

ECO

COMENIUS



Team coordinator:

Otilia Marinescu

Team members:

Ionut Baciu

Marius Brabie

Articles written by:

Otilia Marinescu

Iulia Marinescu

Ionut Baciu

Marius Brabie

Design by:

Otilia Marinescu

Coordinating teacher:

Paul Nicoara

Exploring innovative and creative ways of teaching using new tools and methods

Coordinator: CPI O Cruce, Spania

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A tragedy on the Danube

Monday, October 4, breaking a chemical waste storage battle of belonging to a reddish-brown aluminum processing plant caused the leak of 600,000 cubic meters of waste with a pH of 12-13 in Torna Brook, a tributary of River Mark found in western Hungary.

After the village Kolontar was inundated by red mud, four people were killed, including a baby three months, another three are missing and 123 were injured.

The locality Devecser 230 houses were flooded on 19 streets, and in several areas near flood level with these residues, in red, reached two meters. Between 80 and 90 people were hospitalized with chemical burns.

The earth is stained with blood. Corpses of dogs, cats, birds, pigs or cows are the first images that you see. Kolontar and Devecser are still hidden beneath the toxic sludge blood color.



Red Death roam the streets. Breathable air is very difficult, and the only people on the streets, soldiers and firefighters are brought in for emergency intervention.

Bruno was more fortunate than other animals, being found by locals, yesterday afternoon. He spent three days in toxic water, yellow became red fur. His owners have died in floods, and the dog was taken from dog catcher. Because of



the toxic environment that has been exposed, the dog will be bald.

Raba, and then spilled into the Danube River, Thursday, October 7. Such toxic substances and pass through Romania.

Toxic mud from Hungary is considered the largest environmental disaster in a decade after that, and Delta could be seriously affected. If the toxic elements arrive in the Delta, there is a risk that they may accumulate and affect not only the flora, but also fish and birds.



This could affect the Delta ecosystem, but also the future of local communities. There is a danger accumulation of toxic elements from the Danube, even if the concentration is low and they may persist for a longer period of time. Aquatic organisms that inhabit these sediments are the most exposed, being in direct contact with them. In turn, aquatic organisms are an important source of food for higher organisms such as fish, leading to accumulation of toxic elements in food chain, eventually the human population with the risk of contamination.

We expect further damage to the fauna and flora, because the substances used in rescue operations to neutralize the alkaline water and are toxic themselves. Some animals and plants die on the spot, while others will have to bear long-term consequences of heavy metal poisoning, as the red mud will be deposited in the



body. However, currently there is no information on the concentration of heavy metals from red mud from the tank factory. Hopefully everything will be okay.

Marius Brabie

Ten Tips for an Eco Friendly Life

This weird and wonderful planet Earth is our home and our treasure. We have a moral and practical obligation to preserve it. Many people believe, however, that



living an eco-friendly life is a difficult and expensive task. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, living eco-friendly is not only easy but it can save you money. In this article we will discuss 10 simple and cost-saving tips to live more eco-friendly. When you're finished reading, you'll be prepared to take the necessary steps to live in a way that is more eco-friendly.

Tip 1: Walk or Ride a Bike. In our society being able to drive is both a right of passage and a sign of accomplishment. But unfortunately, this focus on a car culture prevents us from recognizing the financial and health benefits of walking and biking. If you live in a crowded city, often biking will allow you to get from Point A to Point B much faster. And it can save you money on going to the gym. In addition, you can also take advantage of walking and local public transportation. All of these things save money on gas, wear and tear on the car, and allow you to get exercise. If something is within walking distance or biking distance go ahead and let your legs power your transport.

Tip 2: Grow local plants. Why waste a lot of time and money growing flowers and vegetables that aren't natural to your climate. You can gain a lot of joy, and create a garden that complements your environment, by learning about your local plants.

Tip 3: LED bulbs. These bulbs not only provide the most bang for your buck by giving the longest life, but they are also more efficient. This will help you reduce your carbon footprint and save energy.

Tip 4: Compost. Use those parts of fruits and vegetables that you would normally throw in the trash and fertilize your garden. Also consider starting your own Worm Garden. This will allow you to use earthworms to create a rich soil for your vegetables.

Tip 5: Use grocery store bags more than once. You can always buy a canvas bag for your groceries, but let's face it most of the time when we want to make an impulse purchase, we don't have those bags in hand. But you can still use those plastic bags from the grocery store to help with the trash in your home, especially used cat litter.

Tip 6: Natural light. Instead of always keeping the lights on in the home, why not open the curtains and let the sunshine in. It will also make you more cheerful, especially if you work at home.

Tip 7: Hang up your clothes to dry. This will save your electric bill and help reduce your carbon footprint. On the other hand, in winter or when it's raining this may not be the best solution.

Tip 8: Use a rebate program to pay your bills monthly. You can do this with your cell phone, or online. Avoiding paper will save the environment, and the rebate will save you money.

