

NOVEMBER 2011

the Carbon TIMEs



Andy's Message

Welcome to our first monthly Carbon TIME newsletter! And thanks to Hannah Miller for being the organizer and editor. We will be sending out a letter at the beginning of each month to help us all keep up with what's happening in the Carbon TIME project, with new information about what project staff, teachers, and students are doing. Two big things we are working on now are finishing the pilot versions of the units and planning the fall workshops. We have three units up and available now on the curriculum materials website (<http://bit.ly/rtipPc>): *Systems and Scale*, *Animals*, and *Plants*. Two more units will be available during November: *Decomposers* and *Ecosystems*. We hope to have the last unit, *Human Energy Systems*, up in December. We are looking forward to seeing everyone, to sharing our new stuff, and to hearing in person about what you are doing!

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Upcoming Events & Important Dates

KBS Workshop

Nov 7

For Michigan teachers.

Distance Workshop

Date: TBA

For teachers in Maryland, Colorado, and California.

Seattle Workshops

Nov 8, Nov 17

Roosevelt (11/8), Bellevue (11/17), and Nathan Hale (TBA).





What's New on the Website and Wiki

Website: The *Systems and Scale* unit is complete, and all materials are posted on the website. The *Animals* and *Plants* units are posted, however it is noted that additional modifications will appear in the near future. Media files for each unit are saved in a zip file for easy downloading, but are now also available for download individually.

Wiki: A new wiki is currently under construction. The new wiki, which will hopefully be more user-friendly than the first one, will be ready to go by the November 7th Michigan Teachers workshop at KBS. The workshop will include a tutorial on how to use the new wiki. The wiki will be the primary way teachers provide feedback on the units and investigations, so we're hoping by the end of the workshops everyone feels comfortable using it!

Materials Update

Most of the materials have either been sent out, or are on their way. If you have purchased any materials, please mail your receipts to Staci for reimbursement. If you would like to order any additional materials, let Staci know what you would like, and the exact quantity (sharpst5@msu.edu).

Reasons Why I Love Teaching Hands-On Science

1. Because it gives me an excuse to have loud, exciting lessons.
2. Because I can take students outside on sunny days with my morning coffee.
3. Because I have an excuse to fly paper airplanes, throw super balls down the hallway, and even play with ramps and toy cars during instructional time.
4. Because I can hoard science materials in my classroom, and keep asking for more.
5. Because other teachers thank me when I clean out the staff refrigerator looking for moldy items for decomposition units.
6. Because strange odors that seep into the hallway keep administrators and others from wanting to come in and bother me.
7. Because I have to wear jeans and dress down more often than other teachers.

-Marcia Angle, TIR

Dear Staci

Supplies

Dear Staci: Do I need supplies for the Ecological Carbon Cycling unit or the Human Energy Systems unit?

Staci: We are still in the process of developing these units, so we don't have an answer for this question yet. We will keep you posted!



Tapes

Dear Staci: When would you like my interview and class lesson tapes?

Staci: As soon as possible!



Mailing Things

Dear Staci: How do I mail things to MSU?

Staci: You can request postage and padded envelopes for small items such as the tapes. For larger items, you can take the contents to FedEx, and bill all charges to the project at MSU. When filling out the packing slip, use the following information

FedEx account number: 0489-0097-6

Internal Billing Reference: RC062349



Gift Cards

Dear Staci: How can I get gift cards for my students who participate in student interviews?

Staci: If you need a gift card for your student interviews, you can order them from Staci. Amazon and Target \$10 gift cards are available. Please remember to have the student complete the gift card receipt and send it to Staci at MSU.

TRIVIA QUESTION: What O word describes oxygen that has three molecules instead of two?

<http://science360.gov/radio/>
24/7 Science Radio! The National Science Foundation just released this program last month and it looks like an incredible resource on everything from biofuels to nanotechnology. This website provides internet streams and podcasts with contributors including NSF, Scientific American, Discovery, Nature, NPR, AAAS and more. Science360 Radio is the latest addition to NSF's Science360 Network,

<http://www.science360.gov>, which includes a STEM video library.

<http://www.npr.org/news/specials/climate/video/>

Videos from Robert Krulwich's five-part cartoon series, *Global Warming: It's All About Carbon*. This contains entertaining videos about making and breaking carbon bonds in the context of global warming.

Reminders

- Please send in pre-interview tapes at your earliest convenience.
- Administrator consent letters are needed from all teachers for the new academic year. Please send these in as soon as possible!
- If you need support with online testing or uploading class lists, please let us know—we can help!
- Remember to video tape the selected lesson from each unit. Lessons that should be taped are:
 - *Systems and Scale* unit: Activity 4.4: Accounting for Results with Claims, Evidences, and Reasoning
 - *Plants* unit: Activity 5.2 Modeling Photosynthesis
 - *Animals* unit: Activity 5.2 Investigating the Missing Mass: Initial Explanation and Prediction

Project Contributors:

Charles W. (Andy) Anderson: Principal Investigator, Michigan State University
Marcia Angle: Teacher in Residence, Lawton Middle School
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Carbon Comics

Trivia Answer: OZONE