



4-H ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROJECT



The 4-H Environmental Stewardship project increases awareness of conservation and sustainable practices. Youth will develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to become an environmental steward every day. Climate change, alternative energy, and biodiversity all have effects on the environment. This project will get youth thinking about how making little changes today add up to a positive impact for the future.

- Learn to Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle, and Rebuy (4 R's).
- Make a commitment to protect the environment.
- Learn how simple changes can make a difference to the environment.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn what types of items can be recycled.
- Instead of throwing out an old item, donate it to be re-used
- Shop with cloth bags
- Learn what can be composted
- Develop, understand, and appreciate the environment, including air, water, energy, forestry, marine life, soil and wildlife.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Read about the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and how it has helped the environment
- Learn how biodiversity is important in an environment.
- Research how climate change affects the environment
- Learn about 'green' careers to sustain the environment

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Research the life cycle of a cellphone
- See how solar energy works to deliver energy to a home or business
- Plan an environmental day at school to present the 4 R's
- Visit a sustainable farm to see how they protect the environment
- Become aware of conservation programs and the importance of conserving natural resources.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

Light Your Spark

Flex Your Brain

Reach Your Goals

Light Your Spark

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Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Build a compost bin for food and yard waste
- Learn about and build a wind or solar turbine for more sustainable energy
- Experiment with different types of light bulbs to find the most energy efficient

Healthy Living

- Recycle glass, metals, plastic, magazines and newspapers
- Reduce by turning off lights when you leave a room
- Re-use products by buying ones made with recycled materials
- Learn about the environmental impacts of food production

Citizenship

- Volunteer at local events to clean up rivers, parks, or beaches
- Plant a tree on Arbor Day and report it to the 4-H Million Trees: www.4hmilliontrees.org
- Make a poster for school showing examples of how to Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, and Rebuy
- Coordinate a service learning project to improve your community's environment

Leadership

- Conduct a 4-H Presentation on sustainable energy
- Organize an environmental-focused club at your school
- Become a junior or teen leader for an environmental stewardship project

Resources

- EPA – Make Everyday Earth Day. www.epa.gov/earthday
- PBS.org movie on 'Becoming California' <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365328971/>
- CA Academy of Sciences www.calacademy.org/exhibits/california_hotspot/overview.htm
- Energy.gov <http://energy.gov/eere/wind/how-do-wind-turbines-work>
- EPA Guide to Climate Change www.epa.gov/climatestudents/
- Green 360 Careers <http://green360careers.net/>
- Earth Day Network. <http://www.earthday.org/>
- CDFA www.cdffa.ca.gov/environmentalstewardship/
- UC Davis Sustainability sustainability.ucdavis.edu/about/

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>Earth Day: April 22</p> <p>California's Arbor Day: March 7 -14 annually</p> <p>Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p>Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agua Pura: Exploring Salmon http://sns.ucdavis.edu/ • 4-H2O Water Quality in Urban Environments 4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE • Nature's Pollinators 4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE • There's No New Water! 4-h.org/curriculum/water/ • Exploring Your Environment www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-exploring-your-environment/ 	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p> <p>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit http://ucanr.edu/orb/</p>

