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Topic: Fostering Behavior Change for Sustainability through Reading

Rationale:

I teach REA 0003 in the College Prep Dept. Many of my students have declared architecture as their major. Through the reading selections that I provide for these students, I try to foster change in their behavior about the topic of sustainability. I provide readings to make them more aware of what is being done in this field today and to encourage them to participate more fully in projects of sustainability as students as well as later on in their career field.

Materials:

Individual copies of the reading handout "Shipping Containers Could Be Dream Homes For Thousands." This is an article that was found on CNN 9-24-08.

Since Miami is a port, it is easy for the students to visualize what these containers are like; however, copies of the prototype-home (interior and exterior) will also be given to the students.

Individual copies of vocabulary list.

Objectives:

- a. To promote student awareness of these homes that are being built by adapting recycled shipping containers.
- b. To challenge the students through this example to think of other innovative solutions to providing inexpensive housing for the people who most need it.
- c. To inspire the students to act in ways that will contribute to sustainability.
- d. To encourage the students in the use of recycled materials, such as these shipping containers.
- e. To increase vocabulary skills through the reading of this selection, paying particular attention to vocabulary that refers to sustainability.

Procedure:

- a. Have the students look up the assigned vocabulary words from the vocabulary list.
- b. Discuss the vocabulary assignment in class.
- c. To motivate the students, share the background of the article:
In 2007, a small group of students at Notre Dame University came up with the plan to use these recycled shipping containers as inexpensive homes for poor communities.

- d. Have the students read the article silently, taking notes to be used in a class discussion.
- e. Discuss as a group the information found in the article. Focus on the advantages and disadvantages of using these containers.

Evaluation:

- a. Have the students look up additional information about this particular company (PFNC) online, and write up a one-page paper about their findings. Students will receive a grade for this paper.
- b. Students will be evaluated on their participation in the discussion.
- c. Students will be given a vocabulary quiz on the words studied for this selection.