



EEAC

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1995

RECYCLING GOES TO SCHOOL

By Carol Franken

In April 1994, Chancellor Cortines issued Regulations for the Board of Education of the City of New York which stated policy and procedures to implement and maintain a recycling plan. Although the Regulations are 5 years "tardy" they are designed to put the Board of Education in compliance with the requirements of New York City Local Law 19, the mandatory recycling law of 1989. The policy in these Regulations (A-850) addresses four points:

- Recycling must be implemented in all schools and Board of Education buildings;
- All employees will make every effort to practice and promote waste prevention and goods and supplies reuse;
- Where possible procurement of goods will focus on post-consumer recycled content;
- Teachers are encouraged to incorporate lessons on recycling and resources management into their lessons.

It is important that New York City public school teachers be aware that these regulations have now been disseminated. It will give support to those teachers who have been trying to initiate recycling programs in their classrooms or schools and pave the way for those who have been wanting to become more involved. The handful of current recycling efforts have been largely due to the energy and commitment of dedicated teachers, administrators and custodians. It is hoped that these Regulations will function as a stimulus for all schools to comply with the Recycling Law and with the necessity to promote curriculum on solid waste management. It is also important that environmental groups and community resource organizations realize that because of the Chancellor's Regulations the time is ripe to offer more support services for recycling and curriculum ideas with this theme.

Creative problem solving is no doubt going to be needed to tackle some of the still-present challenges. For example, the Regulations leave each school to work out the situation on its own. (See the accompanying article by Dennis Bader in this issue to see how one high school accomplished this.) Location of storage has to be without

conflicting Board of Health Codes for storage of cans and bottles and Fire Safety codes for storage of paper, and the custodial staff needs to be involved and cooperative. Added to this is the Department of Sanitation scaling back of recycling pick-ups. For instance Community School District #4 in East Harlem serviced partly by Sanitation District #11 was notified that the day for picking up recyclables has been changed to Saturday which can be problematic for a school building.

The procedures outlined in the Chancellor's Regulations delineate a responsibility hierarchy. The Chief Executive for School Facilities is the Waste Prevention and Recycling Coordinator for the Board of Education. That office number is (718) 391-6530. Each Community School District and High School Superintendent is responsible for planning and implementation in their district and must appoint a District Waste Prevention and Recycling Coordinator. This person will distribute policy and guidelines to the school sites and will be responsible for the collection of the School Recycling Plans which are the responsibility of the Principals. The Principal shall designate a person from the staff to be the School Waste Prevention and Recycling Coordinator. The Coordinator will then create and chair a Recycling and Waste Prevention Committee with representatives from all sectors of the school including school food services and custodial staff and if possible parents and students. This committee will be responsible for the development and implementation of the School Recycling Plan which has a yearly Fall submission deadline and utilizes a form provided by the Division of School Facilities. This form provides for a notation of each material to be collected for recycling, the method for separation and location of storage.

This hierarchal system of plans and reporting can give recycling support but if the plan devel-

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UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 4-6pm on the third Wednesday of every month. Please arrive promptly at 4pm!

All EEAC members are invited to attend and participate in the discussion. For information on the location of the meetings, contact Millard Clements at (212) 998-5495.

Upcoming meeting information:

Steering committee meetings are held at New York University, Press Building, 32 Washington Square Park East. Upcoming dates are: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19 and May 17.

Newsletter Deadlines

Material should be submitted to the Editor on the first Monday of May, August, November and February. If possible, please submit on a floppy disc in WordPerfect 5.1 format.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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This newsletter is a publication of the Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC), a voluntary organization of educators, classroom teachers, administrators and other professionals in active support of environmental education. It is available free upon request.

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Chairman's Message

We are nearing the end of both the current Executive Committee's and my first two-year tenure "in office." The entire Executive Committee has been renominated for a second term, so it is especially important that we evaluate what has gone on during the last two years.

At its meeting in December 1992 prior to taking office, the Executive Committee established four priorities. They were, in no special order: to link EEAC to organizations that, while not primarily environmental education organizations, represent constituencies that are important to environmental education; to start a course for New Yorkers entitled "Environmental Systems, How Things Work"; to involve more younger environmental education professionals in EEAC; and to improve the general functioning of the organization with respect to membership solicitations, steering committee participation, etc.

