

Going Green and Living Lightly

If everyone lived like the average American, we'd need 4 more planet Earths! Let's "go green" and "live lightly" – sustainable strategies to protect the one and only planet we have. The week begins with making debris boxes to collect and monitor how much trash we generate from meals (always striving for zero-waste!). Guest speaker Evan Bisho, from Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, will share the negative impacts of trash on our island and offer positive solutions. A visit to Reuse Hawai'i and Kaka'ako Beach Park will highlight the value of giving something old a new life rather than throwing it away. At Kualoa Beach Park, we'll discover the marine world, the challenges it faces, and partake in a trash clean-up as a tangible solution. To spark our imaginations on ways to live and build in harmony with the environment, we'll spend a day in the forest and discover the many nature-inspired designs of biomimicry. It's sure to be an exciting week of outdoor adventures, nature crafts and games - we'll have fun exploring nature while minimizing our impact on the environment! By embodying sustainable practices, we actively protect our one and only home, and ensure its health for generations to come.

Schedule:

Day 1 – Introduction to Sustainability: Going Green and Living Lightly. As we learn about environmental issues, we'll brainstorm ways of "going green" and "living lightly" as solutions. We'll partake in a scavenger hunt to highlight the Center's sustainable practices, build personalized trash boxes to monitor our daily trash production, and explore Makiki Stream to discover aquatic life while reflecting on the importance of conserving water.

Day 2 – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and REFUSE: Field Trip to Reuse Hawai'i & Kaka'ako Beach Park. A discussion of the 4 Rs guides our adventures at a public park constructed on top of an old landfill site. We'll also tour Reuse Hawai'i to inspire our own creative reuse of plastic bottle caps to make curtains, lei, mosaics and more. *Don't be late - the bus leaves at 8:45am!*

Day 3 – The Path to Alternative Energy. Fossil fuels power cars and give us electricity, but there are many sustainable alternatives like solar panels and wind turbines! Evan Bisho will share Honolulu's efforts to reduce trash and how it can be turned into energy. We'll design our own water wheels to harness the power of Makiki Stream while we go fishing, and then construct mobiles to catch the wind during our bug-catching adventures in the meadow.

Day 4 – Trash on Land and in the Sea: Field Trip to Kualoa Beach Park. A journey to the windward side to discover marine life and understand the negative impacts of trash on the environment. Our fun fishing adventures are followed by a beach clean-up, and we'll use the rubbish we collect to make a colorful, educational marine debris collage! **Please wear closed-toe shoes, hat, sunscreen, and bring plenty of water. Don't be late - the bus leaves at 8:45am!*

Day 5 – Biomimicry and Solutions for the Future: All-Day Hike in Makiki Valley. We'll discover the wonders of biomimicry by spending a day in the forest imagining the ways nature can teach us about sustainable living. Back at the Center, we'll design our very own solar ovens, taking lessons from nature's adaptations for heating and insulation. **Please wear hiking shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Have your backpack ready for the trail with healthy snacks (bring at least 2), a big lunch, and plenty of water.*