Teacher(s): Kathy Hockman
Grade(s): 10-12
Subject(s): AP Environmental Science (initially with Earth & Space brought in later)

Idea 1 - The Courage of your Convictions

Provide students a starter list of environmental organizations to get involved with, i.e. Plastic Oceans, Florida specific, and Tampa Bay Watershed specific. Then encourage them to research them to find at least one they are willing to join and become active in (even if only for the duration of our class year). They will bring the information for their group into the class discussions and promote the work/projects/etc. of that organization to their peers (in and out of the class). They will bring ideas for extending the work of the organization to our campus and local community to effect a local change.

Learning Goals/Standards

- Scientific Practice 7: Environmental Solutions Propose and justify solutions to environmental problems
- Propose and Justify solutions to environmental problems
- Specifically in use with the Land & Water Use Unit of the new AP ES curriculum

Idea 2 - DeBunking the Tragedy of the Commons

The concept of Tragedy of the Commons is embedded in the teaching of AP Env Science and I did not question it because it sounded logically the way it was presented. Now that we have heard from some ‘nay sayers’, I am compelled to take a further look and will include my students in this in order to have them form an opinion as to whether it is ok to just dismiss environmental degradation as a “tragedy of the commons” or if it should be addressed more proactively.

Learning Goals/Standards

- To Be Determined as the research unfolds……
Idea 3 - Why Should We Care? Follow the Watershed!

Using Project WILD, Aquatic, etc. activities and referring back to the field experience to Crystal Springs, show the students how actions by residents in the area immediately surrounding our school directly and indirectly affect the water quality of Tampa Bay.

Learning Goals/Standards

- Unit 4 Earth Systems & Resources Topic 4.6 Watersheds
- Describe the characteristics of a watershed
- Unit 5 Land & Water Use
- Ecological Footprints, Impacts of Urbanization, Introduction to Sustainability, Methods to Reduce Urban Runoff

Idea 4 Welcome to My World, It's Also Your World

Plan outings to a variety of natural world locations that the students can meet me at to commune with and, in some cases, be introduced to the world they really live in (outdoors!). For example, camping overnight at a state park, canoeing/kayaking, hiking/photography, cleaning a beach, exploring other natural landscapes that students may not have been exposed to by family or life.

Learning Goals/Standards

- Whichever standards promote getting out and doing field work, nature observations, learning field skills

What additional resources do you need in order to act on these ideas?

Right now, I need time, glorious uninterrupted time, to sit and think. I need to assimilate what I want to do with what I have to do and make the connections for how to do it with what I have.

Then I can begin to make the further connections to what I need and how will I get it.

I have received great resources this week and links to so many more which I can tie into the links I received in last year’s SSI program. I just need more time to plan it and see the vision that I am trying to focus on.