A complete evaluation of how we've done (This is not an Ed Koch, "How am I doing" analysis) would require more than this space permits. In general we've done reasonably well I think, in each priority area, but more needs to be done.

Organizations from the YMCA to the UFT have given presentations at steering committee meetings and a close relationship has been established with the UFT Outdoor/Environmental Education Committee. This process needs to proceed. We were ready to establish a version of the aforementioned "Environmental Systems" course at NYU this past summer but low registration sent us back to the drawing board. Four of the previously-referred-to younger environmental education professionals will be joining the steering committee in January; more are needed. Membership has tripled, membership notices go out in a timely fashion, attendance at steering committee meetings has been good, the quality of the newsletter is excellent, the treasury is in relatively good shape. However, we've had a perplexing problem with our general membership meetings - quality has been high and attendance low. Participation in some committees is fine while in others there is very little.

I could go on and on with this but in the next couple of months the steering committee will again set priorities for the next two years. We welcome ideas and participation from the membership. Phone, write, come to steering committee and membership meetings and state your case.

Finally, I want to thank all members of the Executive and Steering Committees and all active members for their participation and support during the past two years. Let's continue to build.

Mike Zamm

Youth Program Update

Thanks to Kim Estes-Fradis and the DEPEndable staff at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) we have completed the mailing of *YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN, a Guide to Planning a Youth Conference on the Environment* to 500 New York City High School Principals and coordinators of Student Affairs. Kim rallied her mailing team of DEP staff Natalie Millner, Rebecca Gratz, co-op students Bibi Hussain, Lakeisha Bradshaw and Jay Wang who joined EEAC members Alma Greenbaum and Ruth Eilenberg to complete the task at hand.

The cover letter with the document included a response form for interested teachers to indicate their preferred time for a staff development session. Based on their preferences we have scheduled a workshop on January 7 from 10-12 at Gateway National Recreation Area. If you are interested in further information or know a colleague who might be interested, please call the EEAC Youth Chair, Ruth Eilenberg, at (718) 225-6997.

We recognize and appreciate the continuing partnership of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection in our Youth program.

Urban Woodland Ecology Series

The Urban Forest Education Program of the City Parks Foundation and the Central Park Conservancy present this series of hands-on science workshops for educators. Using the diversity of the North Woods in Central Park, professional environmental educators assist teachers in learning how to use woodland environments as outdoor laboratories to extend and enrich curriculum.

March 4	Parks in your Curriculum
March 18	Geology: Reading the Rocks
April 1	Birding for Beginners
April 8	Migrant Birds in City Woods
May 13	Woodland Trees and Flowers
June 10	Forest Ecosystem Encounters

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Appropriate for teachers of all grades.

Meeting location:

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

Fee: \$10 per session; entire series \$50.

Call (212) 860-1311 for information.

Environmental Resources



by Kenneth Kowald

Timely Matters

"Garbage! This History of Politics and Trash in New York City" is on view through February 25, in the Gottesman Exhibition Hall of the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue, Between West 40th and West 42nd Streets.

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding a series of meetings around the country, to develop **national goals for environmental protection**. Announcement of the results will be on Earth Day in April. For further information, call EPA's Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, at (202) 260-4332. They want to hear from you!

EPA is accepting applications for fiscal year 1995 for **Environmental Justice Grants**. Pre-applications may be obtained by contacting the EPA regional office at 26 Federal Plaza, Manhattan. The applications should be mailed to that office and postmarked no later than February 4, 1995.

The New York City History Fair is a research competition that gives students an opportunity to learn about a person or event in history through original historical material. Why not some entries about the City's environmental history? For information, call Susan Glaser, New York City History Fair coordinator, at (212) 534-1672, ext. 257. The Fair will be held Sunday, April 2, 1995, in the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street, Manhattan.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation operates three **environmental education camps** and one **ecology workshop** for students 12 to 17. Applications are accepted, postmarked by February 1, on a first-come, first-served basis. Write to DEC Camps, Room 504, 50 Wolf Road, Albany 12233-3501.



Around New York

There are three seemingly vacant lots on the eastern edge of **Hudson River Park** in Manhattan, which are not really vacant. On the North Neighborhood Sites of Battery Park City, between the west ends of Chambers and Murray Streets, they are examples of old field succession: what has been sown are native wildflowers and grasses that are believed to have been in the City before the days of high-rise buildings. These open meadows are accessible from dawn to dusk.

