

LAND USE

Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (07/08)

The following list consists of selected resources on the general topics of land use. This includes areas such as city planning and “sprawl”. Resources on related topics, such as sustainability, agriculture, forestry, etc. may not be directly included here but are available. 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

Project Learning Tree by the Western Regional Environmental Education Council, et. al. American Forest Foundation, Washington, DC. (1993).

One of the most-used environmental education activity guides. Comprehensive, well-developed, and usable. Can be used with a variety of environmental education units, but has many activities that are associated with land use.

Grade levels: PK-8 Length: 96 lessons, 402 pages WCEE call number: AC EG 158

Exploring the Environment Through Children’s Literature by Carol and John Butzow. Teacher Ideas Press, Englewood, CO. (1999).

This resource dedicates each of its 15 chapters to activities associated with a children’s book about a particular aspect of the environment. The first 5 chapters all deal with land issues. Each chapter includes a book summary, science and content related concepts, content related words, activities, and related books and references.

Grade levels: K-4 Length: 163 pages WCEE call number: AC EG 171

Viewfinders by the Dunn Foundation. The Dunn Foundation, Warwick, RI. (1996).

An activity guide that aims to help develop the student’s perception and appreciation of the visual environment around them. An interesting approach to developing important learning skills, it also inherently deals with many land use-related topics on an appropriate level.

Grade levels: K-4 Length: 8 activities, 60 pages WCEE call number: AC LU 10

Project WET and **WET in the City** by The Council for Environmental Education. Council for Environmental Education, Houston, TX. (2002).

Water education units of similar style and quality as WILD, PLT, etc. Contains many lessons associated with land use concerns.

Grade levels: K-12 Length: 517 and 484 pages WCEE call number: AC WR 56 and 50.2

Project WILD and **Project WILD Aquatic** by Project WILD. Council for Environmental Education, Houston, TX. (2000).

Also considered two of the definitive activity/curricula guides in environmental education. Numerous subjects, learning styles, topics, etc. covered. Many lessons directly address land use issues. Very usable format.

Grade levels: K-12 Length: 526 and 260 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 3 and AC WR 2

Learning from the Land: Wisconsin Land Use by Bobbi Malone, et. al. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. (1998).

A usable activity guide focusing on the history of land use in Wisconsin. Includes explorations of the fur trade, forestry practices, treaties and more. Developed as a supplemental guide to the student text of the same name (AC LU 9 supply.), though many activities could also stand alone.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 100 pages WCEE call number: AC LU 9

This Land is Your Land: Lesson Plans for Land Use by Michigan State University Extension. (2004).

An activity guide designed to inform and involve students with issues of land use. Has a wide range of hands-on activities, including observation sheets, games, and even a mock public hearing. Covers topics such as zoning, city planning, and habitats.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 150 pages WCEE call number: AC LU 12

People and the Planet: Lessons for a Sustainable Future by Pamela Wasserman. Zero Population Growth, Washington, DC. (1996).

Explores a student's relationship "to the natural environment and to other members of the global family." A population-themed activity guide, it necessarily addresses many land use issues. Includes four student readings as well as reproducible worksheets. Addresses many of the established goals of environmental education.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 30 activities, 189 pages WCEE call number: AC HP 16

Self & Community—Land Use Planning and the Visual Environment by Joan Chadde, et. al. West Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics & Environmental Education, Houghton, MI. (1999).

Designed for all 14 lessons to be used together as a unit, though clear and logical lesson setup facilitates individual lesson adaptation. Relies on a variety of learning techniques, including worksheets, student readings, games, etc.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 14 lessons, unpagged WCEE call number: AC LU 11

Going Places, Making Choices by The National 4-H Council. National 4-H Council, Chevy Chase, MD. (1999).

A series of 5 booklets (essentially mini-activity guides) focusing on transportation and mobility issues. The fourth booklet deals specifically with land use, but the other booklets are also quite relevant. Usable formats.

Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 17-22 pages each WCEE call number: AC LS 8

Videos

Journey to Planet Earth: The Urban Explosion by Screenscope, Inc. (1999).

A well-produced (and well-funded) PBS documentary that, through case studies of four major cities, looks at the challenges of sheltering and sustaining the growing human population without destroying the delicate balances in the environment. Many land use issues are directly discussed.

Grade levels: 5-12, Adult Length: 57 minutes WCEE call number: AV URB 4

20/20 Vision: Managing for a Livable Urban Habitat by Lucerne Media, Morris Plains, NJ. (1992).

Though somewhat dated, this video focuses on Madison, WI, providing a local example of topics discussed within the land use curricula. Good for use as an overview/introduction.

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 27 minutes WCEE call number: AV LU 1

Houses in the Fields by The Video Project, Ben Lomond, CA. (1995).

An agriculturally-focused exploration of land use issues. Includes a discussion guide for facilitating classroom use.

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 26 minutes WCEE call number: AV LU 6

Understanding Urban Sprawl by Films for the Humanities & Sciences, Princetown, NJ. (1999).

From “The Nature of Things,” hosted by David Suzuki. A comprehensive look at land use concerns, including the needs and desires of a growing population, societal ideals, problems, successes, and more.

