



# **55 Environmental Service-Learning Projects**

Excerpted and adapted from Take Care of Oregon Days: 150 Service-Learning Project Ideas (SOLV 2008)

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Project Title	Description	Suggested Resources
<b>A Cookbook of Native Plants</b>	Research native edibles and herbs, and compile and publish a recipe book highlighting native species. Learn about plant structure and growth, the local environment, local and regional history, and personal health. Draw connections between the environment and human inhabitants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tryon Life Community Farm: <a href="http://tryonfarm.org/share/medicinal-plant-guide_pacific-northwest">http://tryonfarm.org/share/medicinal-plant-guide_pacific-northwest</a></li> <li>▪ Local native plant nurseries</li> <li>▪ Local oral history</li> </ul>
<b>Adopt-a-Park</b>	Adopt a local park or greenspace area near your school, and coordinate with the parks management to plant and maintain a section of the park. Research the impact of greenspaces in a community and develop an advertising campaign to promote the use of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Our Cities Without Green Space <a href="http://www.aag.org/sustainable/gallery/projects/mugenyi.pdf">www.aag.org/sustainable/gallery/projects/mugenyi.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Project for Public Spaces <a href="http://www.pps.org/topics/whyneed/">http://www.pps.org/topics/whyneed/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Energy Resources</b>	Use the internet and library resources to investigate past, current, and future research into alternative energy resources. Share your findings with the community and evaluate the potential of introducing or supporting various alternative energy resources into the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alternative Energy News <a href="http://www.alternative-energy-news.info/">http://www.alternative-energy-news.info/</a></li> <li>▪ Alternative Energy Institute <a href="http://www.altenergy.org/">http://www.altenergy.org/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Art in the Park</b>	Study significant public artists, focusing on the environmental and cultural impact of their work. Create art (murals, sculpture, etc.) reflecting pride in the community or region. Arrange to place the art in a local park or public space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmental Art Museum <a href="http://www.greenmuseum.org">http://www.greenmuseum.org</a></li> <li>▪ Public Art Online <a href="http://www.publicartonline.org.uk">http://www.publicartonline.org.uk</a></li> <li>▪ Local artists and muralists</li> <li>▪ Local parks</li> <li>▪ Local arts associations</li> </ul>

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<b>Assess Local Public Transportation</b>	Study access to and resources for public transportation within a community, and share your findings with local government and community groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local transit agency website</li> </ul>
<b>Athletic Shoe Recycling</b>	Learn about the resources needed to create athletic shoes, and the amount of landfill space used to dispose of them. Create a campaign to recycle athletic shoes at your school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nike  <a href="http://www.nikebiz.com/responsibility/community_programs/reuse_a_shoe.html">http://www.nikebiz.com/responsibility/community_programs/reuse_a_shoe.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Bat Houses</b>	Study the life cycle of bats and the natural pest control benefits to the environment that they provide. Construct bat houses simulating their natural habitat and hang them in a nearby park. Inform local community members about your project and the importance of bat habitat preservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Free Bat House Plans  <a href="http://www.eparks.org/wildlife_protection/wildlife_facts/bats/bat_house.asp">http://www.eparks.org/wildlife_protection/wildlife_facts/bats/bat_house.asp</a></li> <li>▪ Why Bat Houses May Fail  <a href="http://www.batmanagement.com/Batcentral/batboxes/whyfail.html">http://www.batmanagement.com/Batcentral/batboxes/whyfail.html</a></li> <li>▪ Building a Bat House / National Wildlife Federation  <a href="http://www.nwf.org/backyard/bathouse.cfm">http://www.nwf.org/backyard/bathouse.cfm</a></li> </ul>
<b>Beach Cleanup</b>	Study the impact of litter on marine plant and animal habitat. Team up with other youth to organize a beach cleanup day in a nearby beach community. Sort and quantify the litter retrieved, and present the findings at your school to encourage others not to litter our beaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Helping Marine Life  <a href="http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/007770.html">http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/007770.html</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Biking Clinic</b>	Use the internet and other resources to gather information about bike safety, investigating the health benefits of biking, and the energy savings of bicycle transportation. Prepare and present a bike safety clinic for local youth and community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bicycle Transportation Alliance <a href="http://www.bta4bikes.org/">http://www.bta4bikes.org/</a></li> <li>▪ Bicycle Safety <a href="http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/bike_safety.html">http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/bike_safety.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Bilingual Signage</b>	Practice and develop your foreign language skills by translating signs along a local walking trail in the community into another language to assist those who do not read English.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Google Translator <a href="http://www.google.com/ig">www.google.com/ig</a></li> <li>▪ Local language teachers</li> <li>▪ Local government agencies</li> </ul>
