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CENTER FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Reclaim Your Holidays

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Our Mission

Reclaim Your Holidays helps Iowans create fun, meaningful holidays that are easier on the environment through practical, inspiring information, and opportunities to dialogue and share ideas.

Quick Links



Helping educators use RYH resources

March/April 2014

Looking for Earth Month ideas? Explore now to find ready-to-use ideas for all ages!



Earth Month offers opportunities to talk about why all of the "stuff" we have matters and how we can nurture relationships and be kinder to the environment. From [Farmer's Market Gift Ideas](#) to the cartoon [Secret Life of a Mobile Phone](#), to a new [Educator Database](#), we offer ideas to use with audiences from elementary school and

up! Explore the many options at the Great Ideas for Earth Month tip sheet on the [RYH home page right column](#)>

How to engage partners, audiences with RYH



RYH educators looking for new audiences, new partners, or new celebration times will gain insights from the third [RYH webinar recording](#). It provides detailed information to help you identify partners, audiences, messages, and make an action plan. The handy RYH [checklist for tasks and timelines](#) can also help you focus on messaging and marketing.

The Way We Live -- new resource for year-round use



[The Way We Live... and how our choices impact our environment](#) is a companion project and web site to Reclaim Your Holidays. The Way We Live offers numerous resources to help you help your audiences learn about the impacts of the stuff we buy and use and develop solutions to help



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us live well. The easy-to-use resources and [workshops](#) for educators are designed to engage students and/or community members in critical thinking activities to learn essential skills and concepts. And, please, check out our brand new [searchable database](#) to find more great educational resources to assist you in the classroom and community.

You talked ...we listened. Survey results & winners!



More than 25% of RYH e-news recipients answered our post-holiday survey. Thanks for your feedback! Here are some survey highlights:

Most useful resources: [Pick 5 Survey](#), the [Secret Life of a Mobile Phone](#) video, the [Happiness videos](#), *The Gift of Nothing* book, and our [tip sheets/handouts](#). Find links to our resources at [ReclaimYourHolidays.org](#) and [The Way We Live](#) web site -- both UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education sites.

This is what some of our respondents said:

- "The last two years, I have given more gifts of experience rather than physical gifts to my family."
- "Our family decided to give gifts to needy families...gift cards for food and needs - not wants. We gave *The Gift of Nothing* to at least one family member in each family."

We're also pleased to announce the winners of the survey drawing:

Janice Bain, manager, Ottumwa Recycling Center, chose five *Gift of Nothing* books and donated them to area libraries.



Survey drawing winner Jacki Luckstead chose five books to give away.

Jacki Luckstead, youth program specialist, ISU Extension, Monticello, also chose five *Gift of Nothing* books and will use them as door prizes at the office - another great way to spread the RYH word.

Michelle Czarnecki, graduate student, University of Northern Iowa, \$50 gift certificate from Seed Savers.

Join us at a workshop for K-6 educators and future educators!



RYH Educators -- If you help K-6 graders learn, check out this fun and

engaging professional development workshop. Or, if you know educators or future educators interested in a great professional development opportunity, please share workshop details with them!

Helping students protect the environment & live well

UNI is offering a [for-credit teacher workshop](#) June 12-13, with a 3-hour follow-up workshop on Nov. 8 - all on the UNI campus. Participants will learn to help K-6 students think critically about the stuff we buy and use and how this impacts current and future generations. Using grade-level appropriate topics, students will study real and relevant issues. They will learn to draw conclusions and support them and learn how to address environmental challenges as individuals and citizens of the planet.

Materials used will be classroom-ready and designed so students learn Iowa Core and NGSS essential skills/concepts.

[For more information](#)> or [registration notification](#)>

Thank you for your interest in helping Iowans create more meaningful, fun, and environmentally friendly celebrations.

Cheers for Earth Month,

Susan Salterberg

Carole Yates

UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education

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Center for Energy & Environmental Education | 109 CEEE | Cedar Falls | IA | 50614