



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

March 2010

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## Greetings!

With less than one month until National Environmental Education Week, thousands of educators across the country are taking advantage of the numerous lesson plans, activity ideas, special offers and other resources available to registered participants at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org). EE Week is **April 11-17**. Join our national network of educators dedicated to improving the environmental literacy of K-12 students by [registering today](#).

We are excited to announce the launch of a new EE Week signature event, [Be Water Wise Atlanta](#). Also, EE Week's first ever educator webinar -- [Teaching the Water-Energy Connection](#) -- will be held later this month. Continue reading below for more information.

Thank you to the hundreds of you who responded to our invitation to join us on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) last month. These social networking sites are a great way for us to learn more about your programs and share additional information with you, including links to interesting news articles and additional opportunities that aren't included in our monthly newsletters. "Follow us" or become a facebook fan today!

As EE Week approaches, you will begin to hear from us slightly more often than you are used to as we announce new resources and opportunities. In May, we will return to our regular, once-monthly newsletter schedule.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse  
Program Manager, National EE Week

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### The Water-Energy Connection

Generating power consumes 3 percent of our nation's water annually and 13 percent of the energy produced in this country each year is used to treat, transport and heat our water.

[Learn more](#)

Source: River Network's Saving Water, Saving Energy program

## Be Water Wise Atlanta

14 Atlanta schools participate in EE Week's 2010 signature event

Last April, the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#) (NEEF) launched its first major signature event for EE Week in Miami: [Be Water Wise](#). Be Water Wise is designed to bring a meaningful water conservation and education experience to a K-12 audience, raising awareness of local water issues and improving water conservation in school buildings and grounds.

As part of [Be Water Wise Atlanta](#), teachers and custodians from 14 selected Atlanta schools attended a workshop last month where they received training and program-related educational materials. The workshop was led by representatives from [Georgia Project WET](#) and [Johnson](#)

[Controls, Inc.](#) Throughout the month of March, students, with the help of teachers and custodians, will assess current water use at their schools, inspecting each water-using device -- faucets, sinks, water fountains, etc. -- to check for leaks and measure flow rates. Students will analyze their results, develop plans to save water in their schools and have an opportunity to present their findings and conservation plans to city officials during EE Week, April 11-17. Participating schools will also be eligible for grant funds to implement student-designed school water conservation projects during the 2010-2011 school year.



## Teaching the Water-Energy Connection

EE Week Educator Webinar: Wednesday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time

Have you ever wondered how far your water travels to get to your kitchen faucet? Or thought about how much energy is used for a hot shower? Did you know that water is a key ingredient in the process of producing electricity from coal and other thermoelectric sources?

The water-energy connection is complex, but it provides an excellent opportunity to engage students in learning about the interrelatedness of ecological and environmental concerns.

**Registered EE Week 2010 participants** are invited to join us for EE Week's first ever webinar -- Teaching the Water-Energy Connection -- on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time. Educators will hear from representatives of [River Network's Saving Water, Saving Energy](#) program about the water requirements of electricity production, as well as the energy needed to treat, transport and heat the water we use every day. Participants will also learn about water and energy conservation projects taking place in schools across the country as well as lesson plans developed by [Earth Day Network](#) on the water-energy connection.

[Register](#) for EE Week by Thursday, March 25 to participate in this online professional development experience. Not sure if you've already registered this year? Check our list of [2010 partners](#) for your school or

### Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States.

EE Week connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment.

### Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2010](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Success Stories](#)

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### Contact Us

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Join Our  
Mailing List

organization name. Registered individuals will receive webinar login information via email prior to the webinar.

## EE Resources

### Fix A Leak Week - March 15-21, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program is promoting Fix A Leak Week March 15-21, 2010 to remind Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. The WaterSense Web site provides facts and figures, step-by-step instructions on how to fix a leak (available in Spanish) and educational resources. The Fix A Leak Week learning resources are a set of activities designed for students in grades 3 through 5 to help them learn about water supplies and the importance of saving water. [Learn more](#)

### Sun-Earth Day - March 20, 2010

Join NASA for Sun-Earth Day, a yearly celebration on or near the Spring Equinox. Sun-Earth Day 2010 will explore how magnetic force plays a key role in our daily lives and how it's role in creating magnetic storms. On March 20, Sun-Earth Day will be hosting a live Webcast featuring scientists, educators and students who will demonstrate the power of magnetism. Sun-Earth Day produces Webcasts and other multimedia and print resources for use by formal and informal educators nation-wide and internationally. [Learn more](#)

### Trees for the 21st Century

Trees for the 21st Century is an educational tree-planting program for students ages 6 to 18 involving science-based learning, tree planting and ongoing stewardship opportunities. The program, organized by EARTHNEXT, provides tree planting kits that come with seedlings, activity and stewardship guides and a Trees for the 21st Century patch and DVD featuring Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Greenbelt Movement. Kits must be ordered by April 9 for spring planting. [Learn more](#)

### Semester of Service Strategy Guide

Youth Service America's new Semester of Service strategy guide helps educators engage young people in an extended service-learning framework of at least 70 hours and presents step-by-step instructions on how to identify and implement meaningful service and learning experiences. Broadly focused, the guide offers useful examples on how to make authentic connections with science, language arts, civics and health. Filled with tested project examples, the guide also includes pages designed for student use. Download a free copy or view on the Web site. [Learn more](#)

For more classroom resources, visit us [online](#).