<b>Bird Identification and Census</b>	Learn to identify local birds, and participate in a national or locally-sponsored bird count project. Share this information with local environmental agencies, helping to assess the health of native bird species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Audubon Society <a href="http://www.audubon.org">www.audubon.org</a></li> <li>▪ Great Backyard Bird Count <a href="http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/">http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/</a></li> <li>▪ Earth Easy <a href="http://www.eartheasy.com/play_annual_birdcount.htm">http://www.eartheasy.com/play_annual_birdcount.htm</a></li> </ul>
<b>Birdhouses</b>	Study the habitats and nesting needs of birds. Construct and maintain nesting stations for birds on the school campus or in the neighborhood. Prepare and present an informative display about the nesting of birds for the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Free Birdhouse Plans <a href="http://www.freebirdhouseplans.net/">http://www.freebirdhouseplans.net/</a></li> <li>▪ How to Build a Bird House <a href="http://www.natureskills.com/how_to_build_a_bird_house.html">http://www.natureskills.com/how_to_build_a_bird_house.html</a></li> <li>▪ Wild Birds Forever <a href="http://www.birdsforever.com/houses.html">http://www.birdsforever.com/houses.html</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Bring Your Own Grocery Bag Campaign</b>	Conduct research and interviews to compare the environmental impacts of both plastic and paper grocery bags and the amount of landfill space they take up. Create a campaign to educate and encourage community members to use reusable grocery bags instead.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paper, Plastic, or Something Better? <a href="http://environment.about.com/od/recycling/a/reusablebags.htm">http://environment.about.com/od/recycling/a/reusablebags.htm</a></li> <li>▪ Roots and Shoots Reusable Bag Campaign <a href="http://www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns/reusablebag">http://www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns/reusablebag</a></li> <li>▪ Local grocery stores</li> </ul>
<b>Build a Trail</b>	Learn why and how trails are built, and the process of securing permission to build trails on public property. Help build, restore, install interpretive signage and/or maintain a trail in your neighborhood or community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Trails Training Partnership <a href="http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/index.html">www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/index.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Butterfly Garden</b>	Research the lifecycle of butterflies; find out what types of plants attract them, then plant a butterfly garden at your school or at a local park using native and noninvasive plants. The garden attracts butterflies to beautify and enhance the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Children’s Butterfly Site <a href="http://www.kidsbutterfly.org/life-cycle">http://www.kidsbutterfly.org/life-cycle</a> Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <a href="http://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=OR">http://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=OR</a></li> <li>▪ Berry Botanical Gardens <a href="http://www.berrybot.org/pubs/fs_bubutterfly.html">http://www.berrybot.org/pubs/fs_bubutterfly.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Buy Local</b>	Analyze the environmental impact of transporting goods and materials to different parts of the country and throughout the world. Visit local businesses to learn more about goods and services produced locally in your region. Design and develop a local electronic media campaign to encourage community members to shop locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Buying Guides (for several cities) <a href="http://www.newdream.org/buyingwisely/index.php">http://www.newdream.org/buyingwisely/index.php</a></li> <li>▪ Local Farmers Market</li> <li>▪ Local Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>

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<b>Community Emergency Preparedness Plan</b>	Learn about disaster preparedness (earthquakes, flooding) and safety within the community by using the internet and interviewing local experts. Use the information to create an emergency preparedness plan for the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ American Red Cross <a href="http://www.redcross.org/flash/brr/English-flash/default.asp">http://www.redcross.org/flash/brr/English-flash/default.asp</a></li> <li>▪ Ready.gov <a href="http://www.ready.gov">www.ready.gov</a></li> <li>▪ Sierra Club PLAN!T NOW <a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/getprepared/">http://www.sierraclub.org/getprepared/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Composting</b>	Read about composting and how it benefits the environment and the community. Create a composter to turn food waste from the school cafeteria into compost for area gardens. Share your findings with other classes at school, to encourage school-wide composting as a practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Composting Guide <a href="http://vegweb.com/composting/">http://vegweb.com/composting/</a></li> <li>▪ Cornell Waste Management Institute <a href="http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/composting.htm">http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/composting.htm</a></li> </ul>
