

March 2007

National Environmental Education Week 2007



Did you know that the United States spends *nearly a million dollars each and every minute* on energy-related costs? That's one million dollars every minute, for 24 hours each day, 7 days each week, and 52 weeks each year. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, as less than five percent of the world's population, we consume nearly a quarter of the world's energy resources. The good news is that simple lifestyle changes can make a big difference in saving energy and protecting the environment.

In the spirit of energy conservation and environmental education, the [National Environmental Education & Training Foundation](#) recently announced a special energy theme for EE Week 2007. Since then we've been pleased to receive close to 300 new registrations from all over the country!

Students at **Hillcrest Elementary** in Maryland plan to celebrate EE Week by studying the role that crude oil plays in providing energy and producing everyday items like plastics. The class will also learn more about oil conservation by recycling plastics and making more responsible transportation choices. Students at **Quabbin Regional High School** in Massachusetts also plan to utilize EE Week's energy theme by setting up educational displays and passing out handouts on energy conservation to fellow students.

Initiating recycling projects, learning about watersheds or invasive species, and constructing schoolyard gardens are just a few of the many additional ways that students and teachers can participate in National EE Week. Youth at the **Lutherville Laboratory for Science, Mathematics, and Communications** have pledged to participate in EE Week by constructing a Reef Ball that will provide additional habitat for sea life living in the Chesapeake Bay, and students from the Environmental Science class at **Fort Knox High School** will be working on a wildlife refuge and bird feeding area for their school courtyard.

These are just a few of the exciting projects planned for National EE Week--over 750 other schools, nature centers, zoos, aquariums, and parks from every state in the country have also pledged to implement their own environmental education activities. You can join their efforts by signing up at [our Registration Page](#), and

don't forget to check back to www.eeweek.org for additional EE Week planning resources.

Additional Resources for EE Week Planning

How Big is Your Carbon Footprint? One of the best ways to make National EE Week an effective learning tool for students is to involve them in activities that encourage the responsible use of energy. Using an online Carbon Calculator is a great way for both students and adults to explore the ways in which they use energy on a daily basis. As part of your EE Week activities, consider using a carbon calculator with your students. There are several calculators available online, including one designed for students called [SchoolNeutral](#). Once your students know what their carbon impact is, encourage them to take steps to reduce it and then use the calculator once more to check your savings.

Imagining Tomorrow. "We Are In a Race Against Time" – this headline appears on the homepage of [IMAGINING TOMORROW: ALTERNATE ENERGY FUTURES](#), an exciting new and innovative national creative writing and video contest for high- school students on the subject of clean energy and global climate. With an inquiry-based approach, the program provides both a motivation and a mechanism for inclusion of these subjects in secondary schools. The national contest was announced February 1, 2007, with entries due by March 31, 2007; \$10,000 is committed for national awards. The website contains Starting Points, questions, and resource links for students and teachers, as well as an online publication of winning entries for additional discussion. IMAGINING TOMORROW is a project of The Foresight Project, a non-profit corporation based in Massachusetts.

National EE Week Photo Contest

NEETF and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute Announce Partnership for 2007 Competition

The [National Environmental Education & Training Foundation](#) (NEETF), the [Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History](#) (RTPI) and [Canon U.S.A. Inc.](#) are pleased to announce a National Photo Contest to celebrate National Environmental Education (EE) Week, April 15 - 22, 2007.

The EE Week photo contest will be judged by representatives from RTPI and will

photo contest will offer two categories for entry:

- The *Wildlife Explorations* category will be for photos of wildlife observed over the course of National EE Week. Photos in this category must not contain persons or non-natural objects.
- The *Hands on the Outdoors* category will be for photos of children engaged in outdoor environmental learning over the course of National EE Week.

An Elementary School (K-4th grade), Middle School (5-8th grade) and High School (9-12th grade) winner will be chosen for each of the two categories. The six winning photographers will each receive a copy of a Peterson Field Guide to Natural History, and the six schools/organizations that are associated with the winners will each receive a digital camera donated by Canon U.S.A., Inc. For complete contest rules, including submission requirements and contest deadlines, [please click here](#).

Environmental Education Grants & Awards

Gloria Barron Prize



The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Each year, the Barron Prize selects ten winners nationwide. Nominations for the Prize should be made by adults who have solid knowledge of the nominee and his/her work, but who are not related to the nominee (e.g. teachers, librarians, civic or religious leaders, etc.). Nominations are due by April 30, 2007. For more information or to access an application packet, [go to the Gloria Barron Prize website](#).

Help Spread the Word about EE Week 2007

Interested in spreading the word about EE Week in your own community? Check out our new [Promotions Page](#) to download our 2007 Logo, PDF versions of our Promotional Fliers, and recent press releases. Go to www.eeweek.org/promotion.htm for more information.

About the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation

Chartered by Congress in 1990, the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to the strategic advancement of environmental literacy and education in its many forms. Since 2004, NEETF has coordinated the implementation of National Environmental Education Week, a weeklong event designed to increase the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums.

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