

LEAPING INTO ACTION

**LEAP – Leadership
in Environmental
Action Projects**



Gateway Center for Resource Efficiency



Missouri
Botanical
Garden

See the world

Many children develop a keen interest in environmental issues. Reducing waste is an area where young people can really see and measure the effectiveness of their actions. The goals of LEAP are to support students' waste reduction projects, and to facilitate real-world learning opportunities. LEAP teams measurably decrease waste in their schools, helping to meet state-mandated waste reduction goals of the agencies that fund LEAP, while building the abilities of student leaders to manage resources wisely.

This is the third edition of the LEAPing Into Action Case Study Book. It documents the program's resourceful diversity from 1997-2001. During these five years St. Louis-based

A Look at LEAP

LEAP went to work in two additional regions of Missouri. Outstanding students carried on with recycling leadership as they moved up into new schools, and whole families began to practice what their children learned in school. Teachers with seemingly unlimited energy and dedication supported the creative project zeal of children and young adults on their school LEAP teams, many of whom had never experienced themselves as leaders before.

The LEAP staff has evolved in the midst of hard work and accomplishments. Known as MERP (MidAmerica Energy & Resource Partners) since 1988, in 2000 our environmental education agency became the Gateway Center for Resource Efficiency, a division of Missouri Botanical Garden. This new organizational structure has opened the way for Gateway Center staff to work with businesses and community groups in addition to our traditional client base in schools.

Students can and do "make a difference" in society. Using an 8-Step Action Plan problem-solving methodology, LEAP students build awareness, research issues, involve diverse players in their actions, and track the outcomes of projects they design, which significantly affect their everyday school environments. The adults involved in LEAP believe the biggest benefits will accrue as these environmentally responsible young people become public decision-makers. LEAP is an investment in that sustainable future.

LEAP Staff 2001

Heidi Kwentus
LEAP Coordinator

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LEAP funding is provided by
St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District.

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THE 8-STEP ACTION PLAN

A TOOL FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING



AWARENESS

Learn all you can about local resource management issues, obstacles and options.
Get the big picture!



ISSUES

Identify issues that are both problems and opportunities.
How can you address these issues?
What is possible?



RESEARCH

Investigate the facts about the issues you choose to address.
Dig in and learn more.
Ask questions!



PLAYERS

Identify and communicate with people who hold the keys to working with your issues. Discuss concerns, values, beliefs and needs.
Form partnerships!



SOLUTIONS

Explore possible ways to address the issues and solve the problems.
Formulate an action plan.



ACTIONS

Put your awareness into action.
Include all key players, and use your research on the issues.
Implement your action plan!



ASSESSMENT

Check your progress as you take action. Record and reflect on success and obstacles. Keep in touch with key players. Make changes as your plan proceeds.



EVALUATION

Assess and document the overall outcome of your efforts. Share your findings with others. Use what you learn to sustain your project over time!



“**W**e were really surprised to learn we won second place in the Abitibi Paper Retriever recycling contest! When the building ‘caught the competitive bug,’ the paper just started to pour in,” said Holly Hildreth, LEAP facilitator.

Parkwood’s environmental club, the Leapin’ Lizards, brainstormed ways to get people excited about the contest. The school’s paper-weight totals were decreasing, and students wanted to build up enthusiasm. Upon student request, Parkwood P.T.A. published an article about the contest in a monthly newsletter. The Leapin’ Lizards also held their own in-school contest. They made weekly announcements, giving winning class totals to keep up competition. A bulletin board in the front hall showed top class totals and the total amount of paper recycled by the school. The totals changed almost daily! They offered prizes to the three classes that recycled the most paper.

The first week of the contest, they collected more paper than they had all year. So much paper came in that they broke their scale and had to borrow the nurse’s scale! In the end, the Leapin’ Lizards collected a grand total of 22,071 lbs. of recycled paper. Ms. Hildreth admits it took a lot of work, but it was really exciting for the whole school.



**P.T.A.
is the Key!**
Parkwood Elementary,
Pattonville School District

The winners! Parkwood Elementary LEAP students get a big check for their collection efforts in the 2001 Abitibi paper recycling contest.



