



**NOTE: If you hit reply to this message, it will not reach us.  
To contact us, please email [outreach@facingthefuture.org](mailto:outreach@facingthefuture.org).**

## WINTER 2007 E-NEWSLETTER

*The economies of mass consumption that produced a world of abundance for many in the twentieth century face a different challenge in the twenty-first: to focus not on the indefinite accumulation of goods but instead on a better quality of life for all, with minimal environmental harm.*

~Worldwatch Institute

### IN THE WINTER 2007 ISSUE

- Free Sustainability Units for WA and AK Educators
- Order Curriculum Before Prices Rise in the New Year
- K-4 Curriculum Available in January
- New *Facing the Future* Website in 2008
- Request for Pictures of Your Students in Action
- Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities
- Featured Partner: J.T. Henley Middle School
- Curriculum Highlight: "Are You Buying This?!"
- Action Project Ideas: Consumer Awareness Campaign and EcoPhones
- Additional Resources: Adbusters and I Buy Different
- Thank You!
- Support *Facing the Future's* Work
- Subscribe/Unsubscribe to this Newsletter

### FREE SUSTAINABILITY UNITS FOR WA AND AK EDUCATORS

In response to educator feedback, *Facing the Future* is releasing a series of shorter curriculum units on particular themes geared to specific subjects and grades. The first unit, ***Understanding Sustainability***, compiles previous and new *Facing the Future* lessons. The unit for Washington State middle school science is available electronically at no cost to educators thanks to support from the Russell Family Foundation. Electronic units for Alaska science and social studies teachers are also available for free thanks to funding from the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

These 1-2 week units include hands-on activities on sustainability issues, student readings, homework assignments, critical thinking questions, assessment rubrics, and links to action projects. National sustainability units are to follow in 2008, as are units on climate change. To download any of these units for free, [click here](#).

### ORDER CURRICULUM BEFORE PRICES RISE IN THE NEW YEAR

*Facing the Future's* book prices will be increasing in 2008, so be sure to place your order before the end of the year! Choose from an intermediate and advanced student textbook that can be used as a stand-alone text for a global issues course or as a supplemental text for social studies, science, environmental studies, mathematics, ESL/ELL, language arts, and other classes. [Click here](#) to order your class set today.

### K-4 CURRICULUM AVAILABLE IN JANUARY

***Teaching Global Sustainability in the Primary Grades: A K-4 Curriculum Guide*** contains four 2-5 hour lessons, teacher background reading, vocabulary, extension and action project ideas, and assessment rubrics, with alternatives

provided for K-2 and 3-4 grade levels. Students learn about topics of identity, food, biodiversity, and systems through role plays, simulations, singing, art, stories, writing, and speaking. Please check back on our website in January to view excerpts from this curriculum!

### **NEW FACING THE FUTURE WEBSITE IN 2008**

In early 2008, *Facing the Future* will be launching our new website and updated look. Not to worry – all your favorite resources will still be there, only easier to locate and navigate! A convenient “curriculum finder” will help you search for lessons, textbooks or units on specific topics for different grade levels. Keep your eyes out, and let us know what you think!

### **REQUEST FOR PICTURES OF YOUR STUDENTS IN ACTION**

On our new website we will be displaying pictures of students engaged in *Facing the Future* activities and action projects – and we would be delighted to have your students among them! If you have any photos of your students that we'd have permission to use, please send them to [jenny@facingthefuture.org](mailto:jenny@facingthefuture.org). The next time you do a *Facing the Future* activity with your class, get out that camera and snap away!

### **UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Attend a workshop presented by *Facing the Future* staff or Peer Educators at one of the following venues in the coming months:

- 1/18: Storming the Sound Conference, La Conner, WA
- 1/30-31: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction January Conference, Spokane, WA
- 2/2: Washington State Council for the Social Studies K-8 Conference Inservice, Seattle, WA
- 2/7-9: International Studies Schools Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2/9: Friends of Geography Conference, Houston, TX
- 2/27-3/1: National Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference, New York, NY
- 2/28-3/1: Washington Association for Learning Alternatives Annual Spring Conference, Vancouver, WA
- 3/7-9: California Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Oakland, CA
- 3/27-30: National Science Teachers Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA

For up-to-date information on *Facing the Future* workshops and links to conference websites, visit our online [calendar](#).

*Facing the Future* staff are also available to come to your school or district to present a professional development workshop for teachers. Visit our [website](#) to find out more. If you would like to schedule a workshop, please email [kim@facingthefuture.org](mailto:kim@facingthefuture.org) or call 206-264-1503.

Here is what one educator said about the inservice workshop *Facing the Future* presented at her district:

*The workshop was excellent in all ways - thorough and addressing all of our needs/interests. This will be useful for setting the context of not only our district graduation requirements, but also offering a model for how other grades can address classroom-based and performance assessments. The positive, action-oriented approach to engage kids in a preferred future is very useful.*

~Professional Development Coordinator, Redmond, WA

### **FEATURED PARTNER: J.T. Henley Middle School**

In Crozet, Virginia, 8th grade Civics teacher Margie Shepherd is helping to spearhead “Green Henley,” an initiative to step up the school’s recycling, energy conservation, and sustainability education efforts. After a schoolwide screening of the movie *Kilowatt Ours*, all students participated in the *Facing the Future* activity “Watch Where You Step.” In their mentor groups, students then came up with ideas for reducing their ecological footprint that they posted on [Facing the Future pledges](#) around the school.

