Our Mission

We are bringing age-appropriate, interdisciplinary climate change lessons to local, Boston-area youth.

We're accomplishing this in two ways:

• Conducting lessons and programming at after-school programs
• Developing and publishing an open-source curriculum library on our website, bostonecoscholars.org

Lesson Topics

Here are some examples of lesson topics we've taught:

• How the Greenhouse Effect Works
• Climate Change’s Effects on Boston Harbor
• Renewable Energy: Wind and Solar
• Your Carbon Footprint
• Green Degrees and Careers

Sample Lesson

Lesson 3: How We Contribute to Climate Change

○ Activity: Footprint Calculator
  - Depending on size of the group and number of teachers, divide up, or work as a class altogether
  - Complete the survey at [http://meetthegreens.pbskids.org/features/carbon-calculator.html](http://meetthegreens.pbskids.org/features/carbon-calculator.html)
  - Discuss the results
  - If we use X number of Earths, is that fair?
  - What does it mean that we are using that many earths?
  - We are using supplies (food, water, energy, clean air, etc.)?
  - What happens when we run out?

○ Discussion: Human Impact on the Earth
  - Discuss that humans have a major impact on the Earth (giving a few examples), trying to touch upon:
    • Education
    • Greenhouse gases (bad air vs good air)
    • Waste
  - Explain that our decisions can help or hurt the environment - try to emphasize that we all make choices everyday

○ Activity: Help or Hurt
  - Draw a line on the board, at one end write “hurt” and “help”
  - Run through the kids’ days, highlighting certain choices and asking kids where they might fall on the thermometer
    - For example, getting to school in the morning: walk, bike, car, train, bus, etc.
  - If you have a lot of time, try to cover more topics, i.e. briefly discuss renewable energy, etc.

○ Brainstorm: Ways We Can Help the Earth
  - Discuss with the kids ways you can help the earth. Some potential ideas:
    - Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R"s to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
    - Volunteer. Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed, too.
    - Educate. When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

Get Involved!

Contact bostonecoscholars@gmail.com to sign up for our newsletter and get updates about upcoming meetings!

You can also visit us at bostonecoscholars.org for more info on what we’re doing!

Our Partners

• United South End Settlements (South End)
• James W. Hennigan K-8 School (Jamaica Plain)
• Rafael Hernandez Bilingual School (Roxbury)
• Catholic Charities (South Boston)

Next Steps

• Continue programming with our current partners
• Develop lessons on further topics using innovative teaching methods
• Expand our volunteer team
• Host on-campus events with similarly-minded student organizations
• Build a network of EcoScholars chapters at colleges throughout Boston and beyond!