



EnviroKids' Club, c/o National Weather Service  
2601 N. Rambo Rd.  
Spokane, WA 99224

EnviroKids'...caring for the Earth.

EnviroKids' Club is a way for you to team up with other kids in Spokane County -- exploring all aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage & recycling, plants & animals, and you & your environment.

EnviroKids' Club members will receive an activity in the mail four times a year. Complete the activity, and return it to the Club Headquarters (address and form below) and you will earn points towards a special prize. The EnviroKids' Club is for children in grades K-6, who live in Spokane County.

MAIL COMPLETED ACTIVITY BY JULY 31, 2008 TO: EnviroKids' Club, c/o National Weather Service,  
2601 N. Rambo Rd, Spokane, WA 99224

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities and to have name/picture used in ads/website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature and Date

EnviroKids' Club Partners:  
American Lung Association of WA, Gonzaga University, National Weather Service, National Wildlife Federation, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, WA Department of Ecology, and West Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

Printing and mailing provided by EnviroKids' partner agency, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, [www.solidwaste.org](http://www.solidwaste.org). Printed on recycled paper.



Spring 2008

## The Importance of Trees

### Trees, trees, everywhere...



Trees are great! Not only are they beautiful, some provide food for humans and wild animals. Some trees are harvested for lumber to build homes and furniture and make all kinds of paper products. Some trees are just fun to climb!

Did you know that trees play a very important role in the natural *environment*? Without them, the Earth would be in big trouble!

Trees clean the air we breathe and create *oxygen* - which we need to live. Oxygen makes up 21% of the air in our *atmosphere*. Plants and trees help keep the oxygen cycle going.

As animals and humans exhale (breathe out), *carbon dioxide* is released into the air. During photosynthesis, plants combine carbon dioxide from the air and hydrogen from water (that they get from the soil) to make simple sugars (carbohydrates). As a result of the *photosynthesis* process, the trees release oxygen into the atmosphere. The carbohydrates are either stored in the tissues of the plant or used by the plant for energy. This is known as *respiration*.

Trees are an important part of the water cycle. Trees help cause rain because they return *moisture* to the atmosphere. Their roots extract



moisture from the soil while their leaves return moisture to the air as water vapor. This is called *transpiration*. The water vapor in the air becomes clouds filled with rain or snow.

Trees prevent *erosion*. When it rains, soil can be

washed into lakes, streams and rivers. Tree roots keep soil from washing away. Water is also much cleaner when there are a lot of trees around. Their leaves, trunk, and roots are natural pollution filters.

Trees can help humans conserve energy. Trees that are planted around your home provide shade in the summer - making your home cooler and reducing air conditioning needs. During the winter trees can block cold winds and reduce heating needs.



Trees provide shelter for animals. Many different types of birds make nests on or inside trees. Mammals, such as monkeys or squirrels, make nests in trees too! Fish even use trees limbs that fall into the water to make their homes.

### You can help trees!

We know trees are important. But the trees need our help! In urban areas, it's difficult for trees to grow, because of the *'heat islands'* that are created in the summer with all of the concrete and asphalt surrounding them. But, the more trees, the better the temperature is *moderated* (reducing the impact of heat islands.) Trees also can be harmed from diseases and infestations, just like humans.

**Tips for kids and adults:** Plant trees (be sure to research the right tree for the planting area), provide the new tree with nutrients and water, properly care for trees in your yard to prevent disease and infestations, and learn more about trees to help you protect them!



Information on trees from [www.arboday.org](http://www.arboday.org), [www.sccd.org](http://www.sccd.org), [www.treesforyou.org](http://www.treesforyou.org), and [www.inhs.uiuc.edu](http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu).

## Community Calendar

Want to learn more about the environment and what you can do to help protect it? Attend one (or all) of these community events - where there will be a lot of hands-on activities for you to look, feel and learn!

### April

- |           |                  |   |                             |      |
|-----------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|------|
| <b>12</b> | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Paint-a-Helmet<br>Hosted by Kiwani's, children will receive a free bike helmet that they can decorate and take home as well as participate in other hands-on activities about safety and the environment. Visit the Spokane Clean Air & Spokane Regional Solid Waste booth for a EnviroKids' activity and a chance to earn club points. | Spokane Fairgrounds         | Free |
| <b>12</b> | 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.  | KPBX-FM Kids Concert<br>In celebration of Get Lit! the kids concert will host Carole Lexa Schaefer, who will read from some of her great children's books.  | Spokane Club, Georgian Room | Free |
| <b>19</b> | 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.  | Earth Day<br>Come celebrate the Earth and learn what we can do to protect it. You can earn club points by visiting the EnviroKids' booths and participating in their fun activities.  | Riverfront Park             | Free |
| <b>25</b> | 3 p.m.- 8 p.m.   | Americas Kids' Run Show<br>If you're participating in the largest kids fun run in the nation, then you'll need to swing by the trade show to get your number. Then stop by the EnviroKids' booth to play a fun trivia game and earn kids club points.   | Convention Center           | Free |
| <b>26</b> | 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.  | Arbor Day<br>Celebrate trees by helping plant one at the arboretum. Lots of free kids activities and a perfect way to enjoy the day at the park. You can earn club points by visiting the EnviroKids' booths and participating in their fun activities.   | Finch Arboretum             | Free |

