

EcoLiteracy

Literacy comes in so many different forms! In this issue, we'd like to introduce the idea of: Ecoliteracy.

Ecoliteracy is ecological or environmental literacy. Having ecoliteracy means:



1. Caring about everything that lives and understanding what plants, animals, insects, and sea creatures need to survive. This helps us see the world as a *system*, instead of bits and pieces, and to place ourselves within that bigger picture
2. Learning about the connections that hold the world together, and about the place that humans have within the chain
3. Understanding how the choices we make affect the creatures around us and what we can do to minimize our impact on the world

One way to help improve your ecoliteracy is to apply the principles to something you're already familiar with. Start with your home, by thinking about it like an office with many jobs that have to work together - how well one thing does its job affects everything else! For example:

- Investing in certain home repairs (proper insulation, new windows, etc.) helps to save money on heat and electricity usage
- Reducing your compost means finding creative ways to use the food you typically buy, reducing both your input (the amount of groceries coming into your house) and your output (the amount of garbage leaving your house)
- Taking shorter showers and reusing the water you use to rinse your fruit/vegetables saves water and uses less energy - use the water for your plants!

Want to know more? Check out this document from The Co-operators:

<https://www.naturalstep.ca/sites/default/files/sustainability-at-home-canada-the-cooperators-standard.pdf>