All classes in the school are involved in the initiative. For example, at the beginning of the year math classes counted and graphed the amount of plastic and cans being thrown out. At the end of the year they will do this again to gauge their progress. PE classes are selling reusable water bottles, and the Student Council is selling cloth grocery bags that say “Neither, thank you!”

Margie uses *Facing the Future* activity “Shop Till You Drop” to bring home to students how people around the world live. In a project called “Peace by Piece” every 8th grader writes an essay about his/her vision of the world and does a craft project relating to the vision. Students have made quilts, painted chairs, and floor cloths on topics ranging from peace and racial harmony to the rainforests. The items are sold at a silent auction and students select an organizer

to receive the proceeds. Past projects that the school has supported include an orphanage in Haiti, a library in Guatemala, and a clothing drive in Mongolia.

### **CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHT: “Are You Buying This?!”**

Why not take advantage of the biggest shopping month of the year to have your students learn about media advertising, and corporate responsibility? In the *Facing the Future* lesson “Are You Buying This?!” student groups create skits of mock television commercials for various products, including a burger, a pair of jeans, and an SUV. Students first present the commercial as it would typically be seen on television, highlighting all the reasons to buy the item. They then create a second commercial in which they also incorporate the product’s potential negative impacts on the environment and society. Encourage students to have fun and be as creative as they like, using advertising techniques such as humor or celebrity appeal.

As a lesson extension, students can create a commercial advertising a new product or variation of their product that would mitigate the negative impacts. Students can tape their commercials and post them on the web as an information campaign. And don’t forget to take some pictures as well, as there will likely be some great photo ops!

“Are You Buying This?!” is one of 40 activity-based lessons in *Facing the Future’s* main teacher guide, *Engaging Students through Global Issues*. To learn about this book and other *Facing the Future* curriculum resources, [click here](#).

### **ACTION PROJECT IDEAS: Consumer Awareness Campaign and EcoPhones**

The holiday season is a perfect time to have students take a closer look at their favorite brands and companies to learn about their environmental and social business practices. Students can conduct an awareness campaign on campus online, or at shopping malls, and develop a brochure for peers displaying environmentally and socially friendly products and businesses.

What about all those gadgets your students already own and are no longer using? Have your class collect used electronic products such as cell phones, ink cartridges, laptops, MP3 players, and DVDs and send them to [EcoPhones](#). EcoPhones pays for the items and commits to safely disposing, recycling, refurbishing, or reselling the components. Students can donate the money they make to an organization of their choice or use it to help make their school more sustainable. Read the above story from J.T. Henley Middle School for more ideas!

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The [Adbusters](#) website features examples of printed spoof ads on a variety of topics including food and fashion, along with instructions for creating your own print ad.

[I Buy Different](#) is part of a national campaign by the World Wildlife Fund and the Center for a New American Dream to help young people discover how they can make a difference by buying differently. Resources on the website include a shopping quiz, stories of people making a difference, and lots of ideas and reasons for taking action.

### **THANK YOU!**

At the close of an exciting and eventful year, we can’t help but pause to reflect on the amazing contributions of time, money, and expertise given by many of you. Thank you to our Classroom Partners, Peer Educators, curriculum field testers, Program Committee, Advisory Council, Board, and other volunteers. Thanks to all of you who have used *Facing the Future* materials, answered our surveys, and told friends about us. We’d also like to thank those who have donated financially to ensure that we continue to provide engaging global issues and sustainability curriculum and professional development.

### **SUPPORT OUR WORK**

*Facing the Future* is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Our work is made possible through foundation grants and individual donations. You can support *Facing the Future* by making a tax deductible donation today. To make a secure online donation using your credit card, visit us [here](#) or send your check or money order to:

*Facing the Future*  
811 First Avenue, Suite 454  
Seattle, WA 98104

To make a stock donation, estate gift, or if you have any questions about donations in general, please call us at 206-264-1503. Thank you!

*Facing the Future* is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating young people to think critically about global issues

sustainability, and positive solutions. We develop standards-based, hands-on lessons and accompanying textbooks and also provide professional development for educators. *Facing the Future* curriculum is in use in all U.S. states and over 50 countries by teachers and students in grades K-12, in undergraduate and graduate classes, and across multiple subject areas.

For more information, visit [www.facingthefuture.org](http://www.facingthefuture.org).

***Facing the Future's* electronic newsletter comes out every quarter.  
[Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.**

**We welcome your comments and feedback. Please email [outreach@facingthefuture.org](mailto:outreach@facingthefuture.org).**

811 First Ave, Ste 454 Seattle, WA 98104 T 206-264-1503 F 206-264-1506 [office@facingthefuture.org](mailto:office@facingthefuture.org)