



4-H Environment Project



Are you Into It?

If you enjoy learning about the world around you, then this project is for you.

Get ready for an amazing adventure as you discover the plants, animals and habitats that are all around us. During your journey you'll learn more about the environment as you discover ways to make a difference. You will learn how to address important issues like saving energy, renewable resources and recycling.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic

- Explore living and nonliving parts of the environment
- Observe the life cycles and habits of living creatures
- Learn about the water cycle and photosynthesis
- Create a collection and learn how to mount it (leaves, seeds insects)
- Interview a park ranger or other environmental professional
- Learn about Florida's renewable and nonrenewable energy sources

Learning More Intermediate

- Learn about different species on your vacation and record habitat data about them
- Learn about the difference between native and nonnative organisms
- Research an environmental issue that interests you (global climate change, habitat loss)
- Observe, record and graph your family's energy consumption
- Explore where your drinking water comes from and how it is protected

Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Use your environmental knowledge to create an educational program for younger 4-H members
- Organize a service learning project to address an environmental issue in your community
- Investigate the potential of various energy sources to power Florida homes like biofuels and wave energy
- Create an educational display for the county fair
- Monitor water quality at different locations in your community

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started

Citizenship/ Leadership

- Volunteer at your local park or beach
- Develop a "green" team to address a need at your school such as creating an energy conservation plan or increasing native habitat on school grounds

Communication

- Do a presentation on the benefits of alternative energy
- Create a documentary about how you've helped address an issue in your community
- Use social media to inform others about an environmental topic

Healthy Living

- Stay active, go swimming and hiking while enjoying nature
- Discover and eat healthy food produced by local Florida farmers
- Reduce family expenses by implementing an energy saving plan
- Be safe while outdoors

Science

- Use scientific tools to measure and record environmental information such as weather data, wildlife behaviors and plant growth
- Conduct an experiment using the scientific method while testing a hypothesis



Expand Your Experiences in Environment

- Contact your county Extension Office for local workshops, activities, and events
- Volunteer with a local environmental agency or nonprofit organization
- Meet others interested in the environment;-check out camps at the Florida 4-H Center
- Attend Florida 4-H University and participate in workshops, motivational speakers and a community project, bring ideas back to your community.
- Explore sustainability further online with the United Nations un.org/en/sustainability
- Interested in a college education? Consider the academic programs such as Wildlife Ecology, Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Earth Science, Environmental Science Geology, Meteorology, Sustainable Agriculture, Community Development and more. See the University of Florida’s environmental related majors at ufl.edu

Project Sharing Ideas

- Create an educational display about threatened and endangered species in Florida
- Develop a presentation or working exhibit that shows how to make a worm bin
- Do a presentation on how to do a home energy audit
- Create a wind turbine or solar car model and display at the county fair
- What attracts butterflies to your garden? Find out and share your findings in a video
- Create a map that shows the location of locally grown fruits and vegetables in your area

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or can be ordered directly.

- [Exploring Your Environment Level 1-3](#)
- [Power of the Wind](#)
- [SAVE](#)
- [Fins and Scales](#)
- [There’s No New Water](#)
- [Project Butterfly Wings](#)
- [Forestry Projects Level 1-3](#)
- [Teaming with Insects Level 1-3](#)
- [Wildlife the World Around Us Level 1-2](#)
- [Weather and Climate Project](#)
- [Florida 4-H Bug Club](#)
- [Project Learning Tree](#)
- [Give Forests a Hand](#)

Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be. Contact your county 4-H office.

Take part in:

- Local workshops and day camps
- 4-H County Events Day

Experience:

- 4-H Summer Day and Residential Camps
- 4-H University

Attend other statewide events. Check them out at florida4h.org

Record Keeping

- Record daily weather conditions, tides, animal behaviors and other environmental concepts in a log or journal

- Use the [Audubon Society’s Florida Bird Checklist](#) to record different species of birds as you observe them

Project Report Forms can be found at florida4h.org

- Junior (grades 4-6)
- Intermediate (grades 7-8)
- Senior (grades 9-12)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Florida’s Recognition Program involves feedback through:

- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

