

To: Ann Arbor Environmental Education Committee
From: Margery Harris and Michael Schechtman
Re: The Ecology Center's role within the proposed
K-12 Environmental Education Program for
Ann Arbor.

The Ecology Center of Ann Arbor has provided Environmental Education assistance on a voluntary basis to the Ann Arbor School System since the Center's inception in 1970. The Ecology Center aided individual teachers in areas of curriculum design, classroom teaching and field trip planning. An extensive resource file of Environmental Education materials and references was available for use by teachers. In addition, teachers were exposed to ongoing activities and programs of the Ecology Center, particularly organic gardening education, which in turn fostered learning opportunities for students through participation in community events.

This proposal summarizes the expanded role of the Ecology Center within the new Ann Arbor Environmental Education program. In conjunction with needs articulated by the Ann Arbor Environmental Education Committee, the Center will broaden and revise its existing materials, as well as develop new resources. These resources will include extensive written materials, a variety of visual and graphic aids, and a file of current curricular resource materials.

Two major components of the Center's resources will be an analytical file of Ann Arbor's environmental problems and issues and a Current Environmental Topics program. The analytical file will build upon existing Center information and materials, and will contain a descriptive abstract, site descriptions, a complete history, a list of involved resource people, and an impact analysis of each problem or issue. Slides, charts and other visual aids will supplement the basic analysis and information file. These materials will be available to all teachers for classroom use. The Ann Arbor Environmental Education Committee will assist in selecting the initial collection of topics in the file. Examples of topics include: the Briarwood Development; the Super Sewer; Scarlet-Mitchell Woods; First and Second Sister Lakes; transportation and land use in Ann Arbor; and water resource problems associated with the Huron River.

The Current Environmental Topics program will provide an entirely new service for teachers. Ecology Center Staff will respond to major local, regional and national environmental issues as they emerge during the school year and will develop informational materials while the issues are still timely and in focus of public concern. The Center receives newsletters, magazines and environmental alerts from over 50 organizations throughout the country. Also, Center staff monitor meetings of City Council and Planning Commission and work closely with local environmental groups and neighborhood organizations. This set of resources will be used as a basis for selecting subjects to be developed for the Current Environmental Topics program, and the Center also will respond to requests from teachers.

Utilization of these resources and Ecology Center Staff will take place in conjunction with the implementation of the new Ann Arbor Environmental Education program. Initially, the Center will focus its efforts on a pilot basis in the four schools chosen by the Ann Arbor Environmental Education Committee; however, these resources will be available to all teachers on an informal basis. In coordination with the elementary and secondary Environmental Education coordinators and the facilitators on the four schools, the Center will assist in the areas of in-service teacher training, workshops and development of resource materials. An attractive feature and special thrust of the Center in the pilot schools will be individual assistance to teachers in areas of curriculum design, processes of value clarification and development of environmental encounters oriented toward community problem solving.

If implementation of the new Environmental Education program is delayed until a later date, the Ecology Center will still furnish the above services to interested teachers, and will continue to work with the Ann Arbor Environmental Education Committee towards the future enactment of the proposed program.

Budget:

Environmental Education Coordinator	\$4,800
Supplies (paper goods)	250
Photographic Supplies	750
Environmental Simulation Games	50
Xeroxing	200
Meetings and Conferences	250
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	\$6,300
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