Each day Americans buy 62 million newspapers and throw out 44 million.
(Abitibi Consolidated Recycling)



Rockport Heights has been a LEAP champion for over four years. Nancy Joannes, LEAP facilitator and “Queen of Recycling,” has overseen recycling of paper, ink jet cartridges, aluminum cans and composting.

Ms. Joannes sees LEAP as an opportunity for kids to be environmental role models for others. “I feel that everyone should be environmentally responsible—and that’s easy. Students’ involvement can make a difference and hopefully, they will continue... throughout their daily lives.” The Boenig family took that advice to heart.

Now in 6th grade, Nick Boenig began LEAP when he was in third grade. He

recalls the first time he visited a landfill during Student Training, “It shocked me ‘cause there was so much trash that people throw away! I thought it was sad that they didn’t know about recycling.”

LEAP Student Leads Family

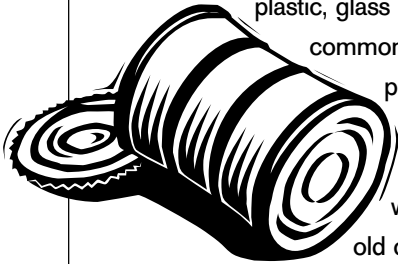
Rockport Heights Elementary,
Fox C-6 School District

So Nick went home taught his family what he learned. Now Nick’s mom Kathy is amazed at how recycling cuts down on trash.

When guests at their house throw away an item that can be recycled, Nick takes it from the trash while Kathy explains recycling to them.

“More people should be aware of it— it’s not that hard. Once it’s a habit, it’s hard to believe people don’t do it.”

The Boenigs recycle typical items: aluminum, steel, plastic, glass and paper; they also reuse common disposable items: empty plastic jugs are watering cans and old pie tins are drip trays. They purchase items with less packaging, donate



old clothes and turn old flyers from school into note pads.

“It shocked me ‘cause there was so much trash that people throw away! I thought it was sad that they didn’t know about recycling.”

Nick’s sister Julie has begun a recycling feat of her own. She advocated for a can crusher at school and recycled thousands of cans last year. Julie also tore pages from over 200 old textbooks for recycling. She sometimes collects recyclables



Nick Boenig “digs” his leadership role in a school-wide composting project.

from the neighbors and puts them in her family's curbside bin. Kathy thinks recycling is becoming more common, because her high school son's friends now ask if they can recycle their soda cans before throwing them in the trash.

After being responsible for the school's composting bin, Nick brought the idea home to build an outdoor bin. "It's an everyday thing— we look forward to seeing it all turn!" said Kathy.



Nick says raccoons around the house got into the food in their trash, but with the composting bin, they bury their organic food waste to hide it from the raccoons.

Since Rockport recycles paper, Nick prodded his dad to bring waste paper from work to school. Initially, Tom Boenig transported truckloads to the school. Then, realizing that Direct Mail USA had more paper than he could handle, asked Abitibi Recycling to place a

recycling bin at work. It's emptied 2-3 times a week!

Tom takes leftover envelopes that can still be used to Rockport for their school mailings and also gives several skids of one-sided paper to the school each year to use. When Rockport joined Fox Junior High for a community collection event in January, there were so many recyclables that cars wouldn't suffice to haul them away. Tom borrowed a semi-truck to tote the recyclables to a facility. Tom even attended the LEAP Student Summit to celebrate with the Rockport Raptors.



Thanks to a partnership of dedicated teachers, Nick Boenig can continue his environmental involvement when he moves from Rockport Heights Elementary to Fox Junior High.

One ton of recycled paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, 17 trees, 4100 kW hours of electricity, enough to heat a home for 6 months or run a television for 31 hours.

(Abitibi Consolidated Recycling)



Two sisters were not satisfied participating in recycling only during school hours. Though three years apart in age, Cara and Claire Stuckel were both LEAP leaders because, as they say, “It’s necessary to help the environment.”

Sisterhood is Powerful!

Hagemann Elementary,
Mehlville School District

Initially, the Stuckels did not practice waste reduction at home; then Cara visited the landfill during LEAP Student Training. “It upset me to see how wasteful people are. They’re coming out with more things that are disposable. We’re such a throw-away society. People need to realize all the trash we have.” So the family began recycling paper and aluminum cans through LEAP’s collection program at Hagemann.

