

problem

In a culture of consumerism, individuals continue to lack a basic knowledge of the effects their decisions have on the world at large. How do consumer choices effect the environment, now and in the future? This complex and multi-faceted problem has political, social and economic ramifications of which many people are unaware.

solution

How Many Earths has created sustainability and energy consumption curriculums for educating Chicago students and enhancing teachers' existing lesson plans. In addition we engage the Chicagoland community to raise interest in daily energy choices and our energy future.

mission

How Many Earths exists to satisfy a lack of awareness about sustainability and energy consumption throughout the Chicagoland area by means of school curriculums, energy awareness campaigns and 'green' events.



High school presentation, April 2008

how you can help

Support How Many Earths with a financial contribution to aid in creating and distributing free Teaching Kits of both modules to Chicago-area school teachers. To show our thanks your name will appear on our website, HowManyEarths.com.

for more info

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education modules

the ecological footprint

The Ecological Footprint module is based around the concept that every energy choice we make has an effect on the Earth's ability to sustain life. The more energy and natural resources we consume, the fewer people the Earth can sustain.

In this module, the concepts of sustainability and carrying capacity are explained. Sustainability refers to the balance that is achieved when humans consume only as much as the Earth can naturally replenish. Carrying capacity is the concept that the Earth can only support a certain amount of life and consumption.

An important part of this module is the calculation of your Ecological Footprint. Your energy consumption, water usage, food, shelter, clothing and electronics are all taken into account to determine how many Earths would be required to sustain the entire world population if everyone consumed as much as you.



cradle-to-cradle

This module emphasizes the life-cycle of objects and how responsible methods of disposal can refuel the life-cycle, creating new objects. This is the concept of cradle-to-cradle; "death" of an object results in the "rebirth" of a new object. This concept is presented in contrast to the cradle-to-grave concept, in which the life-cycle of an object ends at its disposal.

The concepts of renewable and non-renewable energies are explained in this module. Different types of renewable energies, which are replenished naturally by the Earth, are presented, as are different types of non-renewable energies, such as coal.



The choices we make in how we consume and dispose are emphasized as key components for this module. By encouraging youths to make energy-conscious decisions, we can help protect and conserve the Earth for future generations.



Right page (top to bottom) :
DuPage Area Engineer's Week (Feb '08)
Green Apple Lincoln Park Zoo Earth Day (April '08)
Columbia College Teens in the Media Fair (April '08)
North Park Village Nature Center Harvest Festival (Oct '08)