

Resources and Information to Inspire Educators and Students to “Make One Change For One Planet”

#1 – Can It Be Recycled? Can It Be Repurposed?

Go to ozarkrivers.org to find out where you can take plastics, paper, metals, cardboard, etc. for recycling.



Classroom Markers: Crayola ColorCycle <https://www.crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx> and there is a pre-paid FedEx shipping label for delivery of your collected markers to the facility for repurposing. Crayola will accept all brands of plastic markers, not just Crayola markers. That includes dry erase markers and highlighters! Color Cycle will eliminate placing hundreds of tons of markers into landfills.

Special Wastes: Around 95% of electronic-scrap is recyclable. **Electronics and appliances** can contain lead, mercury and various other chemicals and hazardous wastes. Properly reusing or recycling electronics prevents these metals and toxic materials from ending up in a landfill and potentially contaminating Missouri’s vulnerable Karst topography. When you recycle electronics, valuable materials (metals, plastics and glass) are extracted and used for making new products. **For a list of spring and fall special waste collections for residential**

appliances, electronics and tires, visit the Ozark Rivers website under programs and services at ozarkrivers.org. Batteries are toxic as evidenced by the metals inside eventually corroding over time into a hazardous waste. Let’s teach youth how to carefully dispose of batteries, especially the dangerous **lithium-ion batteries** that typically power our cell phones and laptops. These batteries often explode, endangering trash handlers, and they should never be put into trash cans. For more information on proper handling and recycling of batteries, go to the ozarkrivers.org or call2recycle.org website. **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)** includes items such as paints, household cleaners, lawn and garden products, automotive fluids, bug sprays, fluorescent light bulbs and other chemical products. These flammable, toxic, corrosive or reactive items are labeled with danger, warning or caution. These items are accepted at local drop-off centers by appointment through Rolla Environmental Services at (573) 364-6693 or the St. Robert Transfer Station and Recycling Center at (573) 336-5155. HHW and DIY Green Cleaning brochures may be found at the following link: <https://ozarkrivers.org/programs-and-services/household-hazardous-waste/>



#2 – Field Trips and Edutainment

Is your class ready for an environmental field trip to tour a recycling center, a solar village or maybe a landfill? Funding for school bus transportation with trips coordinated through Ozark Rivers are available upon request and availability.

Ozark Rivers also offers entertaining environmental education assemblies grades 2-8 or classroom presentations for secondary students. Current topics include, litter prevention, food waste reduction, composting, recycling and environmental stewardship. For additional information, please contact Jill Hollowell at jhollowell@meramecregion.org or by calling 573-265-2993 ext. 109.



#3 – Education Resource List

ART

Project Vortex at projectvortex.org – adaptable curriculum for using **plastic debris for art and educate** about the dangers of plastic debris in our environment. Mini-documentaries featuring artists and their work are available plus college courses through this unique collective. This transfers well for any type of clean-up activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- **Ozark Rivers Solids Waste Management District** <https://ozarkrivers.org/> - Through our website, use the new search function for **Recycling & Disposal to locate local drop-off sites**. Under the “What’s Up With Waste” tab, there are educational handouts on “Food Too Good To Waste”, textiles (addressing fast fashion), and electronic scrap.

- **Food Too Good To Waste Challenge** <https://foodtoogoodtowaste.com/challenge> Ozark Rivers educator, Stan Slaughter invites students to take his food waste challenge. His [interactive map](#) allows for exploration of all possibilities in food waste reduction. This 2019 challenge was launched in Kansas City; Stan looks forward to visiting schools throughout the Ozark Rivers district during 2020.
- **Feed the Earth, Compost!** Here are two short videos for gaining understanding of the importance of food waste reduction and composting - The Compost Story <https://youtu.be/qg-IOoatIvo> and The Story of Soil <https://youtu.be/nvAoZ14cP7Q>. Classroom funding may be available, upon request, for composting and food waste reduction projects through Ozark Rivers. Contact Jill Hollowell for more information.
- **Composting for High School Students:** Educators wanting a deeper dive into the **biology, chemistry and physics of compost** may be interested in Cornell's book Composting in the Classroom: Scientific Inquiry for High School Students. Available free as a PDF at the following link: <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/3338/CompostingInTheClassroom.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.
- **Life Lab Composting Resources.** Life Lab is a great go-to for **garden-related education**, with everything from "back pocket" activities to in-depth curriculum. Check out their **composting resources** for pre-K on up at <https://www.lifelab.org/composting/composting-curriculum/>
- **Missouri Environment Education Association** <https://www.meea.org/grants.html>- Listings for grants, awards, and contests; links to **professional development websites, webinars and conferences.**
- **Missouri Green Schools** <http://www.missourigreenschools.org/> - MGS is aligned with and uses the criteria suggested by ED-GRS and its three pillars: 1) **reduced environmental impacts and costs**; 2) improved health and wellness of schools, students and staff; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education. In MGS these three pillars are labeled Sustainability, Health and Learning.
- **Missouri Department of Conservation** <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/teacher-portal/education-grants> - Get funding to support **Discover Nature Schools** instructional units.
- **Missouri Recycling Association (MORA)** <http://www.mora.org/> This website offers **resources**, legislative updates, webinars and an annual conference that will be held in Branson, September 2020.
- **Keep America Beautiful** <https://kab.org/education/waste-in-place/> - educational resource developed for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students and educators that offers hands-on activities related to **end littering, improve recycling and beautifying communities.**

GEOLOGY

Missouri Caves and Karst Conservatory at www.mckc.org - Why is Missouri's karst topography vulnerable? With more than 6,000 caves with springs, underground streams, and sinkholes, these features, known as karst, allows contamination to flow into groundwater. That is why curbing pollution in Missouri is so important.

HISTORY

Earth Day Timeline: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day-timeline>

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LITERATURE LIST

25 Books That Teach Kids To Care About The Environment - Young Children

<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/childrens-books-environment> | 5d66f45de4b063c341fa409c



Ozark Rivers Solid Waste
Management District

Visit us at ozarkrivers.org or on
Facebook at ORSWMD.
Please contact Jill Hollowell at
573-265-2993 or by email at
jhollowell@meramecregion.org
for more information.



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