

# NEWS

The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, Washington 98501

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for further information  
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Five state and county agencies have contracted with students at The Evergreen State College for completion of environmental research projects during Spring Quarter.

Dr. Kaye V. Ladd, Evergreen faculty chemist and coordinator of the "Environment: Chemistry, Ecology and Politics" study program, says 36 students will divide their efforts among contracts with the Mason and Thurston County Planning Departments, Department of Natural Resources, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Department of Game.

Students will tackle the tasks of:

conducting studies on water quality and land capability for aquaculture development in and around Totten and Skookum Inlets for the county planning departments;

evaluating sites for six proposed artificial reefs for DNR;

helping SPI develop a framework for environmental education taught in the public schools; and

providing baseline data on and analysis of the environmental effects of urbanization on Woodland Creek for the Department of Game.

The projects are the results of a year-long study by Evergreen students on the ways decisions affecting the environment are reached.

Fall Quarter students concentrated their efforts on interviewing federal, state and county agencies which decided such issues as certification of oyster beds, rezoning of Nisqually Reach, and upgrading of the Olympia Sewage Treatment Plant. In the process they gathered some 15 research proposals needed by agencies.

From 15, four were selected during Winter Quarter because "they really do need to be done and because they best serve our educational aim of examining sound ecological decisions which are reached through combined use of the skills involved in chemistry and politics,"

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JUDY ANNIS, DIRECTOR  
Information Services

Dr. Ladd explains.

In each of the four Spring contracts, students will work for academic credit not monetary compensation. They will be closely supervised by both the agencies they're serving and the Evergreen faculty team of Dr. Ladd and Dr. Carolyn Dobbs, an urban planner. And, they'll report their findings -- researched both in the field and in the campus laboratories -- by the end of May.

The Totten and Skookum Inlets study will explore compatibility of aquacultural development with water quality and land use in the areas for Mason and Thurston counties.

DNR has asked the Evergreen research team to review procedures for considering the impact of slope, substrate, location, depth, surveys of existing marine life and other natural or manmade obstructions on the existing marine environments in southern Puget Sound.

Students' findings might then be used by DNR as guidelines for placing future artificial reefs. At the same time, students will seek to increase public understanding of the use of artificial reefs.

The SPI project will help teachers implement new state regulations requiring environmental education instruction in all of the state's secondary schools. Their completed study may also be used to assess the adequacy of environmental education already offered in the public schools.

The study of Woodland Creek for the Department of Game will require chemical, social science and ecological field work and library research. The result will be a compiling of baseline data the Game Department may use for its analysis of the environmental effects of urbanization on the creek as it flows from Lois Lake through the City of Lacey and rural county areas into Henderson Inlet.

Students plan to make public reports of their findings the end of Spring Quarter.