<b>Computer Recycling – StRUT*</b>	Investigate the different types of materials used to build computers and how these materials can be either disposed of or recycled. Partner with a local electronic waste recycler and develop a brochure to encourage community members to recycle old electronics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ StRUT <a href="http://www.oregonstrut.org">http://www.oregonstrut.org</a></li> <li>▪ Free Geek <a href="http://www.freegeek.org">www.freegeek.org</a></li> <li>▪ Next Step Recycling <a href="http://www.nextsteprecycling.org">www.nextsteprecycling.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>Create a Rain Garden</b>	Study the benefits of rain gardens and the scientific principles which support their use. Approach a local government or community agency to help you create a rain garden at your school, using native trees and shrubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a Rain Garden <a href="http://www.raingardens.org/docs/Create_A_Rain_Garden.pdf">http://www.raingardens.org/docs/Create_A_Rain_Garden.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Local watershed councils</li> <li>▪ Local soil and water conservation districts</li> </ul>

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<b>Design a Hydroelectric Car</b>	Find out about the history of automation in the United States and around the world. Learn about contemporary car designs and their impacts on the environment. Investigate alternative designs to understand how they work, and the impact that such alternatives could have on your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Green Car Journal: <a href="http://www.greencar.com/">http://www.greencar.com/</a></li> <li>▪ Electric Auto Association: <a href="http://www.eaaev.org/index.html">http://www.eaaev.org/index.html</a></li> <li>▪ Automotive News: <a href="http://www.autonews.com/">http://www.autonews.com/</a></li> <li>▪ HowStuffWorks.com: <a href="http://www.howstuffworks.com">www.howstuffworks.com</a></li> <li>▪ “Who Killed the Electric Car?”: <a href="http://www.whokilledtheelectriccar.com/">http://www.whokilledtheelectriccar.com/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Downspout Disconnect Program</b>	Learn how roof rainwater runoff flowing directly from downspouts into sewers can cause sewage overflows into area rivers and streams. Educate the community and recruit homeowners to participate in a downspout disconnect program. Organize and lead others in disconnecting downspouts in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Using Incentives and Other Actions to Reduce Watershed Impacts from Existing Development <a href="http://www.epa.gov/nps/natlstormwater03/18Hottenroth.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/nps/natlstormwater03/18Hottenroth.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Redirect or Disconnect your Downspout <a href="http://www.marc.org/Environment/Water/downspout.htm">www.marc.org/Environment/Water/downspout.htm</a></li> </ul>
<b>Energy Audits</b>	Learn about the environmental impact of energy use and explore ways in which individuals and organizations can reduce their energy consumption. Conduct an audit in school, or in a senior citizens’ home in the community, to determine if there are ways to reduce energy use. Present the results of the audit to the school/senior citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Energy Star <a href="http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_audits">http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_audits</a></li> <li>▪ Energy Audit Lesson Plan <a href="http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/wue/energy_2_procedures.html">http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/wue/energy_2_procedures.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Garage Re-Sale</b>	Learn about the benefits of reusing and recycling. Plan and organize a garage sale at school for reusable items, advertising the sale on the school and other community-focused web sites. Select a community nonprofit organization as the beneficiary of the proceeds of the sale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plan a Garage Sale <a href="http://www.wisegeek.com/how-can-i-plan-a-garage-sale.htm">http://www.wisegeek.com/how-can-i-plan-a-garage-sale.htm</a></li> <li>▪ How to Advertise your Garage Sale <a href="http://www.ehow.com/how_4435488_sale-moving-sale-yard-sale.html">http://www.ehow.com/how_4435488_sale-moving-sale-yard-sale.html</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Green Schools</b>	Learn about ways to green your school. Audit school practices in waste reduction, resource conservation and energy use. Reach out to another school and provide them with assistance and advice on how to green their school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tips: Green Your School <a href="http://www.newdream.org/work/school.php">http://www.newdream.org/work/school.php</a></li> <li>▪ Green Your School Guide <a href="http://earthday.net/greenyourschool">http://earthday.net/greenyourschool</a></li> <li>▪ Energy Audit Lesson Plan <a href="http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/wue/energy_2_procedures.html">http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/wue/energy_2_procedures.