In Brooklyn, the **Fulton Ferry Esplanade** and **Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park** are open from dawn to dusk most of the year. The official address is 26 Dock Street, near Water Street, but the easiest access is through the grounds of the River Cafe, at the end of Old Fulton Street. The esplanade has a display explaining how the bridge was built and the park is an enclosed site of three acres. All of it in sight of and under the Great Bridge!

The new **National Museum of the American Indian** is open at One Bowling Green, in the Alexander Hamilton United States Customs House, adjacent to Battery Park, in lower Manhattan. The hours are 10am to 5pm, seven days a week, and admission is free. For information, call (212) 668-6624.

By this time next year, the new Children's Adventure Garden is scheduled to be open in the **New York Botanical Garden**, in the Bronx. Aimed at 5 to 12-year olds, the project will allow participants to pollinate giant flowers in a meadow, follow a Forest Adventure Trail through an uncut woodland to the Family Garden, preserve plant specimens in a Kids's Herbarium, among other activities.

And, over in Queens, at the **New York Hall of Science**, the City's first outdoor science playground is being planned, as part of a new expanded facility. Construction on the playground is scheduled to begin early in 1995, with other parts of the project to be opened in October 1995.

About New York



"Forests of New York City" is published by the Natural Resources Group of the City's Department of Parks & Recreation. It will give you a better understanding and appreciation of the City's urban woodlands. For a free copy, call (212) 360-1400.

Interested in Humane Education? The **Humane Education Committee** of the United Federation of Teachers can help. Write to P.O. Box 445, New York 10028...And the ASPCA Education Department can help, too. Write or call, 424 East 92nd Street, New York 10128, (212) 876-7700.

"Get ready, Get Set, Grow!" is a child's guide to good gardening, which gives the student and the teacher all the information needed for a successful vegetable and flower garden experience. For information, write or call the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn 11225, (718) 622-4433, Ext. 339.

"Public Space for Public Life: A Plan for the Twenty-first Century" is a report issued by a coalition of park leaders and advocates, setting forth a long-term plan for renewing and expanding the parks system. For a free copy, call the Central Park Administrator's office, (212) 360-8236.

The New York City Land Project of the Trust for Public Land is issuing a periodic **"Community Garden Newsletter."** For information, call (212) 677-7171, or write to 666 Broadway, New York 10012... From the National Office of the Trust for Public Land, you may obtain a free copy of their report **"Healing America's Cities: Why We Must Invest in Urban Parks."** The address is fourth floor, 116 New Montgomery, San Francisco 94105, or call (415) 495-4014.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has a **24-hour customer service hotline**, to handle complaints about any of the matters the agency deals with. It's (718) DEP-HELP. The agency has a booklet on **"How to Read Your Water Meter,"** something most New Yorkers will be concerned about in a short time...Federal EPA has a **safe drinking water hotline**, which operates weekdays from 9am to 5:30pm. It's (800) 426-4791.

Did you know that feeding bread to ducks, swans and geese in City parks is against the law? To report a violation, call the **24-hour hotline**, (718) 383-6363...And, if you see someone cutting or removing wildflowers or plants from a City park, report that violation to 1-800-201-PARK.

"New York: Explore the City Without Limits Just Minutes from Midtown," is a handsome map and guide to Our Town. To obtain a copy, call the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau at (212) 397-8222.

By the time you read this, the New York Landmarks Conservancy should have published its **comprehensive guide on how to remove graffiti.** For information, call (212) 995-5260.

Across the state, students and adults have adopted local ponds and conducted projects to improve and protect them, under the **State Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Stewardship Program.** For information, write the DEC division of Water, 50 Wolf Road, Albany 12233-3501.

The **Woodrow J. English Environmental Center** for the Frost Valley YMCA wants to create a program for students to explore the Catskill watershed from Frost Valley to the City's water taps. Interested and experienced teachers wanting to help should contact John Haskin, Director of Environmental Education, 2000 Frost Valley Road, Claryville 12725, or call (914) 985-2291.

7A is the acronym for the **American Association for the Advancement and Appreciation of Animals in Art**, which aims to document all representation of animals in public art and architecture in New York City. A life membership is \$1! For information, call (212) 360-FISH.

