

# Time Out Kids

New York

Time Out New York Kids / Issue 18 : Apr 1–30, 2007

## Features/ Join the eco revolution/ Ecospots



Recycling bins are everywhere these days, but it wasn't always that way. Back in 1987, the Lower East Side Ecology Center (212-477-4022, [lesecologycenter.org](http://lesecologycenter.org)) founded community-based recycling and composting programs in the East Village. Two decades later, the LESEC is still dedicated to those initiatives, but also prides itself on grooming a new generation of environmental activists. Through presentations by program directors Tara Deporte and Kate

Zidar, kids learn about issues facing our city—and the world—including water pollution and climate change. Sessions are custom-tailored to children's interests. "If a group of middle-schoolers want to compost, we'll give them resources and help them develop a plan of action," says Deporte. Unfortunately, the center is temporarily homeless: Due to construction on East River Park, the group is unable to hold classes at its home base in the East River firehouse. So Deporte recently conducted an estuary class for seventh-graders from P.S. 126 at an off-site location—the beach under the Brooklyn Bridge. The goal of that class, as with all their educational efforts, says Deporte, was to "remind kids that the environment is a part of their everyday life."—Katharine Rust

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<http://newyorkkids.timeout.com/articles/features/10761/ecospots#ixzz0aqL4F3Vb>