



FACT SHEET 2016

Mission

First organized in 1988 and incorporated in 1995, the *Think Earth* Environmental Education Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)3, public-private partnership whose mission is to help communities create and maintain a sustainable environment through education.

The Foundation seeks, initiates, and oversees environmental projects and partnerships among stakeholders in the governmental, business, education, and public sectors. These partnerships result in tangible ways for people to “Think Earth,” that is, for people to:

- conserve natural resources (*e.g., water, energy, habitat*)
- reduce waste (*e.g., recycle, repair, and reuse products*)
- minimize pollution (*e.g., air, water, land*)

Current Projects

Think Earth Online Curriculum. The Foundation’s first project was to develop a broad-based, behavior-focused, environmental curriculum with brief instructional units for each grade level from preschool through middle school. To date, we have provided the *Think Earth* instructional units nationwide to approximately 60,000 teachers who have taught the units to more than 4 million students. Since 2013, we have been updating, revising, and adapting these units to publish free online. Now, teachers everywhere will be able to access the curriculum directly, enabling millions more students to learn to “Think Earth.”

Currently, units for Kindergarten through Grade 3 are available at www.ThinkEarth.org. Units for Grades 4 and 5 as well as two middle-school units on environmental sustainability, air quality, and climate change will soon be available. Approximately 4,000 teachers have registered for the curriculum and more are registering every week on our website.

Think Earth Environmental Surveys. Our interactive environmental surveys—one for home and one for school—have been revised and updated. The surveys are intended for use by students in secondary grades and by adults. When survey answers are entered online, personalized recommendations are generated that explain ways to *conserve energy, save water, and reduce waste and pollution.*

Think Earth, It’s Magic! Assembly Program. An environmental magic show performed by magician Paul Cash emphasizes the *Think Earth* themes while entertaining elementary school students. Teachers at schools in sponsored communities in Southern California also teach the *Think Earth* unit specific for their grade level.

Think Watershed Partnership. The mission of the *Think Watershed* partnership in Southern California is to educate students about the watershed’s impact on the marine environment and to inspire them to become environmental stewards. The project provides field trips on a Floating Lab, which has been operating in Long Beach and Los Angeles Harbors since 1974 through the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Students participate in hands-on, marine-science learning activities that help them see first-hand how human behavior affects the aquatic environment as well as the environment in their own communities. Since 2008, the partnership has equipped the Floating Lab with new science equipment, sponsored field trips for approximately 18,000 students from more than 650 classrooms, and developed classroom curricula for teachers to use before and after the field trip.

Foundation Members

Current Think Earth Board Members

Central Basin Municipal Water District
(Mark Moss, Education Manager)

Los Angeles City Department of Public Works
(Paul Gomez, Public Relations Specialist)

Port of Los Angeles
(Arley Baker, Executive Director, Communications)

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
(Wendy Wert, Public Information)

Water Replenishment District of Southern California
(Tracey Burke, Senior Public Affairs Representative)

Emeritus Members
(Joe Haworth, Chair—Sanitation Districts of L.A. County)
(Ron Ketcham, Treasurer—South Coast AQMD)

Advisors and Consultants

Tracy Edmunds – Social Media

Kay Ice – Curriculum Developer

Fred Niedermeyer, Ed.D. – Education Director

Lynne Russo – Public Relations

Zuno Design Studios – Website



The 1992 President's Environment and Conservation Challenge Award presented to the Think Earth Foundation at the White House

Current & Past Sponsors and Advisors

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Orange County Office of Education

Orange County Sanitation Districts

Port of Los Angeles

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Southern California Edison

Southern California Gas Company

THUMS Long Beach Company

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

USC Sea Grant Program

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Ventura County Air Quality Control District

Ventura County Regional Sanitation District

Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Awards

- ♦ The President's Environment and Conservation Challenge Award
- ♦ The Excellence Award for Curricula from the Solid Waste Association of North America
- ♦ The Clean Air Award for Excellence in Public Education from the South Coast AQMD
- ♦ The Environmental Pride Award from Los Angeles Magazine
- ♦ Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Award for Water Education
- ♦ Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (California) in the Children's Environmental Education category

Contact

To contact us or for more information, go to www.ThinkEarth.org.

www.ThinkEarth.org

• A nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to helping communities develop and maintain a sustainable environment through education