

# RESOURCES

## Resource reviewers:

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## Architecture and Education

What happens when architects and educators intersect? School buildings, from kindergartens to community colleges, are designed as inspired spaces for experiential learning.



Anne Taylor's groundbreaking book *Linking Architecture and Education: Sustainable Design for Learning Environments* bridges the realms of architecture and education to show stunning examples of holistic school designs from around the world. Each chapter features case studies of green buildings and an analysis of their impact on the environment. For Taylor, a successful design must respond to the needs of its users, and thus she encourages the involvement of students and the community in shaping a plan. With contributions from many architects, educators, designers and school planners, this hefty book is idealistic in its vision, but includes practical design considerations for green classrooms, composting facilities, trails, school gardens and outdoor classrooms. In its hundreds of inspiring examples, architects, administrators, school boards and teachers will find much worth exploring in this beautiful, wide-ranging book. — (JH)

University of New Mexico Press, 2009, ISBN 978-0-8263-3407-7, 471 pp., \$100 from UNM Press, (800) 249-7737, <www.unmpress.com>.

## EcoTipping Points

The EcoTipping Points website features over 100 environmental success stories collected from around the world by a team of scientists and journalists. The stories address diverse topics, but what they have in common

is a “lever,” referred to as an “EcoTipping Point” — a community process that reverses environmental decline and establishes a course towards restoration and sustainability. Building upon insights from the science of human ecology, the website offers lessons based on the stories, while explaining how EcoTipping Points work and what it takes to create them. — (TG)

<www.ecotippingpoints.org>

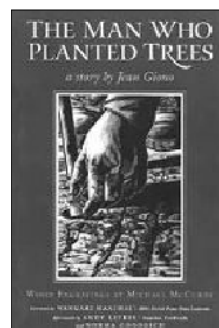


## Big Ideas

The Center for Ecoliteracy's aptly named book *Big Ideas* focuses on “the enjoyment of food

as a starting point for understanding the web of ecological relationships.” The book is divided into chapters for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12, each of which is further divided into four interconnected thematic areas — Food, Culture, Health and the Environment. In each section, the authors introduce a big idea and then provide essential questions, key concepts and sample activities to guide the exploration of that idea. Students will be captivated by the questions, which help to uncover the ways in which culture influences our beliefs about food: for example, “What do farm animals need to survive and thrive? (Grades K-2); “What food traditions do different cultures have? (Grades 3-5); “In what ways do decisions about agriculture influence people's health? (Grades 6-8); and “What are examples of ways in which our society favors individual rights over the collective good as it relates to food?” (Grades 9-12). Most of the activities engage students in experiential learning, such as through creating a food garden or visiting a local food bank. This resource is an especially useful tool for anyone interested in environmental curriculum at all grade levels. — (TN)

The Center for Ecoliteracy, 2008, ISBN 978-0-9818409-0-1, 120 pp., US\$16.95 from Acorn Naturalists, (800) 422-8886, <www.acornnaturalists.com>.

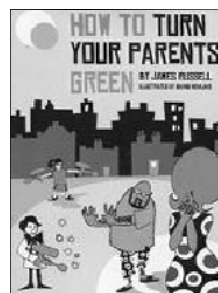


## The Man Who Planted Trees

Jean Giono's famous story *The Man Who Planted Trees* is an inspiring tale of a shepherd who spends his

life planting hundreds of thousands of trees throughout his mountainous community in the foothills of the Alps. His tireless efforts repair a damaged environment and restore its life-giving systems. This story of how a barren landscape is transformed into a thriving ecosystem through the devoted efforts of a single man is beautifully illustrated by Michael McCurdy's wood engravings. In the back of the book, a brief biography of Jean Giono precedes a report by Andy Lipkis about how the tree-planting efforts of TreePeople had a positive impact on communities and individuals in the Los Angeles area. Suitable for 10- to 18-year-old readers, *The Man Who Planted Trees* is a highly motivational tale that reminds readers of the positive impact one person can have on the world. — (NS)

Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 2005, ISBN 978-1-933392-81-3, 61 pp., US\$10 from Chelsea Green, (800) 639-4099, <www.chelseagreen.com>.



## How to Turn Your Parents Green

James Russell's humorous *How to Turn Your Parents Green* is a pocket-sized, non-fiction book

designed to empower 9- to 15-year-olds (the Greens) to challenge their parents (the Groans) to join them in becoming eco-warriors. The Groans grumble and gripe and are responsible for global warming, but will leave the Greens with the mess. The book provides a charter for the Groans to sign, and suggests fines to impose on