2022- 2023 **IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL**

EcoConnections Workshops

FREE Recycling and Resource Conservation Classroom Workshops (grades 6-12)

- align with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and can be adapted for different class period lengths and grade levels.
- are interactive, informative, and tailored to meet the different academic and developmental levels of students in different grade levels.
- include environmental justice messaging that connects to people and communities locally and globally.
- include messaging about the 4 Rs: rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- include positive actions students can take towards the goal of Zero Waste of Resources.
- include supplemental materials such as an introductory video, Kahoot game, and activity sheets.

To register, call (206) 583-0655 ext. 111 or email workshops@triangleassociates.com

All workshops below are available for both in person and virtual presentations, unless otherwise noted.

Workshop Title	Target Grades	Description
Focus on Life Sciences		
Biodiversity in Our World	*6-12*	**How might our use of natural resources and disposal of waste affect biodiversity?** Students actively engage in a discussion around our use and disposal of natural resources and the impact that has on ecosystems and biodiversity. This workshop uses real-world examples habitat loss, pollution, and population growth to show the impacts of overconsumption. Through hands-on activities, students gain a clearer understanding of our everyday effects on natural systems and biodiversity. Class will learn and discuss actions and choices that can have positive impacts on the natural world.
Biospheres	*6-12*	**How does the closed system of a biosphere compare to Earth?** Students work in small groups and observe small-scale model ecosystems called biospheres to understand the relationship between biotic and abiotic factors and resources in natural cycles. Students compare the biosphere to Earth and realize how their daily consumption and disposal of resources affect ecosystems, with an emphasis on ways to minimize our impacts.
Focus on Earth Systems and Human Activity		
Consumption Junction ** Available in person only*	*6-8*	**How does recycling conserve natural resources and help to reduce human impacts on ecosystems**? Students will study the product life cycle of an aluminum can from its bauxite source to the recycling bin, students learn about the time, energy, and natural resources used to make an everyday product, the resulting climate change and damaging environmental impacts, particularly on global communities where bauxite is mined. The workshop ends with actions we can all take to limit our consumption for a more sustainable future.
Earth Impact: Overconsumption or Sustainability?	*8-12*	**How and why do we choose what to buy, and what impacts do these choices have on our planet?** Rotating through lab stations that examine overconsumption and our ecological footprint, students explore product life cycles and recognize the ecological impacts their choices have on the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. Students use critical thinking and analytical skills to assess the "earth impacts" of various consumer goods, with a focus on ways to make more sustainable shopping choices and lower their ecological footprint.
Food for Thought	*6-9*	**What are we really wasting when we waste food?** Students explore the environmental impacts of food production, disposal, and waste. Students focus on positive actions they can make and learn about local initiatives to reduce food waste.
Four Rs for Our Climate	*6-12*	**How might our consumption of resources and waste disposal habits contribute to climate change?** After reviewing basic climate change science, students explore how our consumption of natural resources and disposal of waste contribute to our individual carbon footprints. Students work in small groups to analyze the product life cycle of an everyday item and develop practical solutions to shrink their carbon footprint through better waste reduction and recycling practices.
Plastic Pollution and Our Oceans	*6-8*	**Where does plastic come from and what impact does it have on our planet?** Students will learn where their waste goes, how that connects to natural resources conservation and ecosystems, and why plastic is an important part of that discussion. The presenter will lead students though a discussion about plastic pollution in our oceans and its impact on people and communities. The workshop ends with actions students can take to rethink and reduce their use and disposal of plastics.
Focus on Environmental Justice		
Climate and Communities: Exploring Environmental Justice	*9-12*	**What is environmental justice and how does it relate to climate change?** What are youth activists doing and what can we do as individuals? Students engage in a facilitated discussion of real-world issues through the lens of climate change, communities, and actions. This is a non-linear workshop where the class controls the topics and themes in a build-your-own-adventure conversation around environmental impacts and inequities. A live presenter will facilitate student discussion as they work together to gain a clearer understanding of our effects on the planet and its people, and how our personal choices, and our choices as a society, can make a difference.

In addition to the EcoConnections classroom workshops, King County provides free assistance and resources for student teams and schools to improve conservation practices through the King County Green Schools Program. Visit https://kingcounty.gov/GreenSchools or contact Dale Alekel at 206-477-5267 or dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov.

King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Alternate Formats On Request 206-477-4466 • TTY Relay: 711

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