

New Environmental Education Web Site Provides a Wealth of Information

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Everybody is well aware that the topic of the environment is going to be heating up during this Presidential Election Year. The environmental issue will not only be debated at the national level, but in many cases may be of more significance at the regional or local levels. Regardless of the geography, the environment both as an issue and topic may well be on a rebound.

It would be a safe assumption that the environment will be a major theme in schools across the nation especially with the preparation for the celebration of Earth Day. Awareness for the environment grew out of the activities of Earth Day, first celebrated on April 22, 1970 and described in an earlier article in [*The Electronic Green Journal*](#). The first Earth Day started as a happening, or event, affectionately called a "teach-in" in the late 60's and early 70's. Our current awareness of and concerns for the environment have their roots on the campuses of colleges and universities. K-12 classrooms have taken a leading role in introducing our children to what Rachel Carson called "a sense of wonder" about our physical environment. Environmental activities - the teach-ins of the 90's - are still found in the classrooms and campuses of schools throughout the U.S. and elsewhere.

A new (and, I might add, rather impressive) Web Page has been created to bring the topic of Environmental education to the classroom in a timely and effective fashion. [The State Education and Environment Roundtable](#) has been created to provide access to a myriad of resources related to the field of environmental education. The Roundtable is sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

The function of the Roundtable is simple - it incorporates environmental curricula into K-12 education. The Roundtable is organized into a seminar-format to facilitate cooperation and sharing among state departments of education; to conduct case study research about effective environmental curriculum programs, and to provide technical

support to education agencies.

Eleven state departments of education are already active participants in the Roundtable (alphabetically by state):

Mr. Bill Andrews
California Department of Education
Office of Environmental Education
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Sacramento, CA 95814
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(916) 657-5301 (fax)
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Mr. Don Hollums
Colorado Department of Education
School Effectiveness Unit
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Dr. Kathy Shea Abrams
Florida Department of Education
Office of Environmental Education
1311 A Paul Russell Road, Suite 201
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Ms. Jane Wilson
Kentucky Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet
Kentucky Environmental Education Council
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Ms. Pam Landers
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520 Lafayette Road
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Dr. John Hug
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Office of Environmental Education
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(717) 787-7066 (fax)

Ms. Irene Pickhardt
Texas Education Agency
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Mr. Tony Angell

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(206) 365-3893 (phone)
(206) 367-4540 (fax)

A major portion of the Roundtable relates to gathering and disseminating research about systemic approaches to incorporating environmental education into education reform. Full copies of recent reports are available here by simply clicking on the title and linking to the report directly: "[The Educational Efficiency of Environmental Education -- An Interim Report](#)" and "[Pieces of the Puzzle - An Overview of the Status of Environmental Education in the United States](#)".

The Roundtable also lists two substantial bibliographies and reference lists, "[Bibliography for Educational Change](#)" and "[References List - Educational Efficiency of Environmental Education](#)".

The titles in the bibliography are linked to substantial abstracts of the publications when this option is available. The Web site also presents topics for discussion and a directory of participating state contacts. There are apparently future plans to implement a technical assistance register providing a network of expertise in environmental education and educational reform.

The most impressive, and perhaps the most useful portions of the Roundtable are the two Internet resource inventories, "[Educational Resources](#)" and "[Environment and EE Resources](#)". Both of these inventories provide exhaustive coverage of other Web sites, including Albuquerque's Environmental Story, EE-Link at the University of Michigan, the Environmental Education Network, the Environmental Video Project, the National Wildlife Federation (classroom materials, etc.), and the Society of Environmental Journalists.

The Roundtable is seeking input and content to its Web Site. Key contacts include the Roundtable's Webmaster and E-mail Program Director, Dr. Gerald Lieberman <geraldl@millennianet.com>.

Other Sites Worth Examining for Environmental Education

[EarthRISE Directory of Internet Resources](#) lists Internet resources created by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) to assist educators in locating Earth and environmental science resources.

Teachers can browse [Resources for the Classroom](#).

[The Student Environmental Action Coalition](#) is one group trying to organize environmental awareness in the classroom and on the campus. They provide a useful [listserv](#) for timely and active discussions.

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