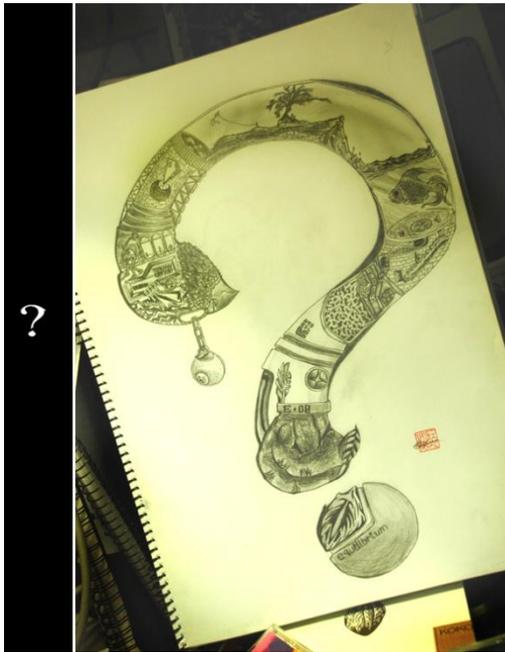
Tip 9: Solar charge your batteries. In this way to use free power to help power something that would ordinarily cost money.

Tip 10: Cut back on plastic and paper products. Instead of paper towels in the kitchen, try cloth napkins, and wipe up spills with hand towels.

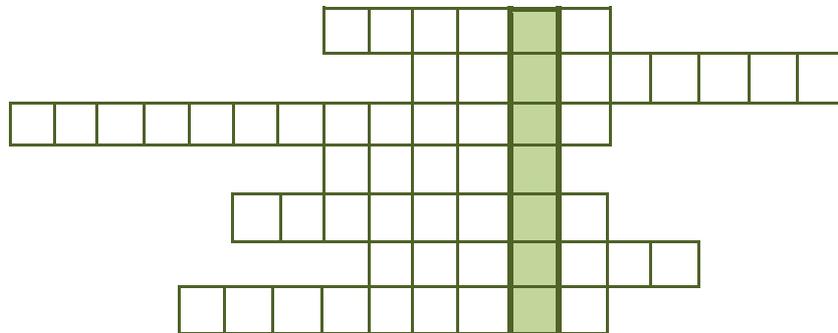
By using these 10 tips you will be making a great contribution to the environment and make your life eco-friendly.



How much do you really know?



1. World's dirtiest city is
2. The most polluted EU capital is
3. World's biggest aeolian farm was inaugurated in
4. International Earth Day was celebrated for the first time on 22th 1970.
5. The biggest volcano eruption took place in 1883. The name of volcano that killed approximately 40.000 people is
6. World's cleanest city is situated in Canada. Its name is
7. The nuclear disaster which happened at the power plant of took place on 26th April 1986.



ECO... of the month

ECO song of the month

Earth song by Michael Jackson



Michael Jackson had a long-standing history of releasing socially conscious material such as "We Are the World", "Man in the Mirror" and "Heal the World". However, "Earth Song" was the first that overtly dealt with the environment and animal welfare.

Earth Song was accompanied by a lavish music video shot on four geographical regions. It centered around the destruction and rebirth of Earth and went on to receive a Grammy nomination in 1997. The song was a top five hit in most European countries. In the UK, it remains Michael Jackson's best-selling single

ECO movie of the month

The Day After Tomorrow

A climatologist tries to figure out a way to save the world from abrupt global warming. He must get to his young son in New York, which is being taken over by a new ice age.



Ionut Baciu

S.C. DONAU CHEM S.R.L.



Located on the Danube, 5 km from the city of Turnu Magurele, the combination of chemical fertilizers is a major provider of intermediate and simple and complex chemical fertilizers in the country and abroad.

S.C. DONAU CHEM S.R.L is a business partner with over 50 countries worldwide, with over 40

years experience in the manufacture of simple and complex fertilizers.

However at this company can be the problems that may pollute a lot. For example, an incident occurred Monday 16 November 2009 at Donau Chem Turnu Magurele mill led to a boom ammonia pollution of the Danube, between the shore and the island Sredniak Romanian, common law Ciuperceni, Teleorman County, announced Tuesday Waters National Administration Romanian.



Pollution was caused by water discharge in the Danube, while about eight hours, about 6-7 tons of ammonia from ammonia and carbamate pump blockade as initial data.

No fish mortality was reported, but the surface water, fish could be seen dizzy, and the water had a reddish color. Pollution has been stopped at source and not cross-border impacts.

Turnu Magurele hydrometric station, downstream arm of the Danube River where pollution occurred, the Danube flow is 7,000 cubic meters per second, and this flow can provide sufficient dilution so that the effects will not be felt downstream.

