

**The intensity of a summer camp experience offers educators an opportunity to address complex topics in depth. Environmental awareness and concern for the health of the planet is one of many.**

**Founded in 1961 in the midst of the civil rights movement, Windsor Mountain has always felt a responsibility to incorporate modern issues into the fun at camp, and to cultivate a sense of concern and care among our campers.**

**Living a simple lifestyle and being in touch with nature is part of the *classic* summer camp experience; this rustic reality helps us lower barriers and open our minds to new possibilities . Swimming in a lake, walking in the dark, seeing the stars, the milky way, feeling the rain, the mud, birds and bugs...These experiences help us respect and appreciate the natural environment around us and breed a willingness to make sacrifices to protect it.**

**A fundamental educational goal of the Windsor Mountain experience is to engage each camper in the topic of environmental preservation.**

**Recycling on the Windsor Mountain campus began in the 1980's; we began with teaching awareness about thoughtful use of electricity, simple paper and glass recycling, and raising pigs on food waste. Our initial efforts have taken root and branched into many areas of camp life. Our efforts are multi-faceted:**

**On a camp-wide level and as part of our curriculum:**

- Recycling plastic, metal, glass, paper and cardboard are obvious and fundamental.**
- We pay attention to electricity use and the daily clean up report recognizes living units who forgot to turn out their lights. Often light bulbs are confiscated when not respected and are compact-fluorescent in as many places as possible.**
- Folk music is a classic part of camp and our repertoire highlights traditional songs that raise awareness about waste, attention to, care for and appreciation of our environment.**
- In an effort to prevent food waste we eat cafeteria style and those serving the meals are sensitive to camper's varying appetites! We encourage students to try new things and remind everyone that once everyone is served they can always come back for seconds!**
- Naturally the kitchen staff are careful to manage their food resources carefully, rotation stock, keeping an eye to shelf life and serving leftovers instead of throwing away excess.**
- Everyone at camp takes turns cleaning up after meals; wiping down tables and counters, washing trays, supervising food waste being properly disposed of and weighed. This shared connection to the work and the**

destination of food waste leads to a heightened awareness among all community members.

- Food waste is weighed and tracked at the end of each meal. Our mantra is “love food and hate waste.”
- All campers take turns handling compost, weighing food waste and helping garden for food production.
- Our garden is planted with the intention to cultivate for our salad bar and other kitchen use and is strategically located in the heart of our campus so we walk through it on our way to and from our living units and activities.
- At morning meeting our community is informed of how we did the previous day with respect to food waste and garden progress.
- Cooking is also an immensely popular camp activity and we believe that interest in, excitement about and respect for cooking leads to more thoughtful and appreciative consumption. Kitchen and outdoor cooking classes are part of our activity offerings. Solar baking and food dehydrating is particularly popular.
- We strive to connect to our local community and bring non-compostable food waste to our neighborhood pig farmer. We volunteer labor on local farms and purchase locally, particularly corn for bbq nights.
- We are searching for more opportunities to purchase consistent quantities of local food. We bake the majority of our own bread.
- Speaking of local, our Wilderness Tripping department used to travel long distances to access the White Mountains. In the past summers we have economized fuel consumption and found stunning local opportunities, often requiring no transportation at all.
- Similarly, waterskiing and other high fuel, high noise and high impact activities are not part of our curriculum (for many reasons including our desire to respect our primary source lake.)

#### Off season decisions:

- Our maintenance director drops, mills and constructs using trees from our land. Our most recent structure is built post and beam style, completely of campus wood. Our next cabin will be built in the same fashion; materials are currently being collected and construction is schedule for fall '09.
- Our marketing DVD is packaged with recycled paper.
- On the rare occasion that we use paper plates in the dining hall, they are compostable and made of fiber derived from sugar cane and reeds.
- Showers, toilets and sinks are installed with low flow fittings and new appliances are purchased for optimized low water usage.
- Where possible lights are set with timers and are motion activated.
- Detergents cleaning supplies are purchased with an eye to “green”
- We are exploring solar, wind and even hydro electric possibilities at camp.