January 2002

TO: Environmental clubs and classes
High school teachers and community youth leaders

FROM: Will Snyder, UMass Extension
for the Earth Connection steering committee

Has there ever been a more critical time
- to explore what it means to be a citizen of a community and the world?
- to understand the science and the politics behind environmental issues?
- to get connected to ourselves, to each other, and to the Earth?
- to learn skills for positive action?

Earth Connection 2002 is a resource for energy and ideas, new skills and knowledge, and new friends who also care about the environment. EC02 is a conference for high school-age young people and their advisors, held on the UMass Amherst campus, sponsored by UMass Extension. This year’s program offers hands-on workshops, inspiring presentations, roundtable discussions, and campus exploration.

For young people, Earth Connection is a chance to share with each other, explore new ideas, investigate issues that affect their communities and the world, practice environmental action skills, and discover environmental resources at UMass Amherst.

For educators who advise Earth Connection teams, the conference is a chance to share strategies, resources, and questions with each other, and to get to know key environmental resource people and programs at UMass and across the state.

Earth Connection 2002 will be a ONE DAY EVENT on Friday, March 29 at UMass Amherst. Details can be found at the conference website: http://www.umassk12.net/~econnect. First priority in registration goes to teams planning to stay for the entire event.

Registration for this year’s Earth Connection includes a full day of activities, campus parking, and all snacks and meals. Registration is $50.00 per person (youth or adult) if received by check by Friday, March 1. Registration is $80 per person by purchase order and for all forms received after March 1. Scholarships are available. Call Will Snyder at 413/545-3876.

Don’t Delay! Conference space is limited this year and Early Registration is due March 1.
Here's a quick checklist for registering teams:

By Friday, March 1:

☐ Check the Earth Connection's world wide web site for conference details, including schedule, workshop topics, photos from past years, and updates at http://www.umassk12.net/~econnect.

☐ Recruit your Earth Connection team up to six members who will do the best job of gathering information and sharing it with others when they return from the conference.

☐ Arrange for payment of registration fees for your team. Checks should be made payable to the University of Massachusetts. Early Registration fee is $50 per person (youth or adult) and must be received by Friday, March 1! Registration by purchase order or received after March 1 is $80.00 per person. Scholarship help is available. Call Will Snyder at 413/545-3876.

☐ Begin to plan your roundtable. Roundtables are freewheeling small group discussions around a place, a question, or an idea of your choice. Every team at EC 2002 is expected to plan a roundtable for the conference (see the EC web page for a Roundtable Planning Guide). Roundtables are a great way to introduce others to your community, to your ideas and concerns, or to a project that you are doing. Advisors have their own roundtables.

☐ Complete the conference registration form and mail with registration fees (checks payable to University of Massachusetts) to:

        Earth Connection  
        UMass Extension  
        Draper Hall - UMass  
        40 Campus Center Way  
        Amherst MA 01003-9244

EARLY REGISTRATION forms and fees must be received by Friday, March 1. Priority goes to teams planning to stay for the whole time. Space is limited and we expect a full conference.

REGISTRATION FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE AFTER FRIDAY, MARCH 15.

WHEN YOUR REGISTRATION IS RECEIVED, you will be sent final registration instructions, including Health/Permission/Agreement forms to be completed by each participant with his/her parents, a final workshop listing, and workshop sign-up form.

Questions? Contact:

        Will Snyder       
        Conference Coordinator  
        413/545-3876  
        wsnyder@umext.umass.edu