The New York City Environment Campaign has issued a one-page sheet on **"Household Tips: The Environment Begins at Home."** For copies, call (718) 237-4125.

Modern World Design has issued one-page sheets on how to **"Stamp Out Junk Mail"** and **"Environmental Tips for Shoppers."** Write to P.O. Box 249, New York 10002, or call (212) 529-2694.



Environmental Resources

HIGH SCHOOL SPEARHEADS RECYCLING EFFORT

By Dennis Bader

Monday October 24th was the kick-off day for the recycling program of Lafayette High School, in Bensonhurst Brooklyn. This program will be responsible for recycling the plain, colored and computer paper, magazines and newspaper used and discarded daily at this typical NYC Board of Education High School. The refuse will be collected by a private contractor and the dividends for it will be given directly to the school to be used for environmental science and community service efforts of the school's Council for Unity Program.

What is really interesting is how this school got to the point of creating and implementing a recycling program. Last year, the Council for Unity Class and the Environmental Science class got together and conducted a solid waste audit of the schools classroom garbage. Under the direction of the Council on the Environment of New York City's (CENYC) Office of Waste Management and CENYC's Training Student Organizers (TSO) Program, which trains high school, college and some intermediate school students to organize environmental improvement projects in their schools, homes and communities, the students worked to sort out the solid waste mystery of Lafayette High School. The results were astounding as to the amount of plain paper generated by the school daily, and that this daily volume is turned into tonnage every month or so. This impressed the students greatly. "If we have a garbage problem, then what can we do to reduce the amount of waste generated here at Lafayette?", asked one of the students. This is a good question, and the bigger question is, "Why hasn't anyone done anything about it up until now?"

The students were paid approximately \$ 5.00 per hour to participate in the audit program. The audit was part of a study jointly funded by the State and the Council on the Environment of New York City's Office of Waste Management. Meanwhile, with the adoption of the Chancellor's Regulations on Recycling in April 1994, the Board of Education asked that a School Recycling Coordinator be chosen with the responsibility of helping to develop a written plan of action for recycling at their buildings. (See accompanying article by Carol Franken on the Chancellor's Regulations, on the cover). The Assistant Principal of the Lafayette H.S. was designated and sought to include students and other school community members' input.

The two I-Tech classes (Introduction to Technology and Engineering) of approximately 60 students were chosen to participate in the installation of this program this term. Lafayette's Environmental Science Coordina-

tor, Paul Speranza, and I are running the classes. The students from these classes have had to meet in committees and as individuals with the school custodial staff, teachers and administrators as well as outside consultants to discuss how the program should be implemented. They also looked at the preliminary data from the audit, with CENYC's Office of Waste Management Staff, and have become further educated and aware of measures that need to be taken to reduce and manage the solid waste generated by the school. The students also calculated the volume of waste generated from various sources (examples include: food/liquid waste from the cafeteria, classroom and offices and the plain white paper and corrugated cardboard boxes from classrooms and supplies).

Working with the Council on the Environment's TSO program, these I-Tech students and the Council for Unity classes will monitor the program and conduct effective outreach to their peers by conducting informational discussions and forums about the garbage crisis in our city and elsewhere.

Both the school and the students hope to make their recycling program a model for all to use, since the volume and types of waste generated by Lafayette High School could be a representation of a typical NYC Board of Education high school.

Dennis Bader is Senior Environmental Educator at the Council on the Environment, N.Y.C. (212) 788-7900.

TOURS...

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection offers tours of water supply and wastewater treatment facilities to complement their ongoing environmental education programs. Students and teachers can experience the beauty and importance of a watershed at the upstate Kensico reservoir. Closer to home, they can learn about water quality and water distribution at the Valve Chamber for the new Third Water Tunnel, the demonstration filtration plant and the Central Park Reservoir. A visit to a New York City wastewater treatment plant located in all five boroughs, answers very clearly, "Where does the water go when it runs down the drain?" All tours must be scheduled by written request. To discuss a program call Kim Estes-Fradis at (718) 595-3506, or Rebecca Gratz at (718) 595-3523.