All waste-related changes were not easily accepted, however. Younger-sister Claire recalls thinking, “‘This is stupid, it takes too much time.’ I threw stuff away and Cara dug it out to recycle.”

Eventually the family welcomed the new lifestyle. Soon they began reusing and recycling grocery bags, purchasing products with less packaging and recycled content. The family even tried composting. They now combine errands to save gas when driving, reuse old containers for storage and are conscious about not wasting food.

Over the years at Hagemann, LEAP teams began conquering bigger and better projects. The school piloted technology for #1 plastic (PETE) soda bottle recycling through the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR). They recycled six-pack rings, began an outdoor butterfly garden, had spring plantings, adopted the road in front of

“It upset me to see how wasteful people are. They’re coming out with more things that are disposable. We’re such a throw-away society. People need to realize all the trash we have.”



Now “green” teens, Cara (left) and Claire Stuckel received honors at past LEAP Student Summits.



school and participated in Missouri Department of Conservation's Stream Team program. Claire fondly recalls peer teaching younger students, showing them what they can recycle and why it's important.

At the Missouri Recycling Association Conference in 1999, Claire and 20 other LEAP club members performed a skit about their Waste Free Lunch day, featuring a student-made life-size PETE recycling machine. Waste specialists and recycling professionals from across the state applauded their efforts.

Cara, now in high school, is contemplating environmental law as a career path. She considers our resources precious and limited. "We have to deal with the effects of how much we waste and how we affect our environment." Recycling, she says, is part of the solution. "We can easily solve that now, but in 50 years, it'll be too late."

Cara Stuckel displays photos of 1999 Hagemann Elementary LEAP projects with her teacher Janet Crews.

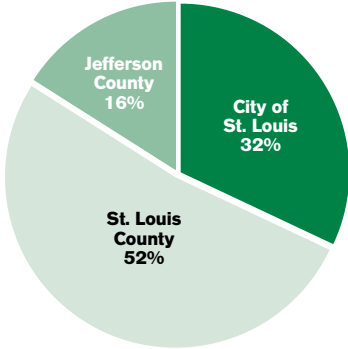


The recycling rate for post-consumer PET plastic bottles for 1999 was 23.7%. At present, over 8,000 curbside recycling programs and 10,000 drop off recycling programs collect virtually all PET containers. (NAPCOR)

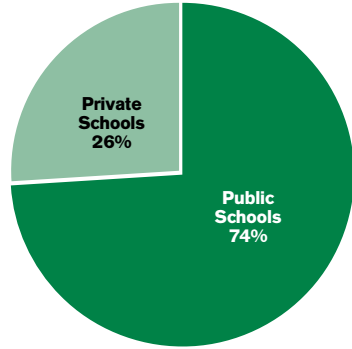


LEAP 1993-2001

LEAP has supported recycling in 112 schools in the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District.



Location of Participating Schools



Types of Participating Schools

Most common items LEAP schools recycle based on project data

- Fiber
- Aluminum Cans
- Printer Cartridges
- Compost
- Plastic Bags

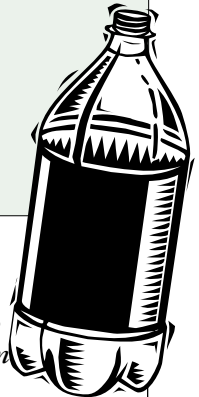


Wydrown Middle School students sorted, weighed and documented the amount of trash they generated.



Top 5 items in school dumpsters based on LEAP Waste Assessment Data

1. Fiber (paper, cardboard, etc.)
2. Food Waste
3. Plastic
4. Aluminum
5. Styrofoam



Results showed Wydrown needed to institute aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling collection. Then the LEAP team made it happen!



Collecting between 650-700 lbs. of old linens for the Humane Society, St. John the Baptist leaders offered bags of cloth as bedding for animals at the shelter.



The 1997 LEAP team at Grandview High School was honored with a state award for operating a community recycling drop-off center on their campus in northern Jefferson County. At that time, the Grandview Recycling Center was the only facility in the St. Louis region accepting all types of waste plastic.

