Director's Message

As an organization focused on environmental advocacy and education, we understand the feeling of uncertainty many of us are experiencing regarding the upcoming school year. Clean Valley Council is dedicated to keeping our education efforts going, and we have been working hard to pivot to meet the current needs of our schools.

We are learning about new methods of at-home education, considering the needs of the students and their parents at home with them, and working to ensure students will still be able to learn about important environmental topics. Right now we are especially grateful to live in this time when we can use technology to collaborate with teachers, students, and parents when we can't meet in person. How fortunate we are to have these opportunities to still teach and communicate!

The new avenue of education we are most excited to announce is the all new CVC Virtual Environmental Academy, created during this time of isolation to ensure our lessons can still reach students at home. The first lesson featured on our virtual platform will be our Stream School program, and we cannot wait to unveil it! Thank you to all who support us in continuing our mission of environmental education, especially during times like these.

See you outside!

Mary Ann
Executive Director
Local Highlight: Habitat For Humanity

Habitat for Humanity was able to begin work on their "Home for Good" project in June, despite setbacks due to the pandemic. The lot was cleared in December, but construction was halted for 6 months. After 2 months of work, the project should be complete in about 2 more months.

We are grateful for the work Habitat for Humanity does in Virginia and want to highlight their progress!

Read more

Spotlight: Roanoke River Currents Newsletter

Check out the Summer 2020 Roanoke River Currents Newsletter created by our friends at Roanoke City Stormwater. In it, you can find helpful information about their events including the CAPA Heat Watch project and Tinker Creek Cleanup.

Click here to read!

Educator's Corner

Sustainable Shopping

We can easily become accustomed to the ease of shopping, how we can
simply go to a store or a website to purchase anything we want or need. However, with the constant supply and seemingly endless choices, it becomes important to consider the impact shopping may have on the planet.

Here are some simple considerations when clothes shopping and some ways to change shopping habits to be a bit more eco-friendly.

**Check the tag.** Lots of crucial information is in plain sight on a clothing tag. Important items to check for:

- **Where was the garment made?** Look for where it was made. How far did it have to travel to get to you? What are the environmental practices of the factory? Many tons of pollutants enter waterways and ecosystems due to dumping of waste from clothing factories in other nations.
- **What is this garment made of?** What are the materials in this piece of clothing? Is it made of natural or synthetic fibers? Many synthetic fibers are petroleum products and require the use of non-renewable resources. These fibers can also release tiny particles called microplastics into the water when you wash them. Natural fibers like cotton and linen, on the other hand, require water and land to grow. It is not a straightforward choice, but the materials in your clothing are important to consider.

**Consider Second-Hand.** Clothing is not doomed to be a wasteful industry, and one way to have a huge impact on reducing clothing waste is to buy used clothes.

- **Find local or online thrift stores.** Local thrift and consignment stores can be like an adventure to shop in- you never know what you might find! If you are looking for something specific, however, there are a multitude of online thrift stores which connect you with people selling clothing of any type and size all over the world. Some of the most popular sites are ThredUp, Poshmark, and Depop, but there are plenty of other fantastic sources of online used clothing.
- **Look for clothes made of recycled materials.** You don't only have to buy used clothing in its original form. Many clothing companies, including Levi's, are incorporating recycled textiles and even recycled plastic bottles into their new clothing. One fantastic company is Indosole, a shoe company based in Indonesia. They take used motorcycle tires from the landfill and use them to make the soles of their shoes!
A special thanks to the municipalities helping us continue our mission by going into classrooms and hosting workshops that encourage environmental stewardship.