Certification

## ISSUE OF THE MONTH

Developed for our elementary school sites, this approach focuses on a hot sustainability topic each month and may include lessons, an assembly, community service project, experiential activity, field trip, school wide campaign, and fundraising or charity drive. See flyer for more information, available on our web site.

## SCHOOL CLUBS AND EVENTS

We offer meeting facilitation and support for environmental or social issues focused school clubs. We also host annual community and school-based events for youth and educators, and help schools to plan their own green events.

## NETWORKING AND SUPPORT

We help to connect eco-minded schools, teachers and students with green businesses, government leaders, funders and non-profit organizations, as well as curriculum, training and other resources.

## GET INVOLVED

During the past four years, Next Generation has implemented hundreds of activities at numerous schools throughout Marin. This year, we have enrolled 4 schools to become official Green Schools Program sites. These sites pay a modest site fee – matched by contributions from our funding partners – and receive an array of tailored activities. Schools that are not sites pay modest fees on an activity by activity basis. Water lessons and projects are free of charge, and no school is turned away for lack of funds.

For more information about this program, visit [www.gonextgeneration.org](http://www.gonextgeneration.org) or contact **Green Schools Program Director Rebecca Mullaney** at 415.459.6398 or [rebecca@gonextgeneration.org](mailto:rebecca@gonextgeneration.org).

*The 2008-2009 Green Schools Program is generously supported by:*