Students work together to break down cardboard boxes at Flynn Park Elementary. Begun with LEAP program support, the school's paper and cardboard recycling program became entirely student-run.



The LEAP team at Hagemann Elementary joined forces with NAPCOR, the National Association for PET Container Resources, to field-test technology for recovery of #1 plastic bottles. Hagemann's "Big Green Machine," the size

The Big Green PET Machine

Hagemann Elementary,
Mehlville School District

and shape of a large vending machine, was used to mechanically densify empty plastic bottles generated in the school and brought from home. Targeting PET bottles from home was a concept

Hagemann's LEAP students wanted to try, since most residents in unincorporated St. Louis County have no curbside recycling program. The prototype recycling machine was used in the school cafeteria. It electronically recognized PET bottles, perforated and flattened the bottles and then stored them until a container in the machine was filled.

Hagemann piloted a method of recycling plastic bottles that could be convenient particularly at schools in rural areas where PET recycling is impractical or unavailable. Initially, sacks of crushed bottles were taken to a St. Louis recycling center for baling and distribution to companies that use recycled PET. The project improved when the school began to ship boxes of flattened bottles directly to a regional PET plastics recycler. This approach, using a parcel shipping company, eliminated the middle step at a local recycling facility.

The LEAP team and other members of Kids Saving the Earth, the school's environmental club, educated other students and their families about PET bottle identification, preparation for recycling, the PET recycling process and the importance of reclaiming this valuable type of plastic. School-wide contests motivated students to bring in bottles from home; prizes for the classes that recycled the most PET included recycled PET t-shirts and fanny packs, provided by NAPCOR. One contest recovered more than 5,000 bottles! The Hagemann Elementary LEAP team has recycled over 1,100 pounds of PET bottles in all shapes and sizes, in an innovative national model project.



Members of LEAP and Kids Saving Earth enacted "A Day In A Recycling Classroom" at the 1999 Missouri Recycling Association conference, bringing with them a life-sized model of their Big Green PET Machine.

In Europe in 1996, 80% of all packaging was recycled, primarily as a result of a 1991 law that phased in recycling for packaging materials. German industry uses a green dot on products to indicate that collection and recycling costs are included in the cost of the product.

(Earth Day 2000 publication)



Seventh and eighth graders at Crossroads School used their time in LEAP to leave a legacy of active paper, cardboard and can recycling and school-wide composting. They also combined art and environmental action to raise public awareness of the importance of recycling in a project that grew to involve students all over the City of St. Louis!

In 1997, the city's Refuse Division and Earth Circle Recycling joined forces to improve the Operation Brightside Recycling Drop-Off Center, which had fallen into disrepair. The Crossroads LEAP team volunteered to help publicize the renovation and a grand re-opening of the site.

The students decided to build a sculpture from recycled materials for display at the recycling center. LEAP staff and a public relations firm, Adamson Advertising, pitched the story to local media.

Television crews taped students at the recycling center as they roved through bins in search of materials while providing expert "sound bytes" about the importance of recycling.

The sculpture, entitled *Bottle Web*, was a handsome tree-like conical spiral of

plastic pipe, sprouting recovered bottles in all shapes and sizes that students finished to resemble smoked glass.

Bottle Web was first displayed at the Earth Day Festival in Forest Park. Then the LEAP team and their teacher Charisse Jackson held a dedication ceremony at Operation Brightside Recycling Center to get more media coverage. Inspired by the LEAP project, news stories promoting the recycling center's new look and services were worth more than \$36,000 in advertising space and time!

The following year, city recycling officials and recycled-materials artist Lloyd Klein Harvey expanded Crossroads' project idea into a citywide recycled sculpture contest. The contest is now an annual event involving hundreds of students in creative environmental action. Sculptures are exhibited at City Museum, where they foster recycling awareness in the minds and hearts of thousands of visitors.

A Web of Recycling Awareness

Crossroads School
City of St. Louis



Crossroads' LEAP team put the "Grand" into 1997 Re-Opening events at the Operation Brightside Recycling Drop-Off Center in the City of St. Louis.



