

# GREEN LIFESTYLES

## Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (07/08)

*The following list consists of selected resources about “green living”. This includes topics such as consumer choices, waste, sustainability, transportation issues, and more. Many other resources on our shelves or in our bibliographies for related topics such as “Solid Waste/Recycling” and “Land Use” may also be helpful. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance and/or additional information. All materials listed below are available for loan at the WCEE Resources Library.*

### Teaching Activity Guides

**EcoSense: It’s Elementary** by Business Economics Education Foundation, Minneapolis, MN. (1993).

*Highly focused on the economic aspects of environmental awareness, consumer choices, and sustainability. Useful in curricula that strive for multiple perspectives. Appears well-balanced. Includes glossary and resource guide. An upper-level equivalent of this resource is also available (AC ECN 2).*

*Grade levels: K-6      Length: 3 units, 93 pages      WCEE call number: AC ECN 1*

**Smart Consumers: An Educator's Guide to Exploring Consumer Issues and the Environment** by World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C. (2004).

*Tool kit designed to help young people explore consumer issues and understand more about the links between what they buy and the health of the environment. Contains 14 hands-on activities and a community action guide with 25 consumer-related project ideas.*

*Grade levels: 5-9      Length: 299 pages      WCEE call number: AC LS 14*

**Smart Consumers: An Educator’s Guide to Exploring Consumer Issues and the Environment** by World Wildlife Fund, Washington D.C. (2004).

*Tool kit designed to help young people explore consumer issues and understand more about the links between what they buy and the health of the environment. Contains 14 hands-on activities and a community action guide with 25 consumer-related project ideas.*

*Grade levels: 5-9      Length: 14 units, 300 pages      WCEE call number: AC LS 14*

**Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things** by John Ryan and Alan Durning. Northwest Environment Watch, Seattle, WA. (2000).

*An activity guide to correspond with the excellent book of the same name (BA LS 25, listed below). Published by the well-respected Northwest Environment Watch. Activities deal with the “lifecycles” and impacts of common items. Also addresses consumption issues such as advertising and possibilities for change.*

*Grade levels: 5-12      Length: 4 units, 31 pages      WCEE call number: AC LS 10*

**Going Places, Making Choices** by National 4-H Council, Chevy Chase, MD. (1999).  
*A series of 5 booklets (essentially mini-activity guides) focusing on transportation and mobility issues. Many related topics, such as land use and climate change, are also addressed. Usable formats.*  
Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 17-22 pages ea. WCEE call number: AC LS 8

**Living in a Material World** by Center for the Study of Commercialism, Washington, DC. (1996).  
*Interdisciplinary lessons about commercialism and consumption. Addresses many issues that may be particularly interesting to teenage students, such as advertising and image. Includes background information, student handouts, and overhead masters.*  
Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 8 lessons, 82 pages WCEE call number: AC LS 9 2

## Videos

**I'm Saving the Earth, What Are You Doing?** by Environmental Video Products, San Francisco, CA. (1992).  
*A video guide to household actions in living "greener." Succeeds in being relatively funny, amusing. Includes a print guide as well.*  
Grade levels: K-9 Length: 12 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 6

**Earth Keeping: Mastering the Marketplace** by WGBH, South Burlington, VT. (1993).  
*A well-produced look at consumption and "green living". Provides case studies and proposes easy solutions to change what might be detrimental.*  
Grade levels: 4-12, Adult Length: 60 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 8

**Think Twice: Straight-Talking Teens Speak Out About Mass-Consumption** by Video Project, San Francisco, CA. (2003).  
*A brief, yet poignant view into what really happens to make hamburgers, stereos, cars, etc. and the personal, local, and global impacts these items have. Encourages students to question their consumption habits.*  
Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 7 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 22

**Cost of Cool, The** by Video Project, San Francisco, CA. (2001).  
*Teenagers grapple with what it means to be "cool" and the environmental price we have to pay to have the latest stuff. Does a good job of refraining from criticism while still encouraging reflection about patterns and motives of consumption.*  
Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 26 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 15 3

**Affluenza and Escape from Affluenza** by KCTS, Seattle, WA. (1997 and 1998).  
*A funny and great PBS special hosted by Scott Simon of NPR. Looks at why our culture is buying more, but is happy less. The sequel focuses particularly on solutions ("cures") and includes a look into case studies.*  
Grade levels: 5-12, Adult Length: 57 and 55 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 9 & 10

**Diet for a New America** by KCET, Los Angeles, CA. (1991).  
*Discusses food choices and health issues, including how they relate to the environment. Includes many arguments based in science. Does show some blood. Hosted by the author of the book of the same name (available at the WCEE, BA LS 12).*  
Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 30 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 2

**Eyes of Nye, The: Transportation** by Disney Educational Productions, Elk Grove Village, IL. (2005).

*Explores American car culture, what this means for pollution and our environment. Also explore other energy sources, including electricity, hydrogen and solar fuel cells. Also discover what individuals can do to reduce traffic related pollution. DVD extras include printable educator's guide and activities.*

Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 24 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD LS 1