### May

- |           |  |  |             |      |
|-----------|--|--|-------------|------|
| <b>17</b> | 8:30 a.m.- 10 a.m.<br>10 a.m. - finished | Lung Health Expo<br>Asthma Walk<br>Kids club members who participate will receive a free "I walk for clean air" t-shirt. Call 325-6516 to sign up! | Valley YMCA | Free |
|-----------|--|--|-------------|------|

## EnviroKids' Points & Prizes

You can earn points for participating in each EnviroKids' activity. Whether it's visiting the EnviroKids' booths at community events, or completing the activities in the mailer, you will earn points that you can redeem for a COOL EnviroKids' Club prize.

- 20 points — Recycled notebook or seed packets
- 50 points — Recycled yo-yo or recycled piggy bank
- 100 points — Bird feeder or rain gauge
- 150 points — Weather radio (limited supply)
- 200 points — A live owl presentation to your church, school or activity group (limited supply)

Look at the mailing label on this newsletter. You will see a number by your name. That is the number of points you have earned by participating in EnviroKids' Club activities. Here's an example of what the mailing address looks like, and where you can find your prize points number.

Suzy Que, **25**  
1010 Environmental Ave,  
Spokane, WA, 99201



## Word Match

In this newsletter, you are probably learning some new words. Match the words with the definitions. Hint - if you're having a hard time matching the word to the definition, look on the front page to see how the words are used in a sentence. These words are in italics.



- |                   |       |   |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| A. Atmosphere     | _____ | Synthesis of chemical compounds with the aid of sunlight; formation of carbohydrates from carbon dioxide and a source of hydrogen (water) in the chlorophyll-containing tissues of plants exposed to light.         |
| B. Carbon Dioxide | _____ | A heavy, colorless gas that is formed in human and animal respiration (when they breathe out.) It is absorbed from the air by plants in photosynthesis, and is used in the carbonation of beverages.                |
| C. Environment    | _____ | The processes by which an organism supplies its cells and tissues with the oxygen needed to live and relieves them of the carbon dioxide formed in energy-producing reactions.                                      |
| D. Erosion        | _____ | The layer of air surrounding the earth.   |
| E. Heat Island    | _____ | Small amounts of liquid condensed on surfaces.  |
| F. Moderated      | _____ | The passage of watery vapor (moisture) from plants through a membrane or pores.   |
| G. Moisture       | _____ | A colorless, tasteless, odorless gas, that makes up 21 percent of the atmosphere.   |
| H. Oxygen         | _____ | The circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded.   |
| I. Photosynthesis | _____ | To diminish or destroy, to wear away by the action of water, wind, or ice.  |
| J. Respiration    | _____ | Urban and suburban temperatures are 2 to 10°F (1 to 6°C) hotter than nearby rural areas. Elevated temperatures increase peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution levels, and heat-related illness. |
| K. Transpiration  | _____ | To lessen the intensity, to become less violent, severe, or intense.  |

## Make Recycled Paper

1. Tear 1-2 pages of newspaper into small pieces of 1 inch or less.
2. Put the paper chips into a large bowl add water. Keep adding torn paper to bowl. Squeeze and stir with your hands until the mixture looks like thick oatmeal.
3. With the pan turned UPSIDE DOWN, place about 1 cup of the blended pulp over the bottom of the pan. Spread it with your fingers evenly across the entire area.
4. Lay several sheets of newspaper over the pulp, then carefully turn the pan over. Remove the pan. Your pulp "square" is now sitting on the newspaper.
5. Close the newspaper over the pulp. Using the rolling pin, roll over the newspaper to blot out the extra water.
6. Uncover and let the new "paper" dry COMPLETELY. When it is thoroughly dry, peel your new "recycled paper" away from the newspaper. It can now be cut to any size and used to make a variety of things.

### INGREDIENTS:

- Newspaper
- Bowl
- 3 cups of water
- Large square pan, about 3 inches deep
- Rolling pin

For more detailed directions call the Recycling Hotline, 625-6800.

Complete the activities on this page, fill out the information on back and mail in to receive points towards a prize!