In 1998, Duchesne Elementary School was looking for teachers to begin after-school clubs. Teacher Steve Marsden thought LEAP would be a great addition for the school, the kids and the environment. At the time, the school collected aluminum cans for the district's Little Creek Wildlife Area and can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

There's No Stopping Them!

Duchesne Elementary,
Ferguson-Florissant School District

Since then, Mr. Marsden has had the pleasure to watch children and adults grow with awareness, enthusiasm and participation in numerous environmental programs and events. Now there are nearly 100 students participating in LEAP. Each year, the Environmental Club shows commitment and new creativity through their numerous LEAP projects.

The first Duchesne LEAP team created a paper factory that generates new products from the schools' paper waste. The factory consists of paper collecting and sorting bins, shredders, blenders, water collectors, wood framed screens, a drying rack and waste paper or "other" supplies. Prior to recycling with their current paper hauler, the LEAP leaders intended to recycle all types of paper in



the factory. Today, the factory uses mostly colored paper, and Abitibi Recycling takes the rest. Each day, fifteen unsupervised students staff the factory, and students rotate weekly to allow full participation by everyone. The factory expanded from its original weekly after-school activity to a daily event before, during and after school.

Over the years, the school grounds have been transformed and beautified. Students helped develop an outdoor garden that showcases two recycled plastic picnic benches and a compost area. Their new three-bin composting system allows

decomposition of the school's yard waste and some cafeteria extras. For two years, Earth Day events have included the planting of an herb garden, beginning of an apple orchard, and a landscaped garden with another recycled plastic bench.

Earth Day is now a school-wide tradition that enlightens students, teachers and parents as well. A substitute teacher covers Mr. Marsden's class while he spends the day with LEAP leaders, who conduct an all-school assembly. LEAP students



teach the “Three Rs Cheer” to the student body, perform student-written environmental skits, plant trees and give Earth Day prizes to students. They even decorate with biodegradable balloons! After the assembly, LEAP students lead environmental games with younger grades and show recycling videos to upper grades. In conjunction with one Earth Day, they conducted a Waste-Free Lunch Day and sold reusable lunch bags to discourage disposable paper lunch bags.



In 2001, LEAP students began collecting six-pack plastic rings, plastic grocery bags, ink jet cartridges and textiles for recycling. They also made a pilot videotape of a student environmental newscast, which they hope to develop into a weekly broadcast for the entire school. Stay tuned!

Workstations in the Duchesne Paper Factory turn school waste into creative products - with a waiting list of customers!



De-inked paper fiber is the most efficient source of fiber for the manufacturing of new paper products; one ton of de-inked pulp saves over 7,000 gallons of water, 390 gallons of oil, and reduces air emissions by 60 lbs compared to traditional virgin fiber processes.
(Abitibi Consolidated Recycling)

The “real world” is a place students aspire to travel someday. At St. Rose of Lima School, students learned how to solve their own “real world” problem by working with adults and a local business.

LEAP is Long-Lasting at St. Rose of Lima

St. Rose of Lima
Jefferson County

At this small school, each student and teacher collected and measured their trash. Results showed that paper made up 41%

of their waste stream. A paper recycling project was necessary. The challenge now was finding a local hauler to pick up the trash and recycle the paper.

Research led the LEAP leaders to waste hauling professionals. It was then the students' job to convince their pastor to switch haulers and allow a permanent paper recycling dumpster on school grounds. The principal and teachers approved the plan, and each classroom received a bin. Posters were hung and the owner of the hauling company visited the school to demonstrate his collection policies. A newspaper article also made building users aware of paper recycling.

LEAP teacher Donna Ott is glad she facilitated the program. “It’s a good way to give students leadership skills,” she recalls, since kids were the ones who put the whole project together. “LEAP gave kids who weren’t on top a chance to shine. It gave them good qualities and skills that are real important.” Paper recycling still occurs at the school; the fifth grade class collects the paper each year. Ms. Ott says the recycling collection is more important to the kids than a lot of other work because it has such “real world” application. Recycling is even a part of the fifth grade curriculum!

