

Earth Week is Coming!

*"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."
- East Indian proverb*

If every single one of us made one change in our lives – whether it's pledging to turn the lights off every time we leave a room, biking to work/school one day a week or buying more local, seasonable produce – together we could have a huge impact on the health of the planet and ourselves. **Earth Day is April 22nd** and the Alameda Green Team has planned a week of events to celebrate. We hope everyone will choose to participate in some way.

Friday April 17 through Thursday April 23

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint: The Green Team will be giving a presentation at the Friday Afternoon Meeting. In their Thursday Folders, kids will be bringing home an **Earth Week Challenge log** to track activities that help reduce their carbon footprint. On the morning of April 24 kids will turn in their logs. The Green Team will tally the amount of carbon emissions saved by the cumulative efforts of Alameda families. The results will be posted to News Notes the following week. **Participants in the Carbon Footprint Log will be entered in a random drawing for lots of great prizes! Be sure to turn your log in on the morning of Friday, April 24!**

Monday April 20 through Friday April 24

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! There will be several bins set up in the lobby to collect items not recyclable at curbside. Some of the items will just be recycled while others will be given to organizations to be reused.

Batteries: Bring your dead alkaline, lithium and/or rechargeable batteries and place in the appropriate bins.

Tennis shoes: Don't know what to do with that old pair of gym shoes? Bring used shoes you don't want anymore – shoes missing laces or in really bad shape will be ground up for sports/playground surfaces. Shoes that are in decent shape will find a new home with a person unable to buy shoes for themselves.

Eyeglasses: If you wear glasses or contacts, you have a few pairs of eyeglasses with an old prescription in them lying around the house. Bring them in and we'll take them to the Lions Club at the end of the week. The Lions Club spiffs them up and donates them to people in need all around the world.

Block Styrofoam: You know that really annoying white stuff that comes with any new electronic component or appliance? Well, it's not easy to recycle at all and it just never breaks down in a landfill. Bring in your block Styrofoam (no deli, meat trays or

takeaway containers – only the firm stuff) and we will haul it off to one of only a few recyclers that will take it.

Silverware: Please note: we will not be collecting silverware at this time.

Fundraising Sale of Reusable Lunch Items April 20 and 21

Want to participate in Alameda's Waste-Free lunch on April 24? Need a few things to pack that waste-free lunch? The Alameda Green Team will offer reusable sandwich wraps (cloth with a food-safe, BPA, lead and phthalate free LDPE plastic liner) in fun colors and designs for the whole family, stainless steel water bottles with the Alameda logo and Laptop Lunch boxes filled with all the reusable containers you need to pack a healthy, waste-free lunch. Come check out the offerings in the lobby before school and after school (on the playground if the weather is nice). Funds raised will help the Green Team with 2010-2011 goals like putting in a garden and implementing school wide energy conservation and improved recycling.

Alameda's First Waste-Free Lunch Day on Friday, April 24 – Help us Reduce Waste

Did you know that on average 600 disposable plastic baggies are thrown away per child per year? And that it takes a disposable plastic bag 1,000 years to break down? Alameda's cafeteria produces on average twelve, 30 pound bags of garbage – 360 pounds - every day. That's approximately 70,200 pounds of garbage each school year! Wouldn't it be great if we could cut that number in half? Well, April 24 is the day that you can help us see if we can reduce the number of garbage bags that leave the Alameda cafeteria.

How do you create a waste free lunch?

- Pack a lunch using non-disposable containers
- Pack a cloth napkin, silverware and a drink bottle
- Pack items that are not prepackaged or individually wrapped
- If you get milk in the cafeteria bring your milk carton home to rinse and recycle

Let's see if we can reduce the garbage generated during lunch to only 6 bags!

We hope you and your students will join us during the Earth Week and pledge to make one change in your lives to lessen the impact on the Earth. We welcome comments, suggestions or questions. Please email greenteam@alameda.org