

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 students are unaware.

solution

IPRO 332 has created energy focused education modules to educate high school students. It has also gone out into the Chicagoland community to raise awareness about energy and resource consumption.

objectives

1. Develop a kit for teachers to present the education modules.
2. Develop a website to enhance the learning experience.
3. Promote the How Many Earths and raise awareness concerning energy and resource consumption.
4. Continue to visit Chicagoland high school students.
5. Refine and present the Cradle-to-Cradle module.
6. Collect and analyze feedback from students and teachers.

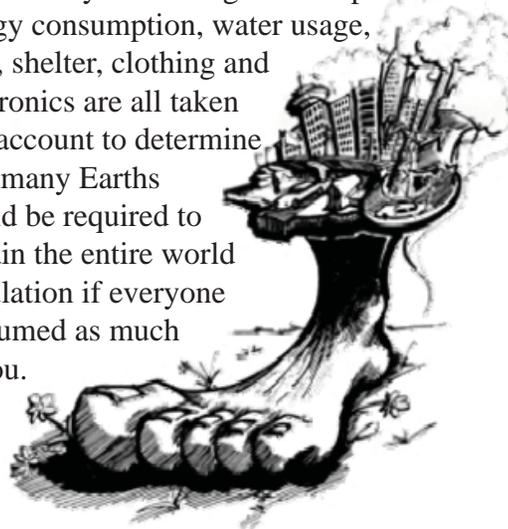
education modules

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

The Cradle-to-Cradle module was refined this semester to reflect the goals and objectives of the IPRO. 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-conscience decisions, we can help protect and conserve the Earth for future generations. This is one of the main goals that our IPRO strives to meet in community outreach.

education modules

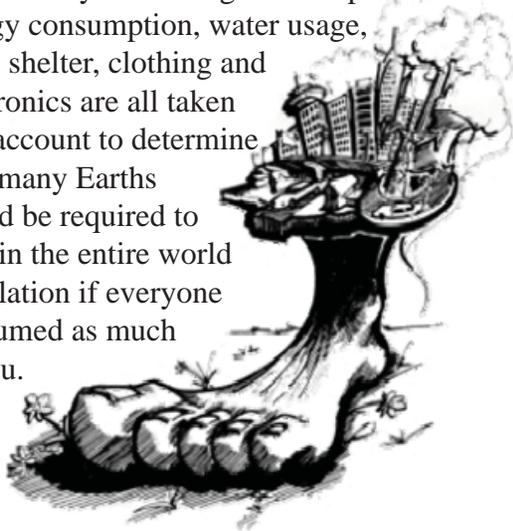
events

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Our IPRO was invited to present at several expos this semester. We felt these were terrific opportunities for exposure and awareness raising, so we attended the following with enthusiasm, eager to expose our ideas to the greater Chicago community.

earth day lincoln park zoo

Chicago's Earth Day celebration at the Lincoln Park Zoo was our first major expo. We brought along displays and Ecological Footprint calculators to explain to Chicagoans the effects of their consumption. This event allowed us exposure to thousands of people.

media expo columbia college

The media expo at Columbia College in downtown Chicago allowed us to display our different methods of reaching out to students through various medium, including Power Point, video, small and large print and our new website.

earth day iit

IIT's own Earth Day celebration was put on in the McCormick Tribune Campus Center, with a fair of student activities, service opportunities and green initiatives. This provided us the opportunity to present our information to our peers, much like we hoped to do on IPRO day.