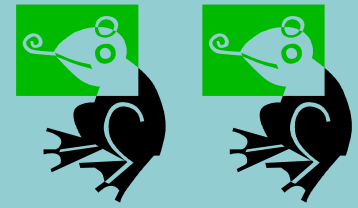


LEEP Into Action:

The Lawrence Environmental Education Project



Who We Are

The Lawrence Environmental Education Project (LEEP) was created to support the proposed Lawrence Community Environmental School (LCES), a proposed public charter school, and to provide education opportunities for all members of the Lawrence community. One of the most important ways we do this is to provide family-friendly educational activities designed to illuminate current environmental issues and encourage participants to leap into action. Action can be as simple as turning off the lights to conserve energy or as active as calling local electrical providers and requesting they purchase energy from renewable sources.

Seasonal Community Field Trips

Weren't field trips fun when you were in school? You were able to be with your friends, have new experiences, learn something new. LEEP Community Field Trips are a family-friendly version of the same thing. Seasonally, we sponsor an outing to a local organization or business highlighting a different area of sustainability. Our inaugural field trip was to the Bowersock Mill & Power Company, a Lawrence-based hydroelectric plant. Potential future projects include a nature walk guided by a local naturalist/book author and a tour of one of our many local organic farms or ranches.

Bowersock Mills & Power Company Tour

The Bowersock Mills & Power Company is the only operating hydroelectric plant in Kansas. Comprised of seven hydroelectric turbines, the plant is capable of producing 2.35 MW of environmentally friendly energy. The energy generated by Bowersock can provide power for 1500 homes in Lawrence.

In 2005, Bowersock received designation as a low impact hydropower plant, which means they have met criteria standards related to protecting resources in eight areas, including water quality, fish, watersheds, endangered species, and cultural resources. For more information on Bowersock, please visit <http://www.bowersockpower.com/>



Participants question Sarah Hill-Nelson, Bowersock owner, about plant operations.



LEEP Community outreach tools included a publicity flyer and action guide.

Seventy-three community members participated in the Bowersock tour, including 22 kids. Two tours were offered, one family-oriented, which included additional activities to reinforce learning and understanding. Participants learned about how hydroelectricity is generated, the advantages and disadvantages of hydroelectric power, how power generated at Bowersock is made available to the local power grid, and the role of the plant in supporting the dam and city water system.

What You Can Do

Get involved with LEEP and LCES - join the board, read a book, attend one of our field trips. Email us at leepintoaction@gmail.com for information about upcoming activities and to find out how you can help your community "LEEP Into Action."

Eco-Literacy Book Club

To help people delve more deeply into the environmental issues we face, LEEP sponsored a book club. Book club members met once a month to discuss books on a wide range of sustainability topics. Our reading list included:

- Big Coal* by Jeff Goodell
- The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollen
- Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold
- Collapse* by Jared Diamond
- Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver
- Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv

Fundraising and Support for LCES

The Lawrence Community Environmental School will act as a steward of the environment and a hub of the Lawrence community by promoting environmental and social responsibility as well as community building. LCES will situate project-based learning within the context of environmental education and create an environment which accommodates individual learning styles and nurtures creativity.

Our connection to LCES is important and LEEP works to raise the profile of the school in the community and to provide avenues for fundraising. LCES is in the proposal stage, but we are hoping for approval by the USD 497 board in the near future.



Rich Foreman, Bowersock plant manager, explains how hydroelectric power works to LEEP tour participants.