

GreenKids

- lessons learned from an informal education institution
- systemic, school-based environmental education roll out



AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Connecting people with nature in the DC region | anshome.org



What is GreenKids ?

Two-year partnership with schools in large public school systems;

- Naturalists in every classroom;
- Teacher professional development;
- Inquiry lessons linked to curriculum;
- Student fieldwork in the environment;
- Infrastructure projects that foster applied science learning.



What can GreenKids teach us about implementing NGSS?



Think Systemic – Start Small

- GreenKids started with 2 schools in 2005.
- By 2014, served 58 schools and 30,000 students.

Align with School System Needs

- Formal partnerships with the 16th largest and fastest growing school systems in the U.S.
- Be flexible and evolve.
- Systems change over time.

Montgomery County
Public Schools 



Focus on What Teachers Must Do



- *Teachers are thinking about this week's unit and lesson plan.*



Set Goals – Be Patient

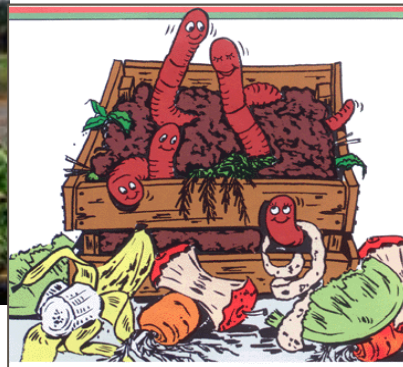
- Attach program to concrete milestones.



- Takes full 2 years (sometimes 3!) to affect culture change.
- Foster self-reliance (through lesson modeling, co-teaching, lending supplies).

Make It Simple

- A Million Possibilities!
- Choose the best fit for what teachers must do.
- Provide the infrastructure.



GreenKids Lesson Plans anshome.org/greenkids



SALAD SCIENCE

Growing an Edibles Garden

HABITAT RESTORATION

Creating a Native Plant Garden

COMPOSTING

Observing Worms at Work

GOING GREEN

Creating a Green Classroom

STREAM SCIENCE

Investigating Water Quality

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Cleaning Up Our Watershed

RECYCLING

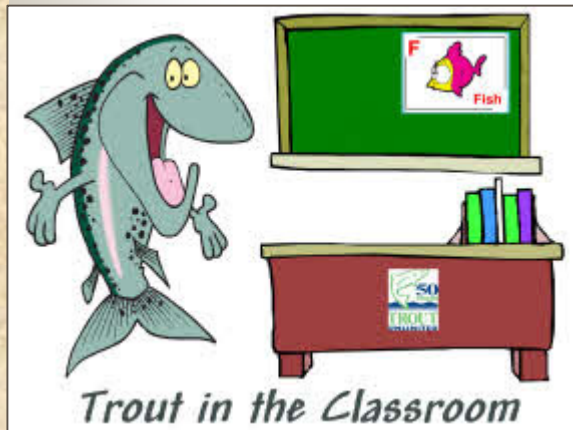
Making Your Own Paper

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Analyzing Energy Use

Enlist Partners

- Start within the school system.
- Find places where your goals intersect.
- Team up!



Bethesda Green	Monarch Sister Schools Program
Earth Day Network	Montgomery County Dept of
Earth Hour	Environmental Protection
Friends of Sligo Creek	Montgomery County Master
Go Green (MCPS/GreenKids	Gardeners
school gardens website)	National Environmental
Grow It Eat It (U-Md. Extension)	Education Week
Growing Native	NWF Schoolyard Habitats®
International Walk to School Day	Pennies for the Planet (Together
Jennifer Keats Curtis - Children's	Green)
Author	Rock Creek Conservancy
Journey North	TerraCycle Brigades
Little Falls Watershed Alliance	Together Green (National
Maryland Association for	Audubon / Toyota)
Environmental & Outdoor	Tree-Mendous Maryland
Education (MAEOE)	Trout in the Classroom
MCPS School Energy &	University of Maryland Extension
Recycling Team (SERT)	

Bring Resources to the Table

- GreenKids has delivered **\$1 Million Dollars** in free environmental education to schools.
- Partnerships are the key to funding



HHMI



Lessons Learned

- **Think Systemic – Start Small**
- **Align with School System Needs**
- **Focus on What Teachers Must Do**
- **Set Goals – Be Patient**
- **Make It Simple**
- **Enlist Partners**
- **Bring Resources to the Table**





GreenKids

and NGSS – a match made in science!

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Connecting people with nature in the DC region | anshome.org

