

ANEI's Organizational Experience on Waste Management

EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The 3-R Circus: Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle, 1996

The Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Corporation contracted with ANEI to create interactive displays for a statewide educational program at their newly completed Materials Recycling Facility Tour Center. Through an ANEI-facilitated decision-making process, the participants decided to design the exhibits around a circus theme—"The Greatest Recycling Show on Earth". Exhibits included a 14-foot tall "Tower of Trash", a mini-golf course designed to teach the players about consumer choices regarding packaging, and a bicycle that challenges the rider to produce the energy needed to create a soft drink from virgin aluminum ore, as compared with using recycled aluminum. The education center is designed to accommodate tours for school groups, social clubs, and interested citizens and 10,000 a visitors a year are expected.

Waste on Wheels, 1994-1995

Designed with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, Fundamental Action to Conserve Energy (FACE) and the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, which serve the solid waste education needs of 51 towns in north central and western Massachusetts, the Waste on Wheels project consisted of mobile interactive exhibits on household hazardous waste, solid waste and ground water quality that were displayed at schools, fairs, street festivals and in public buildings. Additionally, the project produced educational materials on solid and hazardous waste including point of purchase brochures and posters, and a replication manual to summarize the process for other interested communities. ANEI staff was responsible for the exhibits and served on the general design team for the educational materials and replication manual.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Education Partnership Program, 1994

This two-year project developed a model for quality, community-based environmental education. Funded and assisted by Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, the project brought together schools and solid waste managers in Windsor and Springfield, VT in a working educational partnership.

Wild Treasures, 1999-2003

Wild Treasures, an outdoor adventure and ecology education program, is bringing classes to a capped landfill in Keene, where students participate in a series of activities that address environmental issues. With the roar of garbage compactors and recycling belts in the background, children move through a woodsy trail in small groups, learning about concepts such as recycling and reuse, exponential growth, feedback loops, entropy, and energy consumption. Participating classes receive funding to help create and implement plans to improve their schools' environmental practices.

Keene Resource Awareness Center (RAC), 1997

In partnership with the City of Keene, ANEI designed and built a mobile solid waste information center called the Resource Awareness Center, or RAC. The customized trailer featured a colorful

mural created by over 100 area residents and a collage developed by students from ten Monadnock area schools. An associated inquiry-based curriculum highlighted conservation issues, and offered practical information about source reduction of solid waste and toxics. The RAC's colorful interactive displays encouraged hands-on learning and critical thinking skills. Through "A Day in the Life of Toxic Terry", visitors explored the choices we all make about cleaning products. For each hazardous product chosen, corresponding organs lit up in a full scale, three-dimensional anatomical torso; non-toxic alternatives were also suggested. In addition to the RAC, the Institute created three portable exhibits for the Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission that featured RAC displays on a smaller scale. These exhibits visited county fairs and streetfests, school and community gatherings. They brought the message of consumer choice and toxics management home, highlighting the actions we can take to protect our bodies and our environment.

Solid Waste Curriculum, 1996

Antioch New England Graduate School faculty and ANEI staff designed a multifaceted curriculum focusing on the definition and characterization of municipal solid wastes and the principal of integrated waste management.

Journey to Spaceship Earth, 1999

ANEI staff developed interactive exhibits for the education center at Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority that explored waste reduction, recycling and materials reuse by turning visitors into intergalactic researchers on a mission to observe what earthlings are doing to sustain natural resources. Designed to look like the inside of a spacecraft, the museum was equipped with futuristic architecture, lighting, sound effects, and a robot interpreter. Hands-on, interactive exhibits encouraged students to answer the question, "What can I do to make a difference?" Armed with information on conservation of resources, recycling, composting, and waster reduction, the students departed with the enthusiasm and motivation to put into practice what they had learned.

Eco-Depot, 1993-1995

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) contracted with ANEI to create the educational program for the "Eco-Depot", a new household hazardous waste (HHW) collection facility. The goal of the program was to not only give residents a place to dispose of their household hazardous wastes, but to help them understand the dangers of toxic chemicals that are in everyday cleaners. Attractive signs greeted visitors and conveyed technical information about household hazardous waste in everyday language. In addition to clarifying the dangers of using and disposing HHWs, ANEI also provided information for alternative forms of cleaners.

Peer Partners in Environmental Education, 1998-2002

Peer Partners in Environmental Education is a Los Angeles outreach program that trains high school and middle school students to give presentations on environmental topics to elementary students at local partner schools and on the National Public Radio program "Living on Earth." The model was expanded to include a youth-at-risk group. Young adults were teamed with the California Conservation Corps to give presentations about oil recycling to high school students.