Continued from front cover

oped by each school is to become not just a plan on paper but a plan in action the change really lives and breathes in the hands of teachers. As change agents teachers are encouraged to incorporate recycling and resource management into their lessons. It is estimated that the Board of Education, which is provided with free waste pick up, could recycle 333,000 tons of waste annually. Besides the legal obligation, the Board of Education has the advantageous position through education to influence the "habit of mind" necessary to make recycling a way of life. Students can influence their families and they are the generation to help restore and preserve our poorly recycled environment for the future. Just as the Chancellor has recently issued a field test version of the Curriculum Frameworks for all grades in all subjects we must keep in mind the power of the hidden curriculum. That is that we teach not just by what we say but by what we do. It is difficult to influence children on the importance of conserving natural resources while bombarding them with papers printed only on one side and by bringing them to cafeterias where the super packaging from school lunches gets discarded with the garbage. Here is our opportunity to model real life possibilities.

The Board of Education has made the publication *The Road to Recycling* available to each school building in New York City. This excellent guide produced by the Environmental Action Coalition (EAC) gives step by step suggestions for establishing a recycling program. If you are interested in obtaining your own copy (\$5) you may contact EAC (see below). The EAC offices also house a collection of reference materials and activities which are available for teachers to browse through if they call first for an appointment. EAC also facilitates staff development workshops, often working with school districts.

In this era of the information explosion we no longer stress the memorization of facts. It is how children access and use facts to solve problems that is key. Goal #7 of the "Regents' Action Plan to improve elementary and secondary education in New York State" (1984) mandates that "each student will acquire knowledge of the ecological consequences of choices in the use of the environment and natural resources". The conservation of natural resources is one of the major problems facing global implication. If you are reading this article and work for the Board of Education why not find out who is your Recycling Coordinator and be part of the solution!

For more information about the Environmental Action Coalition's education programs or publications contact them at 625 Broadway NY 10012, (212) 677-1601.

Carol Franken is Science Coordinator of Community School District #4, East Harlem, NYC.

YouthCaN

by Millard Clements

YouthCaN is an initiative of faculty and students of the NYU programs in Environmental Conservation, International Education, and the Department of Teaching and Learning in cooperation with the H. Frank Carey High School Ecology Council, I*EARN, International Education and Resource Network (Copen Family Fund), and the American Museum of Natural History. YouthCaN activities have been co-sponsored by UNEP, UNESCO, NYNEX, CON-ED, and EEAC.

The mission of YouthCaN is to develop a sustainable computer network of youth groups for the coordination and expression of youth concerns regarding environmental issues. The strategy of YouthCaN is to organize opportunities of young people with computer telecommunications skills and to teach other young people how to develop such networking abilities and how to connect with like minded young people around the world.

YouthCaN94 focused attention on ocean pollution and its effects on sea life along with a concern for the health of rivers, lakes and seas that connect with the great oceans of the world.

The motivating question of YouthCaN94 was: How is ocean, river and lake pollution affecting our lives and what are we doing to face this challenge?

YouthCaN94 demonstrated the power of computer networking as a tool for environmental action, research, and cross-cultural communication with educators, UN officials, youth groups, and NGO's. During the conference, live interactive links were made with student groups around the world via: computers, video phones and video conferencing. More than 700 students attended the YouthCaN94 conference at the American Museum of Natural History.

YouthCaN95 will address the challenge of environmental restoration. On April 28, at the American Museum of Natural History, students and youth groups will be provided opportunities to describe their restoration projects and to demonstrate their computer networking activities. The focus of this event will be youth and global communications. Elementary and High School students are involved in planning the demonstrations, workshops, and discussions.

To join the YouthCaN95 planning group, find out or participate in its activities you may write to YouthCaN at the following e-mail address: youthcan@igc.apc.org. You may also find out about YouthCaN95 by accessing the Econet conference called unep.nyu.youth. YouthCaN is a demonstration of the possibilities of people-to-people networking through modern technology.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

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Affiliation: _____

Title/Position: _____

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Phone: () _____ Date: _____

Select either a \$15 dues payment to cover the cost of membership in EEAC for a calendar year, OR, a \$150 Life Membership. A membership entitles you to receive EEAC newsletters, program information mailings, and conference announcements.

Membership dues are tax deductible. Make all checks payable to EEAC.

Please complete the application and mail it, with your payment, to:

Ruth Eilenberg
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Flushing, New York 11365

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