Environmental Education--Promoting Sustainability
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Dialog on Sustainability, Manhattan, KS
What Do You Know About the Environment?

Please take a moment to take this short quiz
Question One: How is most of the energy in the US generated? Is it...

a. By burning oil, coal and wood
b. With nuclear power
c. Through solar energy
d. At hydroelectric power plants
e. Don’t know

**CORRECT:** Answer a

**Percentages Answering Correctly**

- Kansas: 41%
- National: 28%

**NOTE:** Most common response for Kansas was a. Nationally, most common response was answer d.
Question Two: What is the most common cause of pollution in streams, rivers and oceans? Is it...

a. Dumping of garbage by cities
b. Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots and farm fields
c. Trash washed into the oceans from beaches
d. Water dumped by factories
e. Don’t know

**CORRECT: Answer b**

NOTE: Most common response in Kansas and Nationally was Answer d.
Question Three: What do you think is the main cause of global climate change, that is, the warming of the planet Earth? Is it...

a. A recent increase in oxygen in the atmosphere
b. Sunlight radiating more strongly through a hole in the upper ozone layer
c. More carbon emissions from autos, homes and industry
d. Increased activity from volcanoes worldwide
e. Don’t know

**CORRECT: Answer c**

**NOTE:** Most common response in Kansas and Nationally was Answer c.
Question Four: To the best of your knowledge, what percent of the world’s water is fresh and available for use? Is it...

a. 1%
b. 5%
c. 10%
d. 33%
e. Don’t know

CORRECT: Answer a

NOTE: Most common Kansas response was e. Most common National response was c.
Question Five: The current worldwide reduction in the number of ocean fish is PRIMARILY due to which of the following:

a. Pollution in coastal waters worldwide
b. Increased harvesting by fishing vessels
c. Changes in ocean temperature
d. Lost of fishing shoals and other deep sea habitats
e. Don’t know

CORRECT: Answer b

NOTE: Most common response for Kansas and Nationally was a.
How Do You Compare?

Question Six: What is the leading cause of childhood death worldwide? Is it...

a. Malnutrition and starvation
b. Asthma from dust in the air
c. Auto and home accidents
d. Germs in the water
e. Don’t know

CORRECT: Answer d

NOTE: Most common response in Kansas and Nationally was a.

Percentages Answering Correctly

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<th>Kansas</th>
<th>National</th>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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How Do You Compare?

Question Seven: What is the most common reason that an animal species become extinct? Is it...

a. Pesticides are killing them
b. Their habitats are being destroyed by humans
c. There is too much hunting
d. There are climate changes that affect them
e. Don’t know

CORRECT: Answer b

Note: Most common response in Kansas and Nationally was answer b.
Question Eight: There are thousands of waste disposal areas—dumps and landfills—in the US that hold toxic waste. The greatest threat posed by these waste disposal areas is...

a. Chemical air pollution  
b. Contact with farm animals and household pets  
c. Contamination of water supplies  
d. Human consumption through contaminated foods  
e. Don’t know

CORRECT: Answer c

Note: Most common response in Kansas and Nationally was c.
Question Nine: Many communities are concerned about running out of room in their community trash dumps and landfills. Is the greatest source of landfill material...

a. Disposable diapers  
b. Lawn and garden clippings, trimmings and leaves  
c. Paper products including newspapers, cardboard and packaging  
d. Glass and plastic bottles and aluminum and steel cans  
e. Don’t know

CORRECT: Answer c

NOTE: Most common response in KS was d, with c close behind. Nationally most common was a & d, with c close behind.
Question Ten: Some scientists have expressed concern that chemicals and certain minerals accumulate in the human body at dangerous levels. Do these chemicals and minerals enter the body PRIMARILY through...

a. Breathing the air
b. Living near toxic waste dumps
c. Household cleaning products
d. Drinking Water
e. Don’t know

CORRECT: Answer d

NOTE: Most common response in Kansas was d. Nationally most common response was a and d.

Percentages Answering Correctly

Kansas: 37%
National: 31%
How Did Kansans Do?

