

## Environmental Information Sources: Web Sites and Books

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Web Sites are listed in the following categories:

Educational Institutions

International

Nonprofit & Research Organizations

U.S. Federal and State Government Agencies

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Alternative Technologies: Fuels Cells

<http://tinyurl.com/a8fst6t>

A presentation by Allan J. Jacobson of the University of Houston, Center for Materials Chemistry that introduces fuel cell technology. Topics include the history of fuel cells, potential future applications of the technology, technical challenges, and the specifics of hydrogen production. The link points to a Microsoft PowerPoint file. \*\*

Cooperative Forestry Research Unit

<http://www.umaine.edu/cfru/>

Since 1975 the University of Maine's Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) has "conducted applied scientific research in order to provide Maine's policy makers and forest landowners with the information necessary to ensure both sustainable forest management practices and effective public policy." The CFRU website presents information about current projects, publications, conferences, and other news. The link to Current Projects leads to brief synopses of long-term efforts, including research silviculture, wildlife habitat managements, and biodiversity across Maine. Publications available from the site include annual reports and bulletins. The bulletins include briefs such as "The Maine Woods: Understanding Tomorrow's Forests Today" and recent news releases. \*

The Environmental Institute

<http://www.umass.edu/researchnext/gateway/environment>

The Environmental Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst encourages and supports "collaboration across colleges and disciplines in environmental research and education." On the left-hand side of the page, visitors can learn about the different resources, which include "Environmental Analysis Laboratory," "TEI Environmental Lecture Series," "Conferences," and the "Water Resources Research Center (WRRC)." In the "WRRC Databases" area are two interactive databases: "Acid Rain Monitoring Project" and "Stormwater Technologies Clearinghouse." Policy makers and scientists will find both quite useful. The site also provides information about TEI's recent and upcoming conferences.\*

The Field Book Project

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/rc/fieldbooks/>

Developed by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the Field Book Project provides an online source for scholars and others to find field books and other field research materials. The website states, "The Field Book Project's overall mission is to create one online location for scholars and others to visit when searching for field books and other field research materials." Funding for the project comes from the Council for Library and Information Resources, the "Save America's Treasures" grant program (administered by the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation), and the Smithsonian Women's Committee. Links to a blog and a Flickr account on the site's homepage lead to updates from the project. Staff members describe their work and challenges associated with identifying and archiving unique items like field notebooks. The Flickr account provides access to images from the materials in the archive.\*

Lecture Archives-Environmental Science Institute

<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/hot-science-cool-talks/lecture-archives>

The Environmental Science Institute (ESI) at the University of Texas at Austin is dedicated to "fostering environmental research, education, and outreach across disciplines." On its website the ESI offers educational resources, including "Hot Science—Cool Talks," archived lectures with 81 recorded talks from 1999 to November 2012. PDFs and PowerPoint files are available for most of the lectures. Topics include fracking, dark energy, sustainable societies, and conservation in a changing climate, dinosaurs, and autonomous robots. A lecture from November 30, 2012 is titled, "The War on Cancer: 41 Years after Nixon's Declaration," by Dr. Mark Clanton. Educators are encouraged to use the lectures in their classrooms or in informal settings.\*

Water Resources Center

<http://wrc.umn.edu/>

The Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota was authorized by Congress as one of the nation's 54 water resources research institutes. The website states that the Center "provides leadership in freshwater management through cutting-edge research, educational opportunities for students and professionals, and community outreach." Sections of the website include "Water Resources Science Graduate Program," "Publications," "News & Events," and "Research & Public Engagement." A publication titled, "A Pocket Guide to Reducing Your Water Footprint" offers suggestions to help people make smart choices about their daily water use. An area on the site labeled "Publications" offers the Center's quarterly newsletter, the "Minnegram," along with links to their biennial reports and research bulletins. An area called "Water Links" points to relevant information from other areas of the University of Minnesota, educational programs, federal, state, and regional agencies, and professional associations.\*

What is Biodiversity? Lesson Plan and Activities from Foothill College

[http://www.foothill.edu/fac/klenkeit/nsf/curriculum/Lesson\\_biodiversity.pdf](http://www.foothill.edu/fac/klenkeit/nsf/curriculum/Lesson_biodiversity.pdf)

And readings:

<http://www.foothill.edu/fac/klenkeit/nsf/curriculum/whatisbiodiversity.pdf>

Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California developed this lesson plan for use in grades 6-12. An NSF grant for a project called "Using a Web-based GIS to Teach Problem-based Science in

High School and College” supported this effort. Activities include a biodiversity IQ quiz and ecoregional survey. From the description of the lesson: “Students will learn the definition of biodiversity, discuss facts and issues related to California biodiversity, and list reasons why biodiversity is important.” The lesson meets national and California curricular standards for biology and life science. \*\*

## **NONPROFIT & RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS**

Audobon Magazine Multimedia

<http://archive.audubonmagazine.org/multimedia/>

The national Audubon Society is named for ornithologist and naturalist John J. Audubon, and its mission is “to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity.” The society publishes *Audubon Magazine*, whose website is rich with multimedia, including videos, slideshows, audios, podcasts, and book reviews. Bird calls and other sounds from forests and natural areas are available.

