

E.A.R.T.H. WRAPS Service Provider for I&E



Purpose

Kansas is actively taking steps toward improving water quality. However, part of the action plan must include youth education. Soon, these adolescents will be the policy makers, business persons, farmers, and scientists whose job it is to deal with water quality and conservation concerns. Earth Awareness Researchers for Tomorrow's Habitat (E.A.R.T.H.) is an environmental educational program for middle and high school students whose goal is to protect Kansas watersheds and groundwater now and in the future.

Project Summary

E.A.R.T.H. is a school-based environmental education program. The program begins with teacher training where participating teachers receive award-winning curriculum and supply kits. The curriculum includes 26 hands-on lessons on the topics of water, soil, air, and living resources. Supply Kits are worth over \$500 -- an invaluable resource to teachers on limited budgets. Trained teachers then return to the classroom and use the E.A.R.T.H. lessons with their students during the school year. Each spring, students attend a culminating Student Workshop hosted by the local E.A.R.T.H. group. At the Workshop students participate in hands-on sessions on local environmental issues. The workshop connects students with local environmental experts who give them real world applications to their in-class environmental studies.

In order to replicate E.A.R.T.H. across the state of Kansas, new E.A.R.T.H. programs will be personally assisted in all aspects of start up and implementation. An informational CD-ROM including promotional materials, curriculum, press releases, letters to teachers/principals/ steering committee, workshop planning schedules and checklists is also provided to make the process easy and seamless.

Students who participate in E.A.R.T.H. will take part in interactive lessons on the water cycle; stream water chemistry and macroinvertebrate data and how pollution can affect these water quality indicators; aquifers and non-point source pollution; the ability of wetlands and soil to filter pollutants; household hazardous wastes; erosion and run off effects in riparian areas; establishing individual environmental ethics and values; and determining fact from fiction in current environmental issues and trends. Through their lessons, students will be encouraged to practice environmentally responsible behaviors at school, in their communities, and at home with their families.

Project Costs

E.A.R.T.H. is a tested and proven program that is ready to be implemented into any school district in any Kansas watershed area. The personnel time cost of E.A.R.T.H. is three hours per month, on average, for the local coordinator(s) up to 25 hours during the time of the Student Workshop. See the EARTH Activities listing below for a brief overview of the program's components. Funding to support the program depends on the number of teachers and students the WRAPS wants to serve (see chart below).

<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Cost for First Year</u>	<u>Cost each Additional Year</u>
100-599	\$11,000	\$9,000
600-799	\$12,000	\$10,000
800-999	\$13,000	\$11,000
1000+	\$15,000	\$13,000

These costs include funds for printing the curriculum, packing the supply kits, hosting the student workshop, general administrative costs, travel, support for the E.A.R.T.H. program coordinator to organize and oversee the project, and indirect costs.

EARTH Activities

Those WRAPS projects that choose to utilize E.A.R.T.H. will need to contribute a person or a team to complete the following activities, but the E.A.R.T.H. program coordinator is always available to assist and walk through these activities with the local project.

1. Recruit a local Steering Committee to assist in planning and implementing E.A.R.T.H. This can be the WRAPS advisory board.
2. Recruit local teachers through emails, phone calls, and trips to the schools.
3. Add in local resources to the E.A.R.T.H. Curriculum Book, then print one curriculum book for each teacher.
4. Purchase activity kit supplies.
5. Pack the supply kits so that each kit has enough supplies for the number of students it will serve.
6. Hold teacher training. (The E.A.R.T.H. Program Coordinator can help lead this event.)
7. During the year, be available to bring out supplies to teachers that need additional things or to answer questions regarding the program. Keep in contact with teachers regarding the workshop.
8. Plan for the workshop; recruit presenters, recruit volunteers, schedule events, plan for lunches, advise media of event.
9. Host workshop event.
10. Collect activity kits, curriculum, and evaluations at the end of the school year to repack, revise, and evaluate over the summer.

Tonya Bronleewe
E.A.R.T.H. Program Coordinator
Sedgwick County Extension
7001 W. 21st St N.
Wichita, KS 67205
tonyab@ksu.edu
316-722-7721
www.earthkansas.org