

RIDEWORKS Environmental Expressions 2001

For Teachers

Contest Background

RIDEWORKS Environmental Expressions Contest began eight years ago with funding from the State of Connecticut in conjunction with The Clean Air Act of 1990 which requires that states with elevated air pollution levels, including Connecticut, make a commitment to educate residents about clean air.

Statistics from various sources have shown repeatedly that when it comes to issues such as long-term protection of our environment, habits are formed during childhood. As adults, many of us are already too set in our ways to change, which is why we must educate our younger generation about the choices they make now and how these choices will affect the world around them in years to come.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nearly half of all air pollution comes from vehicles, so it makes perfect sense to teach our children about this connection between air pollution, clean air and commuting choices.

Air Pollution and Global Warming

In 1995, hundreds of scientists, through the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, concluded that human release of air pollutants was altering the Earth's climate in an unprecedented manner, confirming the phenomenon of global warming.*

Not all scientists are convinced that global warming is a serious threat brought on by modern society. However, the National Academy of Sciences says if nothing is done to reduce fossil fuel emissions, the world's mean global temperature will rise 0.2 to 0.6 degrees Fahrenheit per decade in the next century.

Global Warming and Climate Changes

Global warming in the 21st century is likely to change the climate of the United States, according to a federal report ordered by Congress and assembled by the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

These projected climate changes include more extremes in our weather, and more erosion of coastal zones. We may see stronger summer urban heat waves. Gentler winters could lead to the demise of Southern New England's ski industry. As higher temperatures push the sugar maple range into Canada, Vermont's maple syrup industry may fade out, too. Ironically, although precipitation is expected to rise (causing floods in some areas), the hotter conditions enhance evaporation (causing drought in other areas.)

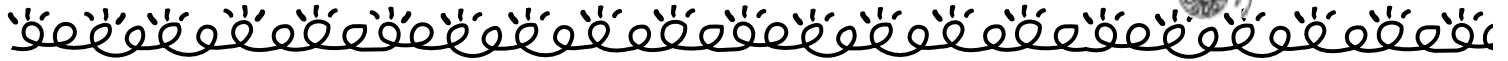
Sources:

* International Center For Technology Assessment (www.icta.org/ctanews/ghgstat.htm)
Environmental Protection Agency (epa.gov/globalwarming)



RIDEWORKS

Environmental Expressions 2001



Contest Guidelines for Teachers

Contest Objective:

To help students understand the impact automobile pollution has on the environment, and that by sharing rides we can reduce the number of cars on the road which, in turn, reduces the amount of pollution we put into the air.

This contest provides classroom discussion for teachers of students in grades 3 through 8:

English/Creative Writing	Science	Social Studies	Art
Environment	Computers	General Studies	Music

After participating in the contest, students should be able to:

1. Understand the concept of global warming and what it means for our planet
2. Realize a connection between air pollution from cars and global warming
3. Suggest alternatives, either real or imaginary, to driving alone as a means to reduce the number of cars on the road and the amount of pollution entering our atmosphere

Contest Open Date: Now

Contest Entry Deadline: Monday, March 5, 2001

Entry Categories/Eligibility

All students in grades 3-8 in the 38-town area serviced by RIDEWORKS. Categories are:

Expressions on Paper

Drawings, stories, articles, photographs, poems, paintings, essays, and more

Expressions From Computer

Web site designs, computer-generated art, compositions and more

Audio/Video

Songs, newscasts, dramatizations, documentaries, and more

This Year's Judges:

News Channel 8
Anchor/Reporter
Ann Nyberg

Naturalist/Author/
New Haven Register
Columnist
Kathleen Kudlinski

Artist **Tony Falcone**
of Falcone Fine Art Studio
in Prospect

WPLR Morning Show Host
Brian Smith

RIDEWORKS Executive
Director **Jean Stimolo**



For additional contest materials, including complete entry rules and student handouts, contact RIDEWORKS at 203-777-RIDE, 1-800-ALL-RIDE or contest@rideworks.com

How to Distribute Materials:

Orange for Teachers

Green and Yellow for Students