

Living Sustainably Through Education and Service: College of Menominee Nation

Keshena, Wisconsin

Sustainable development” isn’t just a textbook concept for students at the College of Menominee Nation (CMN); it’s a practice to be implemented in daily life. Since 2007, students of CMN’s Sustainable Development Course have spent part of their semester actively working to increase recycling at their campus located on the Menominee Indian Reservation.

Central to their efforts is participation in Recyclemania, a national 10-week competition that makes the campus both cleaner and more sustainable for students. During the competition, the students collect and weigh recyclable materials that the college generates each week.

The school is proud to boast that they have out-collected much larger universities on a per capita basis, even though the campus has only 650 students. Over the past five years, successive classes of students have collected 15,000 pounds of recyclable plastic and paper products. One year, the students also collected and safely disposed of 23 pounds of medicines and over four tons of electronics!

In addition to diverting valuable materials from the waste stream, students are fostering behavioral changes within the college and larger tribal community. College administrators hope that course graduates will continue to implement sustainable projects in the tribal community, sharing the knowledge and wisdom they’ve gained.

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Photo Credit: Dr. William Van Lopik

Project Spotlight

- **Project Type:** Recycling
- **Age Level:** College
- **Scale of Participation:** Classroom, campus
- **Learning Objectives:** To introduce students to the principles and practices of sustainability and actively implement them in their schools and communities
- **Duration:** School year-long program
- **Available Partnership Opportunities:** Schools, tribal government organizations, community service organizations, recycling organizations

Alternate idea: Recyclemania competition *between classrooms*

Field Trip Destinations:

- LA Recycling: Search for recycling centers near you with this link. Call the center individually to see if they offer tours and how to arrange a visit.
 - <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/Recyclers/Directory/Default.aspx?lang=en-US>
 - Example: Allan Co. in Santa Monica offers tours (contact Andrew at 310-458-8916)

- Sanitary Landfills
 - Calabasas Landfill (818) 889-0363
 - Living near a landfill is not pleasant... Reducing, Reusing and Recycling is better than throwing it in the trash!!
 - <https://www.theacorn.com/articles/calabasas-landfill-causes-a-stink/>
 - Scholl Canyon Landfill (818) 243-9779
 - Natural Gas production landfill
 - The Scholl Canyon Golf and Tennis Club was built in 1993, by the American Golf Corp. based in Santa Monica. Constructed on top of the northwest part of the landfill in the San Rafael Hills. The newer layout replaced a golf facility that was **closed in 1989 after dangerous levels of methane were released from under the golf course.**

To incorporate the Native American environmental advocacy aspect that the College of the Menominee Nation did, look into the following organization. One way to help is by writing letters in their support.

Honor the Earth -- Based in Minnesota. "Our mission is to create awareness and support for Native environmental issues and to develop needed financial and political resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities. Honor the Earth develops these resources by using music, the arts, the media, and Indigenous wisdom to ask people to recognize our joint dependency on the Earth and be a voice for those not heard."

For something more LA local, go to one of NAEPC's events. Native American Environmental Protection Coalition. See NAEPC's forum: <http://naepc.com/naepc-forum/>

Ex. Annual Intertribal Earth Day celebrations

Contact

Native American Environmental Protection Coalition

41185 Golden Gate Circle Suite 209

Temecula CA 92590

Download driving directions [here](#).

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Resources for Students, by Students

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