

Delaware - Arad/Tamar Eco Connection

On Wednesday, December 2, 2009, AEA launched the second part of a three year international program called Eco Connection. The program is facilitated by the organization "Sviva Israel" (www.svivaisrael.org), a non profit organization, sponsored by the Partnership 2000 program. Sviva Israel is dedicated to connecting young people through environmental education and action. The director of Sviva Israel, Mr. Carmi Wisemon visited AEA, spending time training AEA staff, conducting introductory class and activities with our 3-6 grade students, and conducting planning sessions with AEA staff members. The day passed by quickly as both AEA staff and students engaged in fun and eye opening educational activities.

The project currently involves schools from the Arad Tamar area in Israel and schools from the Delaware and New Jersey area. In total 12 schools are participating in this year's project. The Sviva Israel organization provides guidance, materials, lesson plans, and human, social and organizational infrastructure for this project. This is AEA's second year as active participants in this project. Last year's focus was on environmental foot print.

This year the focus will be in two primary areas: clean technologies, and in particular Israel's role as a leader in clean technologies, and Judaism and the environment.

Mr. Wisemon brought with him 12 very large posters, one for each participating school. The students and staff from each participating school signed each poster, and wrote a slogan-composed by each school's students- in an assigned area on the poster. Once each school completes this process, the posters will be distributed so that each school will receive one they can then display at the school. In addition, Mr. Wisemon also provided our staff with materials and project lesson plans, so that classes can be conducted in an efficient, uniformed and effective manner.

Wisemon stated that AEA students exhibited an unusual high level of environmental knowledge, exemplary behavior and an enthusiastic attitude. Mr. Wisemon characterized our school as "warm, hospitable and fun to work with". He further mentioned that our enthusiastic participation, and our active response, and in particular Mr. Goren's feedback on last year's project, helped shape this year's program.