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It was all Green @ the Dayton Metro Library

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Dayton Metro Library

For the first time, the Dayton Metro Library's summer reading clubs for children, teens and adults, cooperated on a "green" theme for 2010.

The children's theme "Go Green" had 8,003 children signed up logging 152,977 hours of reading. The teen theme "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Read @ Your Library" had 941 teens reading 17,552 books. And "Getting Green @ Your Library" was a big success for adults electing to join as more than 2,000 checked out more than 43,000 items!

Carrying the reduce, reuse theme even further, a serious look was taken at all the paper used in the past and cuts were made so as to use as little paper as possible. Teens and adults were encouraged to manage their participation online, and most did. Even better, members posted more than 2,500 online reviews encouraging more participants to expand their reading, viewing and listening horizons.

Wherever we could, we used recycled products of all types in the craft programs held for all ages. Our library users got into the act by helping us to collect the needed program supplies.

All together there were 1,509 programs for children, teens, and adults with 36,090 in attendance. Programs for all ages included those with speakers on the subjects of reduce, reuse and recycle, journals made from recycled items, scavenger hunts for recyclables, bowling and toss games with recyclables, crafts made with old CDs & DVDs, even jewelry and quilting from reclaimed items, homemade sidewalk chalk, ice cream made in bags, and garden programs extending into the fall harvest.



Another way the library practiced "going green" was through the use of "rotating boxes." These boxes, made up of supplies needed for a program or a game, rotated from one location to another through delivery.

At the end of the summer, a partnership with the Montgomery County Solid Waste District and the Regional Air Pollution Control Authority had more than 300 people bringing hard-to-recycle items such as cans of paint and motor oil to the Solid Waste District. Those recycling had a chance to win a battery-powered lawn mower or leaf blower along with other "green goodies!"

The three clubs and our staff received enthusiastic support for the "Go Green" theme from the Friends of the Library, as well as generous donations of "Going Green" coloring books from Waste Management and a grant from the Vectren Foundation to support the purchase of book bags for rewards for completing the clubs.