## Student Contests and Awards

### **Live Deliberately Essay Contest - Entry deadline March 31**

World Wide Waldens' Live Deliberately Essay Contest asks students to respond to a famous quote from Thoreau that describes his experience at Walden as a desire to "live deliberately." Students are challenged in their essay response to this quote to explore the idea of living deliberately and whether nature or experience in nature has played any role in helping them discover "essential truths." Students 13 years or older are eligible to apply. Winning entries will be featured on the World Wide Waldens Web site and winners will receive a certificate and an autographed copy of *Walden*. [Learn more](#)

### **IGES 2010 Earth Day Photo & Essay Contest - Entry deadline May 12**

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is inviting students in grades 5 through 8 to snap a photograph of something changing in their local environment between April 19 and April 30. A 400 word maximum essay should accompany the photo explaining the change that is happening. The first place winner will receive a digital camera, the second place winner a digital photo frame and the third place winner a digital photo key chain. Top 10 winners will receive their photograph in a special frame commemorating Earth Day 2010 and will be featured on the IGES Web site. [Learn more](#)

For more student contests and awards, visit us [online](#).

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## Funding

### **Captain Planet Foundation Grants - Application deadline March 31**

Projects eligible for funding from the Captain Planet Foundation promote understanding of the environment, focus on hands-on involvement and help students ages 6-18 develop planning and problem solving skills. Grant awards range from \$250 to \$2,500. [Learn more](#)

### **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching - Application deadlines May 1, May 3**

The Presidential Awards in Mathematics and Science Teaching are given to science and mathematics teachers in all 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. Teachers are recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. Recipients of the award receive a citation signed by the President, a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Elementary teachers must apply by May 3 and secondary teachers by May 1. [Learn more](#)

### **Connect Grants for Culturally Diverse Communities - Application deadline June 1**

Connect Grants from Leave No Trace provide direct support and training grants for organizations and people that serve culturally diverse communities. Grant awards range between \$500 and \$2,500 and can be used for Leave No Trace educational materials and/or to cover the tuition of a Master Educator course. [Learn more](#)

For more grants and awards, visit us [online](#).

## **Professional Development**

### **PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure - March 24, April 13**

PollinatorLive: A Distance Learning Adventure will provide a series of free webinars in partnership with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) for teachers, administrators and anyone interested in pollinators, gardening and citizen science opportunities. The March 24 webinar will focus on how to fund, plan, design, maintain and use a schoolyard garden. On April 13, participants will learn about how to meet science education standards by studying pollinators and bees in the field and classroom. Both webinars will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. ET. [Learn more](#)

### **Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center Summer Programs for Teachers - Summer 2010**

The Education and Outreach area of the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center supports and collaborates on a diverse array of programs that mainly address the needs of K-12 and undergraduate learning communities, and topically address bioenergy-related issues ranging from biotechnology to sustainability. Programs are scheduled for summer 2010. [Learn more](#)

### **2010 AITC Agriculture in the Classroom National Conference - June 24-26, 2010**

Educators of all grade levels are invited to participate in the 2010 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, being held June 24-26 in Baltimore, Md. A variety of hands-on workshops will be held, as well as a tours and a "Share Your Best" resource fair, designed to help educators teach about agriculture and increase student awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society. [Learn more](#)

### **Approaching Walden 2010 Seminar - July 11-16, 2010**

The Walden Woods Project is currently accepting applications for *Approaching Walden*, a professional development summer seminar for high school educators and graduate students. The six-day workshop provides teachers with the skills needed to lead their students in a study of their home community. The place-based, interdisciplinary workshop uses Henry David Thoreau's ethic and his experience at Walden Woods as a model. [Learn more](#)

**Green Schools National Conference - Oct. 24-26, 2010**

The 1st Annual Green Schools National Conference will be held October 24-26 in Minneapolis, Minn. The focus will be Growing Green Schools Across America with breakout sessions built around the topics of sustainability education, green practices at school, green school facilities, community involvement, green economics and green careers. [Learn more](#)

For more opportunities, visit us [online](#).



The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs - Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge(r) and Health & Environment - we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit <http://www.neefusa.org>.