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 47 minutes WCEE call number: AV LU 7

Ways We Live: Community by Design by Bullfrog Films, Oley, PA. (1997).

Through case studies, looks at the role design plays in communities with different goals. Good also in classroom activities that look at building or discussing “sense of place”. May also be useful in conjunction with the Why Design? activity guide listed above.

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 26 minutes WCEE call number: AV LU 5

Ways We Live: Maps with Teeth by Bullfrog Films, Oley, PA. (1997).

A focused exploration of cartography, but still very relevant to the land use curricula. A great supplement to other land use discussions, allowing for exploration of “sense of place” issues.

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 26 minutes WCEE call number: AV LU 4

Books for Youth

Window by Jeannie Baker. Greenwillow Books, New York, NY. (1991).

Fiction. A stunningly visual, wordless book focusing on development issues. Collages depict the view from a boy’s window from his birth through the time when he moves his family into his own house—a place that outside looks strikingly similar to the original view before development.

Grade levels: PK-4 Length: 28 pages WCEE call number: BY LU 1

Empty Lot, The by Dale Fife. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA. (1991).

Fiction. A story about a man who discovers that the empty lot he owns within a city is actually quite occupied by a wide range of creatures.

Grade levels: K-4 Length: 28 pages WCEE call number: BY URB 7

Where Once There Was a Wood by Denise Fleming. Henry Holt and Co., New York, NY. (1996).

Fiction. A book that, in rhyming prose, looks at all the animal and plant life replaced by urban development. Includes resources about “welcoming wildlife to your backyard habitat”. Great pictures.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 32 pages WCEE call number: BY EP 8

Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share by Molly Bang. Blue Sky Press, New York, NY. (1997).

Fiction. A story that brings the principles and concepts of Garrett Hardin's famous paper "The Tragedy of the Commons" to a younger audience. Connects overpopulation to problems with land (and other resource) use. A great resource for initiating class discussions. Wonderful illustrations.
Grade levels: K-9 Length: 34 pages WCEE call number: BY PH 20

Atlas of Environmental Issues by Nick Middleton. Facts on File, New York, NY. (1989).

Non-fiction. An atlas that provides a very good visual representation of many environmental issues, including chapters entitled "Urban Environment," "Transportation," and "Deforestation." The statistics are somewhat dated, but the concepts are well presented.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 63 pages WCEE call number: BY EG 7

Project Eco-City (series) by Philip Parker. Thompson Learning, New York, NY. (1995).

Non-fiction. Entitled "Town Life" and "Global Cities", these two student reference books deal with many aspects of urban living including culture, energy, resource use, waste, and transportation. Both include glossaries and a list of additional resources. .

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 48 pages each WCEE call number: BY URB 4 and 5

Young Geographer (series) by Barbara James and Nick Millea. Thompson Learning, New York, NY. (1993).

Non-fiction. Entitled "Settlements" and "Use of Land", these two student reference books deal fairly thoroughly with many land use concepts. Both include glossaries, additional resource lists, and ideas for activity extensions.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 32 pages each WCEE call number: BY LU 3 and 4

Reference/Background Books

Future Issues Facing Wisconsin's Land Resources by Institute for Environmental Studies, Madison, WI. (1990).

A Wisconsin-focused discussion of land use issues, in the form of a series of essays by various authors. Includes land use history as well as proposals for future directions.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 91 pages WCEE call number: BA LU 9

Geography of Hope, A by US Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, DC. (1996).

Focuses on land conservation discussions for the private land owner, but contains many useful charts, graphs, and "info boxes".

Grade levels: Adult Length: 81 pages WCEE call number: BA LU 8

Geography of Nowhere, The by James Kunstler. Simon & Shuster, New York, NY. (1993).

An opinionated but thorough look at the history and current state of land use, particularly in regards to city planning and transportation. Ends with proposals for new directions.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 303 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 22

Land Use A-Z by David Newton. Enslow Publishers, Hillside, NJ. (1991).

A quick and relatively easy-to-use reference guide covering terminology, legislation, and agencies related to land use.

Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 126 pages WCEE call number: BA LU 12

Land Use and Society by Rutherford Platt. Island Press, Washington, DC. (1996).

A guide to the history, current practice, and proposed future directions of land use planning and regulation. Particularly useful for its coverage of important legal cases in regards to land use.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 507 pages WCEE call number: BA LU 5

Policy for Land: Law and Ethics by Lynton Caldwell and Kristin Shrader-Frechette. Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, MA. (1993).

A series of essays regarding policy, philosophy, and ethics of land use.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 332 pages WCEE call number: BA LU 4

Sustainable Cities by EHM, Los Angeles, CA. (1992).

A good reference especially for teachers looking to include design elements in their land use curricula. Also includes sections dealing with waste management, transportation, landscaping, etc.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 354 pages WCEE call number: BA URB 2

Worldwatch Papers 147 and 156 (Series) by Molly O'Meara Sheehan. Worldwatch Institute, Washington, DC. (2001 and 1999).

These two papers, entitled "City Limits: Putting the Breaks on Sprawl" and "Reinventing Cities for People and the Planet" are published by the well-respected Worldwatch Institute and serve as helpful primers for many land use issues. Both include many tables and figures.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 85 and 94 pages WCEE call number: SER WW 147 and 156