



smartmedia

for parents and
educators

April 2011 edition
smartmedia focus:
environmental science



Greetings from WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh!

WQED is pleased to bring you the April installment of our monthly e-newsletter that highlights some of our wonderful PBS educational programs. In honor of Earth Day, April 22, we're highlighting some of our favorite shows and online resources that explore environmental science and ecology!

featured resource



This short film, developed and distributed by the **SME Education Foundation**, follows the learning experiences of a diverse group of high school students as they address the need to use existing energy sources efficiently and explore alternative energy resources. The students collaborate on a learning challenge: convert French-fry grease from their school's cafeteria into bio-fuel to power their truck. Their learning experience expands as they meet with a team of engineers, who as students at Penn State built a solar home as part of the Solar Decathlon national competition.

As the students collaborate with each other and with the Penn State team, they navigate new technologies, learn about energy conservation, and explore career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math.

WQED is pleased to share this film with the region through the end of April. Click [here](#) to view it online and learn more about alternative energies, green technologies, and the creative ways students can make a positive impact on the world around them!



Don't forget:
Earth Day is
Friday, April 22!

Spotlight on... Earth Day Programming

To celebrate Earth Day, WQED is airing BRAND-NEW episodes of your favorite PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO! shows! Be sure to tune in for:

Sid the Science Kid: Four new Earth-oriented episodes the week of Earth Day, focusing on clean water and air, recycling, and animal habitats.

Martha Speaks: New episodes on April 18 and 22, including a special Earth Day episode about the local environmental club's "Go Green Go-Cart Race," fueled by alternative energy: sun, wind, and... pond scum!

Wild Kratts: Two episodes premiere on April 21 (about city-dwelling peregrine falcons) and April 22 (on the backyard acorn-stashing skills of blue jays and grey squirrels). Want to learn more about peregrines? Check out WQED's **BIRD BLOG!**

Arthur: On Earth Day, Arthur begins the first of five new episodes with a story about Buster learning how to keep the beach clean from an actual message in a bottle. These new shows feature the world travels of "El Boomerang," a soccer ball that makes its way around the globe!

wqed.org/edu

watch!

Don't miss these engaging shows for every age!

Find out when these shows air on WQED-TV!



Sid the Science Kid promotes exploration, discovery and science readiness among preschoolers. The program uses music and humor to celebrate children's natural curiosity about science in everyday life. The energetic and inquisitive Sid starts each episode with a new question and embarks on a fun-filled day of finding answers with the help of family and friends.

ages 3-5



Fetch! is part game show, part reality TV, and part spoof! The program features real kids, real challenges, real science, and an unreal host named Ruff Ruffman (yes, he's an animated dog!), mixing live-action with animation and breaking the mold with its educational and comical take on America's newest television genre.

ages 6-8



DragonflyTV is a multimedia science education program combining television, community outreach, the Web, and fun. By modeling and celebrating children's science capabilities, DragonflyTV shows that if kids can dream it, they can do it!

ages 8-12



American Experience's Earth Days looks back to the dawn and development of the modern environmental movement through the extraordinary stories of the era's pioneers — among them Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, biologist/Population Bomb author Paul Ehrlich, Whole Earth Catalog founder Stewart Brand, Apollo Nine astronaut Rusty Schweickart, and renewable energy pioneer Hunter Lovins. Be sure to check out the **Teacher's Guide**, **Timeline**, and **Photo Gallery**.

ages 12-18

Check out these great online resources for each grade!

K - Grade 2: **Jay Jay the Jet Plane** and **The Cat in the Hat Knows A Lot About That!**

Grades 3 - 5: **Ecological Empowerment**, **The Greens**, and **EekoWorld**

Grades 6 - 8: **Enviro-Tacklebox** and **Strange Days on Planet Earth**

Grades 9-12: **Off the Map: Exquisite Trash** and **Nature**

click!



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