

U.S. CONSULATE
GENERAL IN
THESSALONIKI



DID YOU KNOW :

The recycling symbol you see today with three arrows in the triangle shape was designed in 1970 as part of a contest sponsored by the Container Corporation of America (CCA). As a special event for the original Earth Day in 1970 (started by John Mc Connell), CCA conducted a contest for graphic art students to design a symbol representing paper recycling. The winning entry was submitted by Gary Dean Anderson, a 5-year architecture student at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Going Greener 2
by Liana Gouta

Spotlight : The 2
American Farm
School

Q & A with the 3
Consul General

Consular Advice 3
and Tips

Cultural & 4
Upcoming Events



Northern Pages

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MAY 6, 2009

Earth Day 2009



Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, marks a day of awareness for the Earth's environment. Earth Day is currently celebrated by more than 500 million people around the world, including national governments in 175 countries. Founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970, Earth Day began as a grassroots campaign for the environment, spreading from coast-to-coast across university campuses in the United States. Earth Day is not a national holiday in any country and does not have a central organization. Past Earth Days have led to movements and protests, paving the way for more recycling and new regulations concerning the environment. Every year, several different programs

and events are organized around the world on Earth Day. This year, the U.S. Consulate in Thessaloniki commemorated Earth Day by hosting a conference call between the United States,

the Balkans, and the Middle East concerning water conservation, an increasingly important issue around the world.

In the image below: Earth Day Teleconference



Earth Hour

On March 28, 2009 over 88 countries and more than 4,000 cities around the world shut off their non-essential lights and other electrical appliances from 20:00 to 21:00 for Earth Hour. This event organized by the World Wildlife Foundation aims to bring awareness to climate change. In 2007, WWF and the Sydney Morning Herald

inaugurated Earth Hour, with 2.2 million participants in Sydney, Australia. Since then, involvement has increased significantly, with new contributors such as Greece, who ranked second in participation with 484 cities and towns, or 11.2 million people. This resulted in the decrease of 484 MWh, a decrease of 43.15 Wh per capita. The U.S. Consulate in



Thessaloniki did its part by encouraging its staff and employs to turn off lights and electronics during this event.

Going Greener

In just a few years big changes have taken place and reversals in zeitgeists and perceptions so that discussions regarding the environment that used to be considered a little bit romantic or activist and at any rate in the margins or even competitive to development now are in the epicenter of economy, development and politics.

This is simply because the consequences of the climate change are the biggest threat that humanity faces today. Discussions regarding the environment are no longer local but global in nature. And instead of an

"impediment for development" are now considered a "requirement for development". New terms have been added in our daily life such as the "carbon footprint," the environmental consequences on the "life cycle" and the principle that "the polluter pays."

We all ought to realize the changes occurring around us, to synchronize our pace with the new realities and through these to see the opportunities for a new model of lifestyle and development. Information certainly plays a key role to such a transition, as well as increasing awareness among

all authorities and civilians of all ages and especially the children.

by Liana Gouta

Chemical Engineer
Consultant of Energy, Environment
and Development



<http://thessaloniki.usconsulate.gov>



Spotlight :



AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL Thessaloniki Greece

The American Farm School in Thessaloniki is a private, non-profit educational institution founded in 1904 to serve the rural population of Greece and the Balkans. Major divisions include the Secondary School, the Dimitris Perrotis College, the department of Lifelong Learning, and a cultural exchange program for U.S. and international high school students known as Greek Summer.

The founder, Dr. John Henry House, expressed the School's commitment to a sustainable environment that rings true to

this day, "I believe in a permanent agriculture, a soil that grows richer, rather than poorer, from year to year. I believe in living not for self, but for others, so that future generations will not suffer on account of my farming methods."

More than a century later, the American Farm School addresses pressing environmental concerns on many fronts. Students and staff who reside on campus recycle paper, glass, aluminum and plastic with the help of special bins and collection by a private recycling company. Students use mechanical insect traps to control pests in their greenhouse crops of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc., instead of chemical pesticides of any kind. Through a research grant from the Athens-based Bodossaki Foundation, wastewater from the farming operation is purified



Insect Traps

and reused with the help of reed beds grown in cement cylinders around ponds located on the Educational Farm. And, in a well known program continued since 1922, drought resistant olive trees, umbrella pines, oleaners and bay trees are planted by students on the annual Memorial Tree Planting Day. Friends of the American Farm School and members of the Thessaloniki and Athens public honor loved ones who have passed away by joining the students in planting trees in their loved ones' memory.

By Dr. William McGrew



Reed Bed Technology