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Guide to Local Farmers' Market</b>	Learn about botany and agriculture in order to create a seasonal produce guide for shoppers at the local farmers' market. Share the guide with local community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Resource Defense Council: What's Fresh Near You <a href="http://www.nrdc.org/health/foodmiles/default.asp">http://www.nrdc.org/health/foodmiles/default.asp</a></li> <li>▪ Cornell Vegetable Growing Guide <a href="http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/sceneb771.html">http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/sceneb771.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Hiking Guide for Students</b>	Using research from the internet, the library, and interviews with experts, gather information about local hikes. Learn from experts what to bring along on a hike. Create an informational brochure or website to share with the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Park Service <a href="http://www.nps.gov/index.htm">http://www.nps.gov/index.htm</a></li> <li>▪ Visit a Preserve <a href="http://support.nature.org/site/PageServer?pagename=preserve_map&amp;s_src=hpmap&amp;s_subsrc=findmap">http://support.nature.org/site/PageServer?pagename=preserve_map&amp;s_src=hpmap&amp;s_subsrc=findmap</a></li> </ul>
<b>Interpretive Signs for Trails</b>	Create signs to mark points of interest along a nearby trail. Research the history of the area and learn to identify plants in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Park Service Lesson Plans <a href="http://www.nps.gov/archive/grsa/resources/curriculum/elem/lesson39.htm">http://www.nps.gov/archive/grsa/resources/curriculum/elem/lesson39.htm</a></li> <li>▪ Plant Identification <a href="http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/biocounts/plant_id.php">http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/biocounts/plant_id.php</a></li> </ul>



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<b>Invasive Plant Removal</b>	Learn about invasive plants and the challenges of controlling them. Learn to identify and remove the invasive plants found near your school or throughout the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protecting Native Plants and Animals <a href="http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/">http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/</a></li> <li>▪ Local watershed councils</li> <li>▪ Local soil and water conservation districts</li> </ul>
<b>Ladybugs for Natural Pest Control</b>	Learn alternative methods of pest control and the different impacts that these methods have on the environment. Partnering with a local organization, raise ladybugs and use them as natural pest control in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Beneficial Insect Co. <a href="http://www.thebeneficialinsectco.com/aphid-control-ladybugs.htm">www.thebeneficialinsectco.com/aphid-control-ladybugs.htm</a></li> <li>▪ Ladybug Lady <a href="http://www.ladybuglady.com/LadybugsFAQ.htm">http://www.ladybuglady.com/LadybugsFAQ.htm</a></li> </ul>
<b>Local Natural Resource Planning and Management</b>	Investigate the natural resources available in your community. Learn how cities, counties, and states manage these resources. Create a resource management plan and share it with local community members and government officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Federal Bureau of Land Management <a href="http://www.blm.gov">www.blm.gov</a></li> <li>▪ Local government agencies</li> </ul>
<b>Macroinvertebrate Sampling</b>	Learn about the importance of clean water for humans and animals and how the presence or absence of certain macroinvertebrates can indicate the water quality of a stream. Learn how to properly sample for macroinvertebrates; sample macroinvertebrate life of a nearby stream and share this information with the local water agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetland Health Evaluation Program <a href="http://www.mnwhep.org/id28.html">www.mnwhep.org/id28.html</a></li> <li>▪ The Global Water Sampling Project <a href="http://www.ciese.org/curriculum/waterproj/macos.shtml">http://www.ciese.org/curriculum/waterproj/macos.shtml</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Mail Management</b>	Investigate the resources used in producing junk mail and the impact this has on the earth. Learn how to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive at home, and share this information with the community using a website, a brochure, or a newsletter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New American Dream <a href="http://www.newdream.org/junkmail">http://www.newdream.org/junkmail</a></li> <li>▪ 41 Pounds <a href="http://www.41pounds.org">http://www.41pounds.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>Making Enviro-Friendly Cleaners</b>	Learn about the chemicals contained in traditional cleansers and their impacts on humans and the environment. Research alternative methods of cleaning. Produce environmentally friendly cleansers to be used at school or to be given to local community agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discovery Channel <a href="http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/green-cleaning/">http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/green-cleaning/</a></li> <li>▪ The Green Guide <a href="http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc/113/rites">http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc/113/rites</a></li> </ul>
<b>Photo Point Monitoring</b>	Learn how watershed restoration projects can improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Monitor the health of restored sites using photo point monitoring techniques. Assist a local agency by monitoring a restoration project and submitting data to that agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A User Guide to Photo Point Monitoring Techniques for Riparian Areas <a href="http://www.shim.bc.ca/methods/pdfs/ppmAgatex.pdf">http://www.shim.bc.ca/methods/pdfs/ppmAgatex.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ How We Protect Watersheds <a href="http://www.nature.org/popups/freshwater/watershed.html">http://www.nature.org/popups/freshwater/watershed.html</a></li> <li>▪ OWEB Guide to Photo Point Monitoring <a href="http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/PhotoPoint_Monitoring_Doc_July2007.pdf">http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/PhotoPoint_Monitoring_Doc_July2007.pdf</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Plant a Heritage Garden</b>	Research, plan, plant, and maintain a community garden of native species and locally cultivated species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ American Community Gardening Association <a href="http://www.communitygarden.org/index.php">http://www.communitygarden.org/index.php</a></li> <li>▪ Native Plant Database <a href="http://www.wildflower.org/plants/">http://www.wildflower.org/plants/</a></li> <li>▪ The Dirt on Dirt <a href="http://www.exploratorium.edu/gardening/feed/dirt/index.html">http://www.exploratorium.edu/gardening/feed/dirt/index.html</a></li> <li>▪ Local native plant nurseries</li> </ul>
<b>Prepare a Catalogue of Native Medicinal Plants</b>	Research and identify native plants with medicinal properties. Learn about plant structure and growth, the chemical properties of medicinal plants, and the local environment. Draw connections between the environment and its human inhabitants to create a written catalog of native medicinal plants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Medicinal Plant Working Group <a href="http://www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal/plants.htm">http://www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal/plants.htm</a></li> <li>▪ Plant Identification <a href="http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/biocounts/plant_id.php">http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/biocounts/plant_id.php</a></li> <li>▪ Local native plant nurseries</li> </ul>
<b>Raising Honey Bees</b>	Learn the importance of honey bees in the food production industry within the United States and the problems caused by the dwindling bee population. Raise honey bees to share with local community organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small Scale Beekeeping <a href="http://www.beekeeping.com/articles/us/small_beekeeping/bees_humans.htm">http://www.beekeeping.com/articles/us/small_beekeeping/bees_humans.htm</a></li> <li>▪ Honey Bee Lesson Plan <a href="http://www.ent.iastate.edu/zoo/lessonplans/honeybee.html">http://www.ent.iastate.edu/zoo/lessonplans/honeybee.html</a></li> <li>▪ The Honey Bee Project <a href="http://www.thehoneybeeproject.com/">http://www.thehoneybeeproject.com/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Recycling Program</b>	After learning about the history and importance of recycling, create or enhance a recycling program at your school. Give presentations to other classes as well as produce information about recycling, reducing and reusing to share with your schoolmates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How to Go Green: Recycling <a href="http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/recycling/index.html">http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/recycling/index.html</a></li> <li>▪ Green Your School: Recycling <a href="http://www.newdream.org/work/school.php#recycling">http://www.newdream.org/work/school.php#recycling</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Reduce School Cafeteria Waste</b>	Use math and science skills to calculate how much food is discarded at your school cafeteria and to find ways to reduce this waste. Share this information with the school board and attempt to implement food waste reduction programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organizing Cafeteria Recycling Programs: <a href="http://ladpw.org/epd/envdef/Teacher-PrincipalPacket.pdf">http://ladpw.org/epd/envdef/Teacher-PrincipalPacket.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Rethinking School Lunch Guide <a href="http://www.ecoliteracy.org/programs/pdf/rethinking_waste.pdf">http://www.ecoliteracy.org/programs/pdf/rethinking_waste.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Can We Really Reduce Our Cafeteria Waste? Lesson Plan <a href="http://www.monreocounty.gov/Image/LESSON13.pdf">http://www.monreocounty.gov/Image/LESSON13.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>Reducing Energy Consumption</b>	Learn how energy use impacts the earth, and how different practices can affect individual energy use. Design an “energy use” calendar or create a “challenge” to encourage students, families, and the greater community to reduce their consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural Resource Defense Council <a href="http://www.nrdc.org/air/energy/genenergy.asp">http://www.nrdc.org/air/energy/genenergy.asp</a></li> <li>▪ Power Score Card <a href="http://www.powerscorecard.org/reduce_energy.cfm">http://www.powerscorecard.org/reduce_energy.cfm</a></li> <li>▪ The Renewable Planet <a href="http://www.therenewableplanet.com/green/reduceenergy/">http://www.therenewableplanet.com/green/reduceenergy/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Riparian Assessment</b>	Learn about the importance of healthy watersheds and how human behaviors can impact the health of rivers and streams. Learn how to complete a formal assessment of a riparian area near the school. Share the assessment with the local watershed council, government agency or other community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EPA - How Can I Protect My Watershed <a href="http://www.epa.gov/epahome/community.htm#watershed">http://www.epa.gov/epahome/community.htm#watershed</a></li> <li>▪ Student Watershed Research Project <a href="http://www.swrp.esr.pdx.edu">www.swrp.esr.pdx.edu</a></li> <li>▪ How We Protect Watersheds <a href="http://www.nature.org/popups/freshwater/watershed.html">http://www.nature.org/popups/freshwater/watershed.html</a></li> </ul>

