



2023

take action SC

annual report



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP



S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control • Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

1-800-768-7348 • takeactionsc.org

Key Accomplishments

**44,061
STUDENTS**

were taught "Action" lessons
in both virtual and classroom
presentations.



**3,123
TEACHERS**

were reached through "Action"
training and presentations.



**375
SCHOOLS**

from 41 of the state's 46
counties participated in the
TASC Program.



**51
TEACHER
WORKSHOPS**

were held to teach
"Action" lessons.



**791
PRESENTATIONS**

from the TASC educators
were made virtually or in the
classroom.



**99%
ACCURACY**

(on average) from students
and teachers during Action
lesson post-tests.



The 2021-2022 School Year at a Glance

Take Action SC (TASC) were excited to be able to visit teachers and students in their classrooms this year. Continuing to present virtually to all grade levels and in-person to third-grade, fifth-grade, seventh-grade and high school students, the educators were able to make presentations to 44,061 students and 1,844 teachers. TASC presentations still include demonstrations on natural resources, recycling, composting, landfills, food waste, energy conservation, litter prevention and used oil recycling as well as virtual field trips. We continue to offer each grade level a unique presentation correlated to that grade's science standards. Teacher workshops were held for all grade levels in various groups with schools, school districts, colleges and universities reaching 1,279 teachers totaling 3,123 teachers through TASC.

*Thank you **SO MUCH**
for your incredible
presentation, we all learned
so much! I loved the slide
show complemented with
your incredible depth of
knowledge and examples,
and your willingness to
engage in questions and
curiosity from us.*

– Richland 2 Teacher

TASC measures the knowledge gained from these presentations and teacher workshops. Each group is given a pre-test and post-test. Pre-test scores on average, soared from 62 percent to 99 percent in post-tests for students. Post-tests scores rocketed to 100 percent accuracy from 79 percent in the pre-tests scores for teachers.

The Student Ambassadors for Sustainability Program with University of South Carolina Sustainable Carolina Program and Coastal Carolina University finished it's third year and had nine successful projects. More about this year's projects is located on the back page. To register your high school group or class for the 2023-2024 year, visit takeactionsc.org.

Thank You Teachers, Educators & Partners

TASC could not be as successful without the teachers and educators in South Carolina! Thank you for welcoming our educators into your classrooms and learning programs. We are grateful for all the positive feedback about the presentations as well!

And an extra special thanks to our TASC educators and partners – sharing your knowledge and passion about reducing, reusing, recycling, composting and all things sustainability is the key to keeping this program going.

Looking Forward

With the newest revised curriculum out last year, our educators are excited to move forward teaching from this curriculum with the S.C. College- and Career-Ready Science Standards 2021. Each lesson includes new resources, videos to compliment the lesson, activities

and printable resources from our website – takeactionsc.org. We are excited to announce we have added a new lesson on battery safety. The new lesson focuses on the different types of batteries and how they work plus safe handling procedures for battery storage and disposal.

TASC will continue to make virtual presentations for all grade levels for the upcoming year as well as and in-person presentations for fifth grade, seventh-grade and high school classrooms. The partnership will continue the Student Ambassadors for Sustainability Program for high school students.

About 'Action'

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 – S.C. Code of Laws § 44- 96-110 – requires that the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) provide a curriculum and resource material on recycling for instruction at the elementary, middle and high school levels. DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling is charged with this responsibility and as part of that obligation to consult with the S.C. Department of Education in the development and offering of these resources.

Action for a cleaner tomorrow: A South Carolina Environmental Curriculum Supplement ("Action") is an award-winning, interdisciplinary, activity-based curriculum supplement. It was created by DHEC in conjunction with a statewide team of teachers, science coordinators, the S.C. Department of Education and other education professionals. "Action" is designed to provide teachers the tools and resources to bring the environment into the classroom. The curriculum supplement originally focused on waste reduction, recycling and composting, but has evolved since its first edition in 1993 to include air, water, litter prevention, energy, natural resources and sustainability lessons for grades K-12.

All lessons are now aligned to the S.C. College- and Career-Ready Science Standards 2021 and when possible contain South Carolina-specific information. Each lesson is reviewed by DHEC staff, subject matter experts as well as education and curriculum specialists to ensure accurate information and proper alignment to the current standards. The curriculum supplement also offers background information, student activities, video links, handouts and links to additional information and resources.

"Action" is marketed throughout South Carolina and offered through teacher workshops, classroom presentations and virtual learning options – all of which are offered at no charge. To learn more, please visit takeactionsc.org or call Katelyn Faretra at (803) 898-1324.

About the TASC Partnership

The Take Action SC Partnership (TASC) brings together organizations dedicated to sharing knowledge, coordinating resources and working together to offer South Carolina's teachers and students the valuable resources to help protect and preserve the environment.

TASC is comprised of DHEC, Coastal Carolina University, PalmettoPride, the S.C. ORS Energy Office, Sustainable Carolina at the University of South Carolina, and Kirkland Smith, S.C. Artist. Each partner brings unique information and perspectives to the partnership.

