

PRESS RELEASE



1 Historic Courthouse Square #3 • Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone (828) 694-5003 • www.hendersoncountync.org

Steve Wyatt
County Manager

Selena Coffey
Assistant County Manager

Pam Brice
Public Information Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Adrienne Outcault, Henderson County Sustainability Coordinator, 828-694-6524

Hands-On Learning a Big Hit in Henderson County Mobile Environmental Learning Center Completes Run

November 25, 2008 – Henderson County, NC: the regionally-used Mobile Environmental Learning Center made its way through the Henderson County School system recently, as well as stopping at two special events, said Henderson County Sustainability Coordinator Adrienne Outcault.

"If you have a child in a Henderson County elementary school, there's a chance they had some hands-on education about the environmental benefits of waste reduction and recycling in the past month," Ms. Outcault said.

The Mobile Environmental Learning Center, or MELC, is an EPA award-winning interactive learning experience shared by Henderson, Madison, Transylvania and Buncombe counties. Scheduling coordination is maintained by Land of Sky Regional Council.

"Henderson County's participation in the MELC program provides teachers with a unique opportunity to teach recycling to their students. It's like a field trip that comes to you," said Holly Bullman of Land of Sky Regional Council. "It's a way to avoid the headaches and costs that can go along with planning a field trip, but still get the educational value and fun."

The center traveled through Etowah Elementary, Mills River School, Upward, Sugarloaf, Bruce Drysdale, and Atkinson, as well as appearing at Farm City Day and an America Recycles Day event. Approximately 1,200 students got the chance to go through MELC.

"I think that MELC is one of the best educational tools we have in this area," said Ms. Outcault. "Kids love it, because it's got displays and games and quizzes, but adults love it too. It has information that appeals to all different ages. I've had adults tell me how much they like it and how cool they think it is. I feel really lucky that we get to use it in Henderson County."

The center is divided up into three different areas. The first is a display of how human actions can affect the natural world, and how that has influenced waste generation. The second area is a

Henderson County Press Release

- 2 -

solution to the trash problem, with displays showing facts about recycling, composting and reusing; concepts like reducing and pre-cycling are introduced as well. The last part of the display has end products made from recycled material, information about buying recycled products and take-home information for different age groups.

More information about using MELC can be obtained by contacting Adrienne Outcalt at 694-6524, or Holly Bullman at 251-6622.

###