*At St. Rose of Lima School,
paper recycling begun by
the 1994-95 LEAP team
continues today!*



One LEAP school helped promote a national recycling awareness campaign during the 2000-2001 school year. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation collects power tool, cell phone, pager and other rechargeable batteries from thousands of retail outlets throughout North America. Promoting the second life of materials within batteries which become new batteries and stainless steel products, the non-profit RBRC sponsors "Battery Check Day" every year to remind consumers to recycle their worn out nickel-cadmium batteries. St. Louis was one site for the 2001 Battery Check event.

Batteries and Bats

St. Mary Magdalen,
St. Louis County

The fifth grade LEAP class at St. Mary Magdalen School in Brentwood was selected to participate in this event. They used the RBRC's Battery Lesson Plan to conduct experiments in science class to

understand how batteries and circuits work, and they learned about the invention of batteries. On Battery Check Day, the LEAP teacher and class, their parents, and LEAP staff traveled to the St. Louis Science Center where they met Richard Karn, RBRC's spokesperson. Karn portrayed "Al" from TV's *Home Improvement*. After the Science Center event, they were guests at a Cardinal baseball game at Busch Stadium. It was a special Battery Check promotion day, and Karn threw the first pitch. Each student received an autographed photo of Karn, a RBRC t-shirt and goodies. They all learned the importance of recycling rechargeable batteries!

Fifth grade recycling experts from St. Mary Magdalen pose with Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation national spokesperson Richard Karn on Battery Check Day 2001.



Leadership in Action



Sherman Elementary students, teacher Rhonda Stovall and parent Ann Hagen (left) proudly receive their 2001 LEAP award at Missouri Botanical Garden. Though she did not have a child on the LEAP team, this recycling-motivator mom prompted Sherman to participate in the program. She attended every LEAP event!



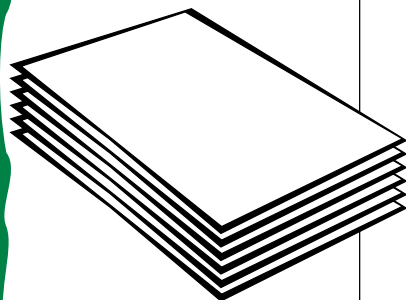
Inside the gas plant at Milam Landfill, well technician Doug Yearian tells students and teachers how methane gas, produced by decomposing garbage in the landfill, provides power for 3,500 homes in nearby communities.





Renewable worm power turns lunch waste into super plant food at St. Mary Magdalen.

The Recycling Club at Fox Junior High creates knick-knacks from trash and recyclable materials to sell at the district's annual craft fair. Old puzzle pieces glued in the shape of a wreath and spray-painted green became tree ornaments, and free internet book-up CDs made attractive candle bases. Brightly colored recycled-paper photo frames were the hottest selling item!



LEAP has been successfully “transplanted” into two other areas of Missouri. The Bootheel Solid Waste Management District sponsored LEAP in its rural six-county region from 1996 to 1998. The non-profit organization Bridging the Gap currently facilitates LEAP in the Kansas City area. A local

coordinator in each new region recruits and works with teachers and their LEAP teams, using local solid waste district grants. Gateway Center’s LEAP staff provides trainings, program materials and ongoing support for our satellite program partners. Significant waste reduction efforts have continued beyond the years of formal LEAP involvement in schools serving rural and urban communities.

LEAP Around Missouri



The Sikeston Middle School LEAP team popularized recycling activity into a club with more than 25 energetic student members.



Kansas City LEAP’s English Landing Elementary received an Environmental Excellence Award as 2001 School of the Year. LEAP leadership also helped earn Environmental Excellence recognition for the Islamic School of Kansas City and Rockburst High School senior Dan Heryer.

One fifth grade class at Malden Elementary began their LEAP educational program like any other group, learning the importance of solid waste reduction and natural resource conservation with hands-on presentations. When asked what they wanted to do for a LEAP project they responded, "Let's recycle paper and save trees."

Rural Recycling Power

Malden R-1 School District
Bootheel LEAP

and a half months that class recycled nearly 950 pounds of paper. They loved it! They ate, they slept and they breathed paper recycling. They involved their families and brought paper to school from their parents' businesses.

