Quality Teacher Tools for Protecting Our Planet
Practical resources for PreK-12 teachers to educate youth about the life of everyday products

AUTUMN 2016

100% online PD

Retailer tells people not to buy

Thought-provoking holiday video

What can I do today?

More learning opportunities

Graduate credit course helps you generate curiosity about the lives of products

Register for the 100% online version of Secret Lives of Stuff. The course begins Monday, Jan. 9, and runs through Thursday, May 4, 2017.

Educators pay a $100 tuition fee for the one-credit course. If educators and students conduct a community engagement project, $100 is reimbursed at course completion. That makes the course and credit free! Find details here.

Graduate credit workshops free--click on photo for details.

CONNECT

Website:
The Way We Live
Helping students protect the environment and live well

Email:
Susan Salterberg
Carole Yates

OUR SPONSORS
REAP Conservation Education Program

Recycling & Reuse Technology Transfer Center

UNI EPSCoR

EDUCATOR
Patagonia says: "Don't buy what you don't need."

On Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving), 2011, Patagonia (a retailer of outdoor clothing) first placed this provocative ad in The New York Times. Use this ad with your students to evoke curiosity. Use it to instill the concepts that our "stuff" has a significant environmental impact. And give your students a glimpse of a radically different way of doing business.

Assign a review and analysis of this ad and its accompanying blog to your 6-12th graders. Then, have students answer these questions... READ MORE...

Practice oral and written communication using this holiday video

This 2:42 minute video shows children writing two letters. One letter is to Three Kings (Spain's equal of Santa Claus). 1st through 3rd graders could replicate this letter-writing project. Teachers of older students might show and discuss the video.

Or, get your students to create a puppet show version of the video to integrate arts into your classroom!

Interactive idea focuses on the "stuff" we really love

The environmental issues around our "stuff" are complex. Many of us love...
These and other graphics may be useful tools when you market community engagement projects, write e-newsletters for parents, or post updates on your school’s website. Consider using these graphics especially around the winter holidays. They will remind your students and anyone who walks into your school what matters most.

What can I do today for the earth?
Take the classroom challenge to "unshop"

This 30-Day Unshopping Challenge and the accompanying 43-second Yerdle video provide extra ways to engage students. Maybe some of your students will decide to experiment with this concept for a day, for a week, for a month. Several UNI students are in the midst of this challenge. Read their blog here.

This meets fifth grade science standard 5-ESS3-1: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth’s resources and environment.

The Story Project

Several years ago, when I needed a new refrigerator, a friend and neighbor got excited for me. She said, "Oh, it wouldn't cost more than $2-$3K more to give your entire kitchen a facelift!!" She proceeded, with my somewhat reluctant permission, to come to my house and measure.

About a week later, all bubbly, she presented me an estimate from a local home store. It included new kitchen cabinets and counters, for a mere $15K!

Well, I kept my existing cabinets, updating them with new hardware that cost way less than $100.

For some people, the remodeled kitchen is a no-brainer and an "Of-course-we need and want it." In my case, I didn't need or
No remodeling needed. New is particularly nice, but $14,900 more, plus the unnecessary expense of natural resources? Nah. Not necessary for me, at least for awhile!—Story by Susan Salterberg

An Invitation: We all have stories or know of stories about the joys and regrets that come with our buying decisions. We want to share these stories in coming issues. Please email me (susan.salterberg@uni.edu) with your story(ies).

If you thought this newsletter was valuable, click on the Forward this email link below so your friends/coworkers can read it. They can also subscribe by clicking the Join Our Mailing List button in the left-hand column.

Hoping you have a successful start to the new school year,

Susan Salterberg
Carole Yates
UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education