Earthwatch Radio

<http://ewradio.org/>

Its website explains that: “*Earthwatch Radio* was inspired by Wisconsin U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day. Launched in 1972, it was the first radio program in the nation to concentrate on environmental news. When the last show aired 35 years later, this award-winning program had become the longest-running program of its kind. A searchable archive of the program scripts from January 1, 1990, through May 22, 2007, five programs per week, is available here. Digital audio recordings of the programs dating back to September 22, 2003, are also available.” Produced by students and staff at the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute and Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. The radio stories feature topics related to global climate change, the Great Lakes, oceans, habitats, and water quality.\*\*

Inside the Greenhouse

<http://www.insidethegreenhouse.net/>

This website represents an interdisciplinary project to educate interested people about communication about climate change using a variety of media, including interactive theatre, film, fine art, performance art, and television programming. Project objectives are listed on the website as follows: “1. To generate multimodal compositions on the subject of climate change; 2. Engage with various dimensions and issues associated with sustainability; and 3. Produce and distribute the 'Inside the Greenhouse' program. A video on the site introduces the Inside the Greenhouse course developed at the University of Colorado in Boulder. A television program is planned, and the site asks visitors to watch for an upcoming schedule.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Version 2012.2

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Natural Resources Red List of Threatened Species provides information about plant and animal species on and is regarded as “the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of

plant and animal species." Categories are Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild, and Extinct. The website has a spectrum of these conservation statuses that visitors to the site can use to scroll along and find links to fact sheets and images of the plant and animal species. Users can search the Red List using categories of keyword, taxonomy, location, systems, habitat, threats, assessment, or life history, and searches can be filtered by year. A section of the website labeled "Initiatives" reports on findings from comprehensive assessments of conservation status in the following categories: amphibians, mammals, Europe, Mediterranean, Freshwater, and Save Our Species (SOS). SOS is a global coalition initiated by the IUCN, Global Environment Facility, and the World Bank to serve as the largest species conservation fund that supports field conservation projects around the world.

Northwest Center for Sustainable Resources: Pictorial Presentations

<http://www.ncsr.org/materials/PictorialPresentations.html>

The Northwest Center for Sustainable Resources (NCSR) provides a pictorial series of PowerPoint presentations for college faculty, teachers, and natural resource professionals that feature different environmental settings. The presentations have pictures of plants, animals, and landscapes of the featured area. Examples of some of the presentations are: "Poles Apart: A Pictorial Visit to the Arctic and Antarctic," "A Visit to Southern Africa," and "The West: Columbia Gorge & Monterey Bay." PDF files are available with the slides and instructor's notes as well.\*

## **U.S. FEDERAL & STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

National Global Change Research Plan: 2012-2021

<http://library.globalchange.gov/u-s-global-change-research-program-strategic-plan-2012-2021>

The website announcement says that "The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is pleased to release the new *National Global Change Research Plan 2012-2021: A Strategic Plan for the U. S. Global Change Research Program*. The development of this plan is mandated by the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA, P.L. 101-606) and will serve as the guiding document for USGCRP for the next decade. The Plan is built around four strategic goals: Advance Science, Inform Decisions, Conduct Sustained Assessments, and Communicate and Educate. In addition to these four goals, the Plan emphasizes the importance of national and international partnerships that leverage Federal investments and provide for the widest use of Program results. The Plan builds on the Program's strengths in integrated observations, modeling, and information services for science that serves societal needs." This report was released in April 2012. The website provides an overview of the plan and a fact sheet which may be good starting points for interested readers.\*

National Water Trails System

<http://www.nps.gov/watertrails/>

The United States National Park Service has established the National Water Trails System (NWTS) as a "a distinctive national network of exemplary water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained." The area of the site called "Explore a National Water Trail" is a good place to start, as visitors to the site can locate a trail, read about the program, view images, and

read stories. Policy makers and park administrators can learn about how to get a water trail designated as part of the national system in an area labeled “Develop and Manage a Water Trail.” \*

#### Acknowledgements

Items followed by a single \* are adapted from *The Scout Report*, Copyright 1994 – 2012 (<http://scout.wisc.edu>).

Two \*\* indicate the site was featured on the Applied Math and Science Education Repository Bulletin (<http://amser.org>).

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