Soon the fifth graders talked two other classes into recycling their paper. Eventually they challenged the entire school, and before the year ended the entire Malden School District was recycling paper with cooperation from teachers, janitors, school administrators, parents and the City of Malden. One LEAP class sparked a ball of "recycling fire!"

So one lone class began recycling office paper. Not too exciting. Then they discovered the formula: *One thousand pounds of recycled paper equals seventeen trees.* In the next two

"It's very encouraging to see the students so involved with their projects. Hands-on, experiential education is the most long lasting and effective type of learning – especially with practical application is involved. LEAP certainly offers that experience! Our Solid Waste District has funded LEAP for two years now and we are hoping it will be a regular on-going program for our District."

Nadja Karpilow
Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City



LEAP coordinator Teresa Dirks engaged students' art and science interests to foster recycling in Missouri's rural Bootheel region.

"When I attended a LEAP workshop at the Missouri Environmental Education Conference in 1996, some very interesting people discussed many ideas to help deal with the solid waste issues each of us faced. The idea of bringing LEAP to my community, in the six counties of the Bootheel region, was the one that really stayed with me after that workshop."

Donna Vandiver, Bootheel LEAP Coordinator



Partnership & Support

Generous contributions from many organizations and individuals help make LEAP successful in the schools.

Abitibi Consolidated Recycling
Adamson, Inc.
Bootheel Solid Waste
Management District
Bootheel Youth Museum
Bridging the Gap
Cherokee Recreation Center
Choose Environmental
Excellence-Gateway Region
City of St. Louis Refuse Division
Earth Circle Recycling
Environmental Recycling, Inc.
EnviroPak Corporation
Jefferson County Solid Waste
Management Division
MidAmerica Regional Council
Milam RDF
Missouri Botanical Garden

Missouri Department of
Natural Resources
Missouri Environmental
Education Association
Missouri Recycling Association
NAPCOR
Peerless Landfill
Schnuck Markets Inc.
Smurfit-Stone
St. Louis Composting
St. Louis County Department of Health
St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste
Management District
St. Louis Public Schools Office of
Community-Based Resources
St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Center
St. Peters Recycle City
University of Missouri-St. Louis

A Regional Commitment to Education

LEAP has been generously funded by the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District since 1993. This excerpt from the District's *1998 Report to the Community* featured LEAP in text and illustrations emphasizing the importance of recycling education.

Public opinion surveys indicate that residents of the District are eager and willing to participate in recycling and waste reduction programs... Aggressive, ongoing awareness and educational efforts are needed to maintain participation in local programs and to meet and sustain District waste reduction goals.

Education projects are essential for changing attitudes and behaviors about recycling and waste reduction, and for maintaining the changes. Education will remain a priority for the District.



Theory Into Practice The EarthWays Home

The EarthWays Home is headquarters for LEAP and other programs of Missouri Botanical Garden's Gateway Center for Resource Efficiency. A Victorian residence built in 1885, the EarthWays Home was renovated in 1994 to showcase practical



demonstrations of energy efficiency and waste reduction. Tours of the EarthWays Home offer school-aged and adult visitors an experience of household operations, products and building features that model sustainable lifestyle choices.

Examples of things to see:

- Energy-efficient lighting sources
- Recycled and non-toxic products
- Water-saving fixtures
- Recycling and composting systems
- Energy-efficient window options
- Solar electric array powering kitchen appliances
- Ground source heating and cooling
- Efficient and native landscaping

Awards & Recognition

2001 Choose Environmental Excellence-Gateway Region
Environmental Excellence Award
Presented to school partners Rockport Heights Elementary and Fox Junior High, and the Bayless School District

2000 National Recycling Coalition
U.S. Outstanding School Program
Presented to MERP

2000 Choose Environmental Excellence-Gateway Region
Environmental Excellence Award
Presented to school partners Flynn Park Elementary, Parkway School District, Ferguson-Florissant School District

1999 Missouri Waste Control Coalition
Education Achievement Award
Presented to Grandview High School LEAP Team

1999 Missouri Environmental Education Association
Outstanding Environmental Education Organization
Presented to MERP



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Missouri
Botanical
Garden

See the world