Project Title	Description	Suggested Resources
<b>Riparian Restoration Project</b>	Restore a local river or stream bank by removing invasive species, planting and caring for native trees and shrubs, creating habitats for fish, and monitoring vegetation. Learn about environmental systems, local wildlife, and plant growth. Draw connections between the environment and its human inhabitants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protecting Native Plants and Animals <a href="http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/">http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/</a></li> <li>▪ Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr047.pdf">http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr047.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Local native plant nurseries</li> </ul>
<b>Saving Water</b>	Research and study water needs and usage in the community. Learn about conservation strategies from the water bureau. Design and publish a water-saving tip sheet to distribute to parents and community residents, and create a coloring book illustrating the tips for the community's youngest residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How to Teach Children about Water Conservation <a href="http://www.ehow.com/how_2125853_teach-children-water-conservation.html">http://www.ehow.com/how_2125853_teach-children-water-conservation.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Schoolyard Bioswales</b>	Learn how bioswales are able to manage storm water. Investigate whether a bioswale would be a possible option at your school; then learn more about the history, construction, and operation of bioswales. Perform maintenance or plant additional trees and shrubs to improve the bioswale's function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tualatin Riverkeepers <a href="http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/lid_website/swales.html">http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/lid_website/swales.html</a></li> <li>▪ Bioswales / Vegetated Swales <a href="http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/Fact_sheet_Bioswales_Vegetated_Swales.pdf">http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/Fact_sheet_Bioswales_Vegetated_Swales.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Local watershed councils</li> <li>▪ Local soil and water conservation districts</li> </ul>

Project Title	Description	Suggested Resources
<b>Storm Drain Stenciling</b>	Investigate how storm drains work and where the storm water eventually ends up. Research what kinds of materials end up in the storm drains. Educate the public about the problems of dumping materials in storm drains by stenciling messages adjacent to neighborhood storm drains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EPA – Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox <a href="http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/toolbox/search_other_by_state.htm">http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/toolbox/search_other_by_state.htm</a></li> <li>▪ The Groundwater Foundation <a href="http://www.groundwater.org/ta/docs/stormdrainstencil.pdf">http://www.groundwater.org/ta/docs/stormdrainstencil.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Storm Drain Stenciling Reference Materials <a href="http://www.mvpc.org/index.asp?page=wp17200720472">http://www.mvpc.org/index.asp?page=wp17200720472</a></li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Building Practices</b>	Learn about the history of building materials and methods in the United States and other countries, and understand that some traditional building methods can have a negative impact on the environment. Research alternative building methods and create a brochure to share with local community members and contractors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Green Building Sourcebook <a href="http://www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook/">www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook/</a></li> <li>▪ U.S. Green Building Council <a href="http://www.usgbc.org">http://www.usgbc.org</a></li> <li>▪ The Rebuilding Center <a href="http://www.rebuildingcenter.org">http://www.rebuildingcenter.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Gardening</b>	Learn how traditional gardening methods can have a negative impact on water quality and other environmental indicators. Research alternative methods and train community members in sustainable gardening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garden Simply <a href="http://www.gardensimply.com/index.php">http://www.gardensimply.com/index.php</a></li> <li>▪ Sustainable Gardening Tips <a href="http://www.sustainable-gardening-tips.com">http://www.sustainable-gardening-tips.com</a></li> <li>▪ American Community Gardening Association <a href="http://www.communitygarden.org/index.php">http://www.communitygarden.org/index.php</a></li> </ul>