While 70% of Kansans believe they know a lot or a fair amount about the environment (similar to National findings), Kansans performed quite poorly when given this ten-question quiz about environmental issues. On average, Kansans answered only 3.7 out of 10 questions correctly.
Other Findings: Environmental Attitudes

- Most Kansans believe that environment and economy can go hand in hand (70%).
- Kansans believe that the most pressing environmental issues are: polluted water, fresh water shortages, cutting forests and air pollution, with polluted water being identified as the most serious of these problems.
- When it comes to solving environmental problems, Kansans view environmental organizations as most reliable when compared to citizen groups, government and private business.
In general, Kansans engage in activities that benefit the environment in the same proportions as the rest of the population with two notable differences:

- **Far more** Kansans report that they participate in recycling of waste (newspapers, glass, cans) than do Americans in general.

- **Far fewer** Kansans report that they use alternative types of transportation (e.g. biking, bus), instead of using a car.
NEETF/Roper Starch Surveys

- 10 Years of Environmental Literacy Surveys  [www.neetf.org](http://www.neetf.org)
- Only 3 out of 10 Americans can pass a quiz on basic environmental knowledge (NEETF, 1999)
- Most Americans believe they know more about the environment than they actually do (NEETF, 2005)
- KS Environmental Report Card  [www.kacee.org](http://www.kacee.org)
- Makes case for increasing EE in schools
Parents Support Teaching EE in Schools

- 95% of adults and 96% of parents in the US support Environmental Education being taught in schools (National Report Card on Environmental Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviors, 1997).

- In Kansas, 94% of those surveyed believe it is important to teach EE in schools (KDHE Survey of General Public, 1998).
EE and Sustainability: Kids Today

- American children in 2004 spent less than half as much time outdoors as their parents.
- Kids are reported to spend 6 ½ hours per day on electronic equipment during their free time (Kaiser Family Foundation).
- Articles and books talk about “nature-deficit disorder” (*Last Child in the Woods*).
EE and Sustainability: What EE Does For Kids

- Engages children in hands-on learning activities that promote critical thinking & problem solving skills, increased environmental knowledge relevant to the place they live, and development of a land ethic.

- Higher levels of environmental knowledge correlate significantly with a higher degree of pro-environment behavior (NEETF, 2006).

- Those with a high level of environmental knowledge are twice as likely to donate funds to conservation (NEETF, 2006).
KACEE was established in 1969 as a public/private partnership with currently more than 200 organizational members and an additional 300+ individual members.

- Business & Industry
- Organizations
- Federal, State, & Local Agencies
- Colleges & Universities
- Schools & School Districts
KACEE is a non-profit 501(c)3 statewide environmental education organization.

**KACEE’s Mission:**

To promote and provide quality, non-biased and science-based environmental and conservation education for all Kansans.

**KACEE’s Vision:**

KACEE’s vision is an environmentally literate Kansas citizenry, with KACEE as the recognized leader in the state’s conservation and environmental education network.
### Funding & Support for KACEE Programs

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<th>Kansas Forest Service</th>
<th>KS Dept of Health and Environment</th>
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<td>KS Water Office/State Water Plan Fund</td>
<td>KS Department of Wildlife and Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas State Department of Education / Kansas State Board of Education</td>
<td>Additional Public &amp; Private Funds</td>
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KACEE Activities:

- Environmental Education Workshops
- Facilitator Training
- Water Festivals
- KS Environmental Education Conference
- Networking & Partnerships
- Special Programs
- Ongoing Membership Communications
- Online EE Community

www.kacee.org
Environmental Education Workshops

- Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, WET in the City, & Leopold Education Project

- Advanced Workshops

- Audiences: Formal and Non-Formal Educators, Early Childhood through High School, Pre-Service Teachers

- Offered across the state through volunteer facilitator network

- Low cost for educators because programs are sponsored

- More than 1400 educators trained in 2006, impacting an estimated 31,000 Kansas children
Environmental Education Workshops

Project WET, Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Project Learning Tree, WET in the City, & Leopold Education Project are:

- **Nationally acclaimed** environmental education programs
- **Interdisciplinary** programs designed for teachers and other educators working with students pre-kindergarten through 12 grade
- Correlated to the **Kansas Core Curricular Standards** in Reading/Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies
Students in classrooms where the environment is used as an integrating concept for instruction earn higher grades and score better on standardized tests in reading, writing and math (Lieberman and Hoody, 1998).