

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

VISION

The Department of Natural Resources envisions a Missouri where people live and work in harmony with our natural and cultural resources; make decisions that result in a quality environment; and a place where we can prosper today and in the future.

MISSION

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to preserve, protect, restore and enhance Missouri's natural, cultural and energy resources and to inspire their enjoyment and responsible use for present and future generations.

VALUES

We take seriously our responsibility of stewardship to protect and enhance the environment in which we work and live, and will consider all aspects of the environment when making decisions. In providing public service we value:

- Integrity and excellence in all we do
- Openness to every point of view
- Diversity in people and approach

THE ENERGY CENTER

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center is a nonregulatory state agency that works to ensure adequate energy supplies, protect the environment and stimulate the economy through energy efficiency and renewable energy resources and technologies. The Energy Center's programs help citizens, businesses, schools and government agencies implement energy-efficient practices that reduce demand on our energy resources and save money. The Energy Center also supports the use of renewable and alternative energy technologies that provide cleaner power to improve the quality of air and water.

In 1992, the Missouri Statewide Energy Study recommended that Missouri expand programs to increase awareness of and interest in energy resource issues among Missouri's youth. The energy study specifically recommended that Missouri "implement a comprehensive energy curriculum in the state's elementary and secondary schools." An energy curriculum should focus on teaching such topics as the relationships between energy, the environment and the economy; the scientific basis for traditional and

alternative energy sources; policy implications for government and others; and basic energy management.

In 2001, the Governor's Energy Policy Task Force final report recommended that Missouri should include energy education in the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools, and encourage it in other education institutions. The Energy Center supports the final recommendation of the Governor's Energy Policy Task Force.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Education Unit offers courses and materials for educators concerning the use of natural Resources. Environmental education involves a multidisciplinary process that focuses on critical analysis of environmental issues by gathering information; organizing information; interpreting information to draw conclusions and make inferences; and making a personal commitment to responsible action.

Students need to understand that decisions made with regard to controversial issues often have profound ramifications for their lives and the lives of future generations. Environmental education provides students with skills on *how to think, not what to think*.

Teacher training and teaching materials are the keys to meeting objectives for environmental education. More information on educational resources and courses provided for teachers by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources can be found at our Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov.