

ENVIR ACTION



April 22nd Earth Day

Kids' poster contest

Kids in grade six and lower can use the attached page, or any drawing paper, to **create an environment poster** and then mail it to CUPE.

- **Show what the environment means to you.**
- Use the drawing as a chance to **discuss how important our environment is.**
- **Show possible actions** and commitments your community could take to make our towns and cities healthy and sustainable. (See the back page for facts and ideas).

Here's what CUPE's National Environment Committee will do with poster submissions:

- All entries will be eligible to **win cool environmentally-friendly prizes!**
- Your drawing could **appear on cupe.ca.**

Contest Deadline: Friday, May 27, 2011.

Mail to: CUPE's Health and Safety Branch,
1375 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 0Z7



Email drive Action for older students

CUPE wants all students – especially students in higher grades (7 and above) – **to take action on Earth Day.** We're calling on these students to email the federal government to call for more action on environmental issues. **What would you say to the government if you could ask it to do more on the environment?**

CUPE will forward all emails to the federal government. Please address emails to either Prime Minister Stephen Harper or Environment Minister Peter Kent or both.

Send emails to mfirth@cupe.ca with the subject line *Student Email Drive*. Please sign with your first name only in your email.

CUPE will write up a report on this campaign and publicize any response that we receive from the government.

Enviro facts for Earth Day



Climate change

- 2010 in Canada was the warmest year on record, with temperatures 3°C higher than average.
- All around the world, increased floods, heat waves, droughts, and more intense storms are linked to climate change.



Air quality

Pollutants in our air from transportation, industrial, agricultural and other sources harm human health, environmental quality and all life.



Waste/over-consumption

Waste and over-consumption are linked to increasing greenhouse gases, air, water and soil contamination.



Water

Bottled water causes serious environmental harm. Less than 50 per cent of bottled water containers are recycled in Canada. Each year, 17 million barrels of oil are used in the United States to produce 31.2 billion litres of bottled water.

Solutions

- Workers can **call for investment in a new green economy** where jobs can be quality union jobs that reduce our harmful impact on the environment.
- **Form workplace environment committees** where workers offer solutions to cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste and make other improvements.
- Audit or **assess your workplace** to see where it can be made greener.
- **Change the way you get to work**, go to school and get around town by walking, biking or taking public transportation.
- Drink only **tap water**.
- **Buy local**.
- **Take action** in your community to drive environmental change at all levels of government and society.

Want more ideas? Look at these CUPE publications:

- *Healthy, Clean and Green: A Workers' Action Guide to a Greener Workplace*
- *Water Connects Us All*

cupe.ca/environment