In the following days, ANAR will evaluate water quality, and will send if there are still signs of pollution or not, monitoring costs will be borne by the polluter. It was an unpleasant incident that happened at DONAU CHEM and hopefully it will be the last.





Why Should We Recycle?

Here are some reasons that make it clear why recycling is important:

To Reduce Global Warming

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that is a major contributor to global warming. Manufacturing certain products releases a lot more carbon dioxide than recycling them would. Aluminum is the best example of this. Manufacturing new aluminum goods produces 95% more carbon dioxide than recycling old aluminum objects. One big reason for those who wonder why should we recycle paper is that for each ton of paper that is recycled, 15 trees are saved from being felled. We are aware of the fact that trees use up carbon dioxide from atmosphere to make food through the process of photosynthesis. It is estimated that one tree absorbs almost 250 pounds of carbon dioxide each year. Read more on how does recycling affect environment.

To Prevent Air Pollution

We are already aware of the amount of gaseous waste that industries spew out everyday. Factories and industries manufacturing items made from plastic and metals release large amounts of toxic gases. With increase in population demand for these goods also keep rising. If we do not recycle these objects then we have to set up new industries to manufacture these goods. This means more air pollution.

To Solve the Problem of Scarcity of Landfills

Lot of our garbage is disposed off in landfills. But the rate at which we are producing trash, is overwhelming. We are already running out of areas that could be used as landfills and soon there might not be any left either. This crisis is severe in the cities and suburbs, where the problem is so pressing that landfills are slowly creeping closer to crowded human settlements. This is making human beings vulnerable to diseases.

To Prevent Water Pollution

This problem is related in part to landfills. The waste that are disposed in landfills are not treated. Contaminants from the products in the landfills seep down to lower levels of the soil where they reach groundwater and pollute it. Other than polluting groundwater, scarcity of landfills and the overwhelming amount of waste that we produce has not left us with any choice but to dump waste in seas and oceans. The devastating effect of release of industrial waste in these water bodies coupled with civic waste that are being dumped in the seas and oceans, on marine ecology, is well known to us. Environmental preservation is one of the most important benefits of recycling.

To Save Energy

Another reason why you should recycle is that it saves energy. Recycling most of the products that we use involves much lesser amount of energy than making them anew. For example, recycling paper saves almost 65% energy than making new sheets of paper. If instead of making new products, one pound of steel is recycled then it saves enough energy to light a 60 watt bulb for 24 hours straight!

In conclusion...





Earth Day celebration

The International Earth Day was celebrated by us in a delightful way. 40th celebration of Earth Day has gone on for three days. Over 80 students from "Unirea" National College gathered on the first day. We wore green T-shirts with a number on our chests. Our main job was the cleaning of some parks from our town, Turnu Magurele.



This initiative was taken by the headmaster of the school. Other teachers agreed with this idea, and so did we. We continued the waste collection next day.

After those two days, the streets seemed cleaner, and our lungs felt better. It's a pity that we don't take care of our health every day. We are lucky because The Earth Day is real.

Eventually, the last day of the event arrived. It was more relaxing than the others. We can say that we had good fun.

Our duties were: to take interviews, to give out flyers about "Earth Day", and to make a survey about the main factors which influence destruction of the ground, the rivers and lakes and the atmosphere.



Some people answered us in a friendly way, but not all did so. Our action was broadcasted on the local television.













Ionut Baciu and Iulia Marinescu

DIY – Do It Yourself. Eco-friendly.

Because Christmas is not that far away, let's learn how to make our winter holidays eco-friendly this year.



Christmas Tree

If you require a real tree, purchase from a small-scale sustainable grower and choose a tree with roots so it can be replanted. If replanting isn't a option, most local councils run Christmas tree recycling schemes.

Wrap the potted roots with hessian and then start decorating with natural elements to create an eco sustainable Christmas decoration that is not only fun, but inexpensive to create.

Another alternative is to use a native tree or found dead twigs that you can decorate - a few branches gold burnished or splatted with white paint, decorated with bows, painted eggs, star cut-outs, wax dipped pine cones, home-made baubles, ginger bread decorations, etc.

Use your imagination and create a Christmas tree that is unique (Refer photo).

Hang colourful paper chains, popcorn and cranberry strings on your tree for a traditional touch, or lines of beads and buttons instead of tinsel.

Christmas Tree Ornaments

Use eggs, stars, moons, suns and other shapes, to make stars etc....

Draw a simple shape, or cut a shape from a magazine or old recycled card and use this as a silhouette to trace around. Cut the shape out of cardboard and paint with eco-friendly paint or cover with foil or re-use gift wrap. Shapes can include: suns, moons, stars, hearts, snowmen, angels, Santas, candles, bells, bauble shapes, gingerbread house, animal shapes, teddy bears, birds, candy canes, etc. Cut angels, peace doves or snowflakes out of scrap white paper (e.g. envelopes).