

# Green Awareness for the Workplace



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# Green Awareness for the Workplace

## Introduction

The advent of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has brought with it a “green” awareness. Our global society has recognized the environmental impact that over six and one-half billion people have had on our planet as well as the economic implications. Global warming, rising oil prices, depletion of fossil fuels and natural resources, air and water pollution, closed landfills and loss of blue collar industrial jobs are just a few of the interwoven occurrences that have caused us to rethink our current way of living and doing business.

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the various ways human activity impacts the environment and current trends toward minimizing negative consequences. Students will also gain an understanding of the changes occurring in the workplace with the incorporation of green technology and the creation of “green collar” jobs into business and industry.

The student performance standards listed on the next page are designed as questions to be answered using a variety of informational sources. Students may use the internet to access information from websites, journals, articles, encyclopedias or other resources to complete these learning objectives. A list of reliable sources has been included in this handout for student use.

## **Green Awareness for the Workplace**

### **Proposed Student Performance Standards**

2009

#### **01.0 Identify the various ways human activity impacts the environment**

The student will be able to:

- 01.01 Define climate change and the causes of global warming.
- 01.02 Discuss greenhouse gas emission and its role in global warming.
- 01.03 Discuss the ozone layer, the major cause for its depletion and the resulting consequences.
- 01.04 Define acid rain and its effect on the environment.
- 01.05 Discuss the negative effects of chemical pollution.
- 01.06 Discuss the concept of carbon footprint.

#### **02.0 Describe alternative forms of energy**

The student will be able to:

- 02.01 Describe renewable and non-renewable forms of energy.
- 02.02 List the various alternative forms of energy to fossil fuels.
- 02.03 Describe the benefits and challenges of using alternative forms of energy to society and the environment.

#### **03.0 Describe the benefits of environmental awareness**

The student will be able to:

- 03.01 Discuss the benefits of conserving natural resources.
- 03.02 Discuss the concept and the benefits of preserving biodiversity.
- 03.03 Describe energy efficiency.
- 03.04 Define biodegradable materials.
- 03.05 Describe the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling materials.
- 03.06 Identify the incentives being offered for "going green".

#### **04.0 Identify environmental issues related to business and industry**

The student will be able to:

- 04.01 Discuss the major environmental issues specific to your industry.
- 04.02 Discuss local environmental concerns related to your industry.
- 04.03 Identify the changes in your business or industry that are considered "green".
- 04.04 Identify the new "green collar" jobs that have been created in your field.

## **Green Awareness for the Workplace**

### **List of Informational Resources**

National Geographic – <http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

National Resources Defense Council – <http://www.nrdc.org>

National Science Digital Library – <http://www.nsdlib.org>  
Search here for any science topic. This is the motherlode of science information.

Measure your carbon footprint and calculate your impact on the environment.  
<http://www.climatecrisis.net> (Click the "take action" tab)

Environmental Protection Agency – <http://www.epa.gov>

Virtual Information Center – a network of resource databases  
See ATC Magnet High School Website – Click on Atlantic Tech Media Center