Your presentation was wonderful! Thank you so much for taking the time to teach our students today. The information complemented our current module perfectly. We would love to have you back.

– Lakeside Middle School Teacher



Thank you for visiting our class. I appreciate the time you spent in our school. I had heard about landfills, but seeing your videos made it come alive! I didn't know that plastic bags tangle in machines at the MRF. I plan to think, not litter, and recycle right.

– Catawba Christian School Teacher

Acknowledgments



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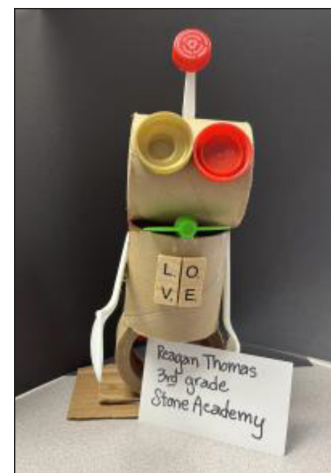
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For more information, please visit scdhec.gov/recycle.

Student Ambassadors for Sustainability Programs

The Student Ambassadors for Sustainability wrapped up its third year with nine successful projects from high school students across the state. These students were mentored by University of South Carolina Sustainable Carolina students and Coastal Carolina University students. Students learned many tips and techniques for sustainable practices but focused on project management skills including leadership, time management, communication best practices and organization.

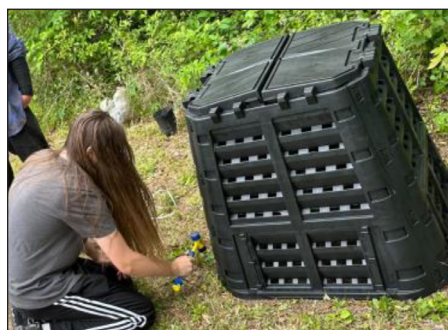
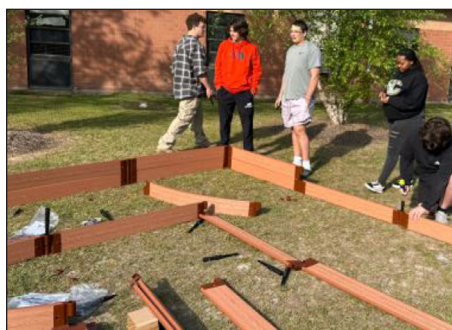
- **JL Mann High School Students** conducted their third annual art contest for K-12 students in Greenville County. The contest website was updated and maintained. Certificates were awarded to winners.
- **Academy for Arts, Science & Technology Students** created a project, in conjunction with the Horry County Recycling Coordinators, to help all high schools in the county reduce contamination in their school's recycling program.
- **Berkeley Middle College High School Student** participated in a litter clean-up in conjunction with Keep Berkeley County Beautiful. Litter prevention education was also presented to neighborhood elementary school students.
- **A Porter Academy Student** created a green newsletter for students and teachers with environmental education, news and sustainability tips.
- **A Cane Bay High School Student** taught other high school students about sustainability through a school-wide assembly. The student included topics of local recycling information, renewable energy in South Carolina, and how to reduce the impact of landfills on our environment.
- **A Home School Student** conducted an experiment to see how incorporating permaculture with gardening would cultivate more or even better produce.
- **A Sumter High School Student** lead the Junior Civitan's to complete several Saturday litter clean-up events in conjunction with Keep Sumter Beautiful. The student also wrote a skit for "Stash the Trash" and recruited several classmates to participate in a video about litter.
- **Walhalla High School Students** organized a planter give-away event mixed with upcycling items. The event was held for the entire student body.
- **Lugoff-Elgin High School Students** started a composting program that complimented a share table program. They also created a pollinator garden.



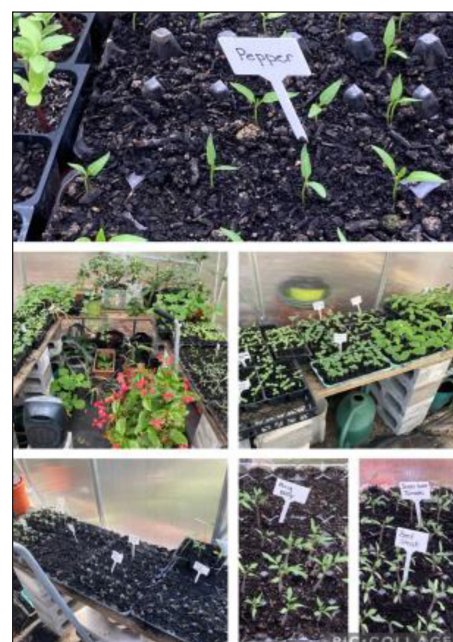
JL Mann High School's Annual Contest Winner



Cane Bay High School's Sustainability Assembly



Participants in Lugoff-Elgin High School's Composting Program and Pollinator Garden



A Home School Student's Permaculture Gardening Project