

It's Project HAWG PEN

Earth Day Cleanup Planned By WPCC

In coordination with a nationwide movement to observe Earth Day next Wednesday, April 22, students and staff of Western Piedmont Community College are planning several projects to focus attention on local pollution problems.

A recent State Board of Health solid waste disposal survey of the district composed of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and McDowell Counties estimated that there are

61,394 people living in this area with no disposal service. These people produce an estimated 22,447 tons of refuse annually.

Part of this tonnage is being burned or buried on farms, but a large part is cluttering our farms, woodlands, streams, and highways.

Another contributor to the accumulation of large quantities

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Earth Day Cleanup Planned

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of solid wastes is the fact that many of our modern packaging materials - plastics, aluminum and the like will not burn or decay.

Considering these facts, the students at WPCC decided the major emphasis for April 22 should be problems of solid waste disposal and it would be called Project HAWG PEN (Haul Away Waste and Garbage Prevent Environmental Nastiness).

Concerned students and staff will spend the day collecting trash in various predetermined areas of the county to emphasize the need for such clean-up activities to be conducted by every citizen in the county.

The students will transport the trash collected to a depression on the Western Piedmont campus where it will remain for a time with an explanatory sign as a reminder to all who pass of the need for solving the problem of solid waste disposal in our area.

Permanent "No Dumping" signs supplied by Burke County will be erected at habitually used dumping sites. Temporary signs will be left at other areas indicating that the area has been cleaned up by students of WPCC and requesting that dumping be stopped.

Before and after photographs will be made of the areas cleaned. Plans are also being made to take follow-up photographs of these areas over an extended period of time.

A cook-out sponsored by the College will be held Wednesday evening for those participating in Project HAWG PEN.

Other activities planned in connection with Earth Day are radio presentations by students, newspaper and television publicity, and a narrated program of color slides taken around the county of some of our pollution problems.

Western Piedmont is urging civic clubs, other organizations and concerned individuals of Burke County to join the fight and initiate similar projects of their own.

As Laurance S. Rockefeller stated, "Once the air was clean, the water good. We could enjoy the smell of the earth; we could walk the land. It is incredible what we have done to America in 200 years. Too much of it is now noisy, cluttered, ugly and dirty. As citizens, we need a new commitment to clean up, enhance and restore our country, and use our natural resources wisely."



WPCC Students In Earth Day Cleanup

Students at Western Piedmont Community College are observing Earth Day today with Project HAWG PEN (Haul Away Waste and Garbage, Prevent Environmental Nastiness). Students and staff are spending the day collecting trash in various areas of the county to emphasize the need for such clean-up activities to be conducted by every citizen. Here

students are transporting the trash collected to a depression on the WPCC campus where it will remain for a time with an explanatory sign as a reminder to all who pass about the need for solving the problem of solid waste disposal in this area. The local observance is part of a nationwide movement to observe Earth Day today. (Staff photo by Benny Orders)