**Making Shelter: My Home with Others** by Bullfrog Films, Oley, PA. (1997).

*An installment in the excellent "Ways We Live" series, this video looks at the idea of co-op housing. An interesting addition to curricula that wish to look at a variety of lifestyles and/or ideas of "community".*

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 26 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 11

**Rethinking the American Dream** by OSU Extension & Experiment Station Communications, Corvallis, OR. (2002).

*Aims to raise awareness of consumptive lifestyles while exploring alternatives, with a focus on individual actions. Includes an accompanying guide with additional information, questions, resources, etc.*

Grade levels: Adult Length: 20 minutes WCEE call number: AV LS 18

## Books for Youth

**Grover's 10 Terrific Ways to Help Our Wonderful World** by Anna Ross, Random House, New York, NY. (1992).

*A fun discussion of things that kids can do to reduce, reuse, recycle (and other actions too). "Hosted" by Sesame Street favorite Grover.*

Grade levels: PK-3 Length: 31 pages WCEE call number: BY EP 144

**Gift of Nothing, The** by Patrick McDonnell, Little, Brown and Company. (2005).

*This simple story features characters from Patrick McDonnell's popular comic strip, Mutts, and has the same depth, charm, and heart that he gives to his daily readers. With delightfully spare illustrations, and text, this book has all the making of a long time classic, perfect for gift-giving all year round.*

Grade levels: PK-4 Length: 47 pages WCEE call number: BY LS 6

**Going Green: A Kid's Handbook to Saving the Planet** by John Elkington, et. al. Puffin Books, New York, NY. (1990).

*Divided into three main sections. Section One outlines the most common or most serious environmental problems. Section Two guides the student through a "green audit" of their household. Section Three gives ideas for "green" actions.*

Grade levels: PK-12 Length: 111 pages WCEE call number: BY LS 1

**50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth** by John Javna, et. al. Andrews and McMeel, Kansas City, MO. (1990).

*A well-known guide to practical tips for conserving energy, reducing waste, and taking on environmental projects. Includes quotes from younger people.*

Grade levels: K-12 Length: 156 pages WCEE call number: BY EP 34

## Reference/Background Books

**50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth** by the Earthworks Group, Earthworks Press, Berkeley, CA. (1989).

*A well-known guide to practical tips for conserving energy, reducing waste, and saving money. Many tips include lists of additional references.*

Grade levels: 5-12, Adult Length: 96 pages WCEE call number: BA EP 17

**Choices for Our Future** by Ocean Robbins and Sol Solomon, Book Publishing Company, Summertown, TN. (1994).

*Robbins, founder of Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES!), discusses a host of lifestyle choices, including vegetarian diets, peace, purchasing power, and others. Students might appreciate that the book was written by a 20- and 21-year-old.*

Grade levels: 5-12, Adult Length: 191 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 38

**Go M.A.D.** by Think Publishing, London, UK. (2001).

*Similar to 50 Simple... listed above. A British release, provides a somewhat different perspective. Simple tips are presented under such diverse headings as "Love", "Reading", "Cars", and "Community".*

Grade levels: 5-12, Adult Length: 176 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 32

**Material World** by Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA. (1994).

*An incredible book and CD-ROM that look at the possessions, values, and lifestyles of the people of the countries of the world. Great photography, excellent production. Highly recommended.*

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 255 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 31 and COM LS 15

**Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook, The** by Godo Stoyke, New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, BC. (2007).

*This book is truly a dream come true for anyone who wants to reduce their carbon emissions in the most cost effective way. Godo Stoyke plays the carbon numbers like Mozart played the piano-with joy, inspiration, and accuracy. This is the first book in North America to provide a detailed carbon accounting of a typical family's carbon emissions and how to reduce them by as much as 73%. This handbook systematically analyzes energy costs and evaluates which measures yield the highest returns for the environment and the pocketbook.*

Grade levels: Adult Length: 170 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 60

**EarthScore** by Donald Lotter, Morning Sun Press, Lafayette, CA. (1993).

*A workbook that can be used to analyze and improve attitudes and behaviors that affect the environment. Could be quite useful in the planning of classroom activities, especially those dealing with the higher-level goals of EE, such as values clarification.*

Grade levels: Adult Length: 105 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 16

**Good Green Homes** by Jennifer Roberts, Gibbs Smith, Salt Lake City, UT. (2003).

*A guide to green homes. Includes ways to make existing homes more sustainable as well as tips and plans for building a green house. Includes information on natural materials and using alternative energy. Has color photos from many green homes.*

Grade levels: Adult Length: 160 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 51

**Green Living: The E Magazine Handbook for Living Lightly on the Earth** by The Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine, Plume, New York, NY. (2005).

*A Reference guide on how to make informed, environmentally-conscious lifestyle and consumer choices. Includes recipes, lists of resources, and advice for everything from cosmetics to pet choices.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 320 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 55*

**Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things** by John Ryan and Alan Durning, Northwest Environment Watch, Seattle, WA. (1997).

*Published by the well-respected Northwest Environment Watch. Looks at the products used in the normal day of an average middle-class American and discusses the environmental impacts and consumption choices associated with each. Another similar and interesting book by the same author is *Seven Wonders* (BA LS 36).*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 86 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 25*