



TAKING ACTION

LEVEL IVA- ESTUARY STEWARDSHIP

GOAL

Students will make a commitment to become good stewards of the estuary by working to improve and enhance its resources.

Environmental Stewardship...

"The concept of responsible caretaking based upon the premise that we do not own resources, but are managers of resources, and are responsible to future generations for their condition."

*Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education,
Wisconsin Dept. of Instruction, 1998*

OBJECTIVES, students will:

1. Design and conduct a stewardship project that will protect or enhance the estuary's resources.
2. Complete an **ESTUARY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT** report documenting the program and evaluating the outcomes.

SETTING

Classroom preparation, implementation site varied

MATERIALS

Supportive materials from Levels I-III

ESTUARY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT REPORT included in this unit

BACKGROUND

In this unit students will design and implement a project to help raise community support for preserving estuary resources. The project should get students and community members actively involved in a hands-on activity that benefits the estuary.

While the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program wants to encourage all types of coastal wetland studies, it is especially interested in creating an incentive for students to progress from study to action and have students put what they have learned into practice in real world situations.

This unit is designed to give students the opportunity to become "teachers" and share the knowledge they've learned about the estuary to help others become good stewards of estuary resources.

ACTIVITIES

In order to qualify to adopt an estuary, students must demonstrate they have conducted at least one **ESTUARY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT** to help protect or improve the quality of an estuary. The size of the action project is not critical. What is important is

that students translate what they have learned about the estuary into action by getting involved in protecting the estuary.

The project may be designed to help solve an issue identified in unit Level III-A or . implement the Best Management Practice identified in unit Level III-B.

Examples of Estuary Stewardship Projects

- Conduct a coastal wetland and/or estuary education program for your school and/or community. This could include educational displays, student guided estuary walks, presentations, estuary field guides, a website about the estuary, a display of artwork to increase appreciate of the estuary's environment.
- Work with local elected officials to establish "estuary identification" signs along roadways or bridges and official recognition of the estuary's importance to the community.
- Conduct an Estuary Clean-Up Day.
- Patrol the wetland/estuary on a routine basis to look for evidence of dumping and other illegal activities.
- Other student-directed activities that protect the estuary
Tips for what you can do to help protect your estuary, wetlands, and watersheds <http://www.epa.gov/ow/kids/you.html> or <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/earthday/earthday.html>.

Once the class decides on the Estuary Stewardship Project they want to conduct, they will be responsible for designing and implementing their project.

Students should use **ESTUARY STEWARDSHIP REPORT** attached to this activity to help guide the development of their project. This report must be completed to document the student's work. The Estuary Stewardship Project Report is attached to this activity and will be submitted with the Adopt An Estuary application.

LEVEL IVA ESTUARY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT



1. Name of the Estuary: _____
2. Date of Stewardship Project: _____

2. Briefly describe the Stewardship Project. Your description should include:
 - a. A detailed description of what was done and by whom
 - b. When and where the project was conducted
 - c. Why this particular stewardship project is important to the estuary
 - d. How this activity improves or maintains the estuary's health

Attach any photos, news clippings, letters, etc. that document the activities that were conducted