<b>Testing for Lead</b>	Gather information about lead poisoning – its causes, symptoms, how to test for it, and its prevention. Use this information to work with the local health department to coordinate a free testing day in the community. Produce brochures to distribute to homes in the community about how to check the various sources of lead in the average home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lead Poisoning <a href="http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lead.htm">http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lead.htm</a></li> <li>▪ EPA – Testing Your Home for Lead <a href="http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadtest.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadtest.pdf</a></li> </ul>

Project Title	Description	Suggested Resources
<b>Trash Audit</b>	Investigate where trash eventually ends up and the environmental impact this has. Analyze the trash in your school and determine how much of it could be reused or recycled. Share this data with the school administration and school board to encourage more recycling within the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Performing a School Waste Audit <a href="http://www.recycleworks.org/schools/s_audits.html">http://www.recycleworks.org/schools/s_audits.html</a></li> <li>▪ How to Conduct a Waste Audit <a href="http://www.solidwastedistrict.com/projects/waste_audit.htm">http://www.solidwastedistrict.com/projects/waste_audit.htm</a></li> <li>▪ Waste Audit Tool <a href="http://www.wasteaudittool.com/">http://www.wasteaudittool.com/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Tree Identification Project</b>	Learn to identify both native and non-native trees found within the school grounds and community. Share this information with local government and community agencies to assist in the development of citywide tree plans or other tree-related projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arbor Day Foundation <a href="http://www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/">http://www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/</a></li> <li>▪ What Tree Is It? <a href="http://www.oplin.org/tree/">http://www.oplin.org/tree/</a></li> <li>▪ Plant Identification <a href="http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/biocounts/plant_id.php">http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/biocounts/plant_id.php</a></li> </ul>
<b>Tree Planting</b>	Research the use of trees for environmental and social benefits. Plan and implement a tree planting event to plant trees on school property, at a local park or at a restoration site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Value of Trees to a Community <a href="http://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm">http://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm</a></li> <li>▪ The Right Tree in the Right Place <a href="http://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/index.cfm">http://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/index.cfm</a></li> <li>▪ Nine Things You Should Know About Trees <a href="http://www.arborday.org/trees/ninethings.cfm">http://www.arborday.org/trees/ninethings.cfm</a></li> </ul>
<b>Vacant Lot Cleanup</b>	Identify a vacant lot in the community, and plan a beautification project. Research the lot's ownership to secure permission to access the property in order to restore it. Organize and coordinate a cleanup event, removing both trash and invasive plant material from the lot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From Lot to Spot <a href="http://www.fromlottospot.org/">http://www.fromlottospot.org/</a></li> <li>▪ Any Little Patch of Dirt <a href="http://www.exploratorium.edu/gardening/bloom/index.html">http://www.exploratorium.edu/gardening/bloom/index.html</a></li> </ul>

Project Title	Description	Suggested Resources
<b>Vegetation Monitoring</b>	Discover how watershed restoration projects can improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Learn appropriate vegetation monitoring techniques in order to evaluate the health of these sites. Assist a local agency by monitoring a restoration project and submitting the data to that agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr047.pdf">http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr047.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ OWEB Guide to Photo Point Monitoring <a href="http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/PhotoPoint_Monitoring_Doc_July2007.pdf">www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/PhotoPoint_Monitoring_Doc_July2007.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Student Watershed Research Project <a href="http://www.swrp.esr.pdx.edu">www.swrp.esr.pdx.edu</a></li> </ul>
<b>Water Quality Testing</b>	Learn about the importance of clean water for humans and animals. Learn how to conduct water quality tests for a variety of parameters. Assess the water quality of a nearby stream and share this information with the local water agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EPA - My Environment <a href="http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/">http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/</a></li> <li>▪ EPA - Ground Water and Drinking Water <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwh/getin.html">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwh/getin.html</a></li> <li>▪ Student Watershed Research Project <a href="http://www.swrp.esr.pdx.edu">www.swrp.esr.pdx.edu</a></li> </ul>

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