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Contact Tor via email glendale@solarschoolhouse.org or via phone 707-829-3154 with any questions.

Thanks again to our local sponsor Glendale Water & Power!



Solar Schoolhouse has been busy in Glendale this spring - read all about the fun we have had and make a plan to join us during the 2023-24 school year!

The Solar Discovery Fair returned this spring on April 29 at Roosevelt Middle School



Good clean solar energy fun was had by both the volunteers and the many family participants at the fair. Activities varied - one hit was making and taking your own **solar notebook charger** for emergency charging and camping. During this activity participants learned how to assemble and wire two solar panels together with a USB converter and mounted on repurposed campaign (coroplast) signs. The solar charger can then recharge cell phone



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batteries or a small powerbank. charging unit for their own use.

Fairgoers were also treated to **solar cooked** quesadillas hosted by The [City of Glendale's own Sustainability Office](#) where staffers fed visitors and answered questions on sustainability. Another popular interactive area was hosted by Roosevelt teacher Henry Galdamez and his knowledgeable students who led participants in **solar fountain building** and **solar cell exploration**.



Roosevelt Middle School has all the planets in our solar system marked in the Quad area as big red circles on the pavement. Participants were challenged to find all the planets, gathering a clue at each one to solve a riddle. Even Pluto was included! Once the riddle was solved, a visit to the GWP booth resulted in an illuminating prize.

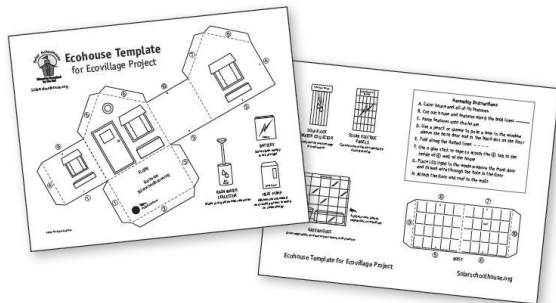
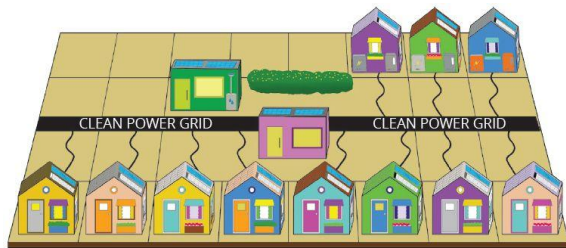
To round out their solar activities participants could also decorate **solar greeting cards**, learn the art of **solar etching (with a magnifying glass!)**, make solar **whirlygig** sculptures, or try **solar spin-art**.

A big shout out to all the student volunteers, [Glendale Environmental Coalition](#) members and GWP staff who made the day run smoothly.





The 2023 Ecovillage Project



Ten third grade Glendale teachers took part in the Ecovillage project this spring which means over 200 third grade students now have starting vocabulary and skills for determining which *building practices?* are favorable when designing with ecology and the climate in mind. The Ecovillage project fits well in 3rd grade as students already explore social studies topics about community, making a difference, taking care of the environment, and connecting with local changemakers.



When teachers signed up with Solar Schoolhouse to receive materials and curriculum free of charge they were sent a 2'x4' board in which to set up a classroom village built by their students. The board was divided into residential lots, a clean power grid to connect LED lights, a solar panel to power the LEDs, as well as a community green space where the group could decide what was good for the community such as a garden or trees. Students had Ecohouse templates where they could add green elements such as heat pump heaters/air conditioners, solar electric panels, or even an attached greenhouse.



Solar Schoolhouse at the Glendale Earth Day Celebration April 22

Solar Schoolhouse was one of the dozens of booths during the Glendale Earth Day Celebration at Pacific Park organized by the City of Glendale's Sustainability Office.

Hundreds of families took in the free event, learning about environmental groups and topics and having the chance to make and take projects.



In Sheila Galaz's class at Verdugo Woodlands, students drew a chart listing all the ingredients that would be part of their Ecovillage.

Teacher Melissa Arias, from Verdugo Woodlands Elementary School, used the Ecovillage project with her class to teach about greener choices people can make and to learn about changemakers in the Glendale community, people who were doing things to make the city a better place. The students even picked a changemaker from the SSH literature provided to write a letter to. You can just imagine their excitement when they received mail back from the changemaker they wrote to. Melissa shared with Solar Schoolhouse that the Ecovillage project was a great spring time cumulation project to utilize many third grade standards taught that year.



