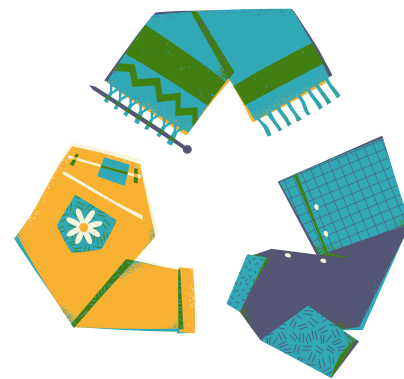


SEPTEMBER 2023

Climate Education Newsletter: Back to school

EARTHDAY.ORG



Topic of the Month:

Fast Fashion

Education Resources

- Curriculum Packets
 - Elementary
 - Middle
 - High
- Fast Fashion Educator Toolkits



Survey Alert!

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[Educator Survey](#)

Book of the Month



Climate Education News



[NPR: New Jersey requires climate change education. A year in, here's how it's going](#)

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Educators like
you!

Fun Fact:



A pair of jeans requires about 18,000 gallons of water to be produced!

Educator Spotlight



Meet Misha Smith,
an EPA award
winning teacher,
who is making a big
difference in her
classroom when it
comes to climate
education .
Learn more on page
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EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Misha Smith: Using local climate problems to get students to think critically

Q. How did you get involved in environmental education?

I grew up exploring the woods of my backyard in North Idaho, which fostered a connection with nature that has stuck with me throughout my whole life. **This connection has led me to make purposeful choices in my own life** that get me outside and interacting with my local ecosystem.

Q. How do you teach it in your classroom?

My hope is to develop this same connection with nature in my students, so that they may grow up making positive choices as well. To do this, I get students outside as much as possible, even if it's just in our schoolyard, exploring and observing the natural world. Through our year-long Geo-Inquiry project, students choose an environmental issue facing Idaho and we integrate science and language arts concepts by collecting data through field experiences, research and guest speakers to try to answer the question they created. Students then share their inquiry story with others and create some sort of impact project.

Q. What does climate education mean to you?

Climate education is quite possibly the most important concept we can teach our students today. My advice to teachers is to keep climate education focused on the positive things we can do to make a difference. Students who feel connected to nature will automatically notice the impact the changing climate has had on their local ecosystem, and will want to do something about it. Make connections with organizations who are working to lessen impacts locally. Participate in habitat restoration projects. Plant a native garden in your school yard. **Start small, but think big!**

