

THINK BLUE TO GO GREEN

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Think Blue To Go Green – What Does It Mean?

Going green means taking action to protect our planet, but if you look at earth from space, there's more blue than green. In fact, more than 70% of the earth's surface is covered by water, so taking care of the blue is a big part of going green. At the Oklahoma Aquarium, we're spreading the message: Think Blue To Go Green. Simple things we do on land can hurt our oceans. For example, washing a car in a driveway, sends soapy water into the street and then the closest body of water, like a creek. All bodies of water connect and end up in the ocean. Fish can't breathe with too much soap in their water. Going to a car wash instead, sends the soapy water into a drain to be cleaned, or recycled at the water treatment plant.

Along with conserving and protecting water, recycling is a big part of Think Blue To Go Green. Do you use plastic bottles or bags? Billions are used every year, but as little as 10% are recycled. Plastics don't break down like food waste or paper. That garbage biodegrades, or breaks down into the soil. Plastics photodegrade, or break down into smaller fragments which can be harmful to aquatic life. 80% of the garbage in the ocean starts out on land, so a plastic bag in Oklahoma, really can end up out to sea. These are just a couple of examples, how many ways can you Think Blue To Go Green?

Activities

Look at a picture of the earth from space and notice all the blue. Now cover all the blue areas with black or gray construction paper. Now what does the earth look like? Find out what BPA stands for and describe how it is to people, especially children. Oklahoma Aquarium Challenge: Individually or as a class, collect all the plastic bottles you use in one week. The next week, try using an aluminum or BPA free plastic bottle filled with filtered tap water as much as possible, while still collecting plastic bottles you do use. Compare the two piles. How much of a difference did one change make?

"Think Blue To Go Green – What Does It Mean?" is just one of the programs presented by the Oklahoma Aquarium Education Department. Log onto www.okaquarium.org to learn more about scheduling a field trip for your class to Oklahoma's only ocean!



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