Solar Schoolhouse staff gave kids of all ages the opportunity to be hands-on with a small motor and a small solar cell that when correctly wired powered a kinetic art piece called a whirlygig. After assembling and decorating their piece, participants took their creations out into the world becoming the newest solar ambassadors for clean solar energy.



Daily High School Creates Whirlygigs From Repurposed Plexiglas



At Daily High School, Environmental Careers & Practices teacher Antonia Piscitelli-Carrasco reached out to Solar Schoolhouse with a unique ask. *What could her students do with the sheets of plexiglas that had been desk separators during the height of covid?*



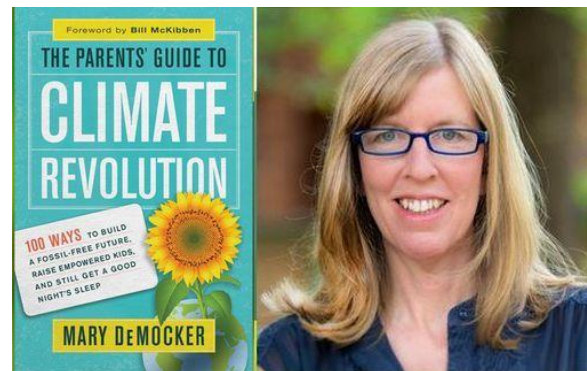
Antonia and Tor Allen of Solar Schoolhouse put their heads together and came up with repurposed plexiglas whirlygigs, adding a circuit & switch for music, and incorporating some recycled thin-film solar cells that matched well with the motor and sound

module. Not only did students receive some hands-on experience with solar energy, they kept used plexiglas from going to the landfill.

Carbon Conversations Come to the Glendale Library



This spring marked the beginning of a community series bringing together activists, environmentalists, energy experts and most important, community members young and old. The series topics are designed to engage people in conversations about solutions to our environmental problems. The series was hosted by the City of Glendale's Office of Sustainability and the Glendale Library.





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On the evening of April 20 **Mary DeMocker**, author of **The Parent's Guide to Climate Revolution**, shared ways to feel empowered in the fight for a healthy planet while deepening our connections to one another. An engaging speaker, Mary shared stories from her own life as an evolving artist and activist. A resident of Eugene Oregon, Mary shared a story of her neighborhood, youth included, that built a mock oil pipeline through their front yards to bring attention to the proposed oil pipeline to be built through sensitive areas across Oregon at the time. This collaborative art piece brought enough awareness to the project that it was stopped and never built.

After Mary's talk she was joined on stage by three local youth activists for an enlightening panel discussion centering around getting involved in solutions. Check out the links below to catch up on the evening event.

- [MyGlendale](#) YouTube channel



On April 27 the Carbon Conversation featured **Ted Flanigan**, founder and president of EcoMotion and previous

Glendale Water and Power commissioner. Ted gave an overview of shaping Glendale's Energy Future which includes the city's goal of completely clean energy by 2035. The best energy practices for Glendale to consider were energy efficiency, load management and distributed energy resources.

For the panel discussion Ted was joined by **Nicholas Ryu**, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Natural Resources manager, **Monica Campagna**, Glendale Environmental Coalition member and **Michael Reed**, associate geography professor at Glendale Community College.

Read the complete story in the [Glendale News Press](#)

Glendale
News-Press

Video Recording of the Event

*[MyGlendale YouTube](#) channel

To Propose topics for future Glendale Carbon Conversations contact the Sustainability Office with your ideas
Sustainability@GlendaleCa.gov



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Dunsmore Elementary Hosts an Eco Jobs of the Future Assembly April 19

As part of Earth Week activities at Dunsmore Elementary School, 4th through 6th graders were invited to an assembly focusing on Eco Jobs of the Future.

The first presenter was a “green realtor” named Izumi Tanaka. Izumi called herself a green realtor because she featured homes for sale that had the best ecological features integrated in their building and/or yard. Eco features could be efficient appliances, solar electric systems, natural daylighting or drought tolerant plants. Izumi encouraged the students to follow their hearts and their passions when choosing their future careers.



Postcards from the Future was the theme presented by Tor Allen of Solar Schoolhouse. Tor shared insights about the types of environmental jobs there will be in the future using the research of a group called [Project Drawdown](#) that had compiled the top 100 solutions to reversing global warming, a growing issue referred to

as Climate Change that we are experiencing now. Both Drawdown and Tor agreed that many of the environmental jobs of the future will be the ones that are working on these climate solutions. Examples shared included regenerative farming, indigenous land management, food waste reduction, education, electric and active transportation, and sustainable business practices in any company.

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