



Rainbow Falls, Greenville County, SC



# 2021 Annual Report

## PARTNERS



## Key Accomplishments

**2,352+**  
**TEACHERS**

were reached through "Action" training and presentations.



**38,965**  
**STUDENTS**

were taught "Action" lessons in both virtual and classroom presentations.



**339**  
**SCHOOLS**

from 44 of the state's 46 counties participated in the TASC Program.



**34**  
**TEACHER WORKSHOPS**

were held to teach "Action" lessons.



**1,090**  
**PRESENTATIONS**

from the TASC educators were made virtually or in the classroom.



**99%**  
**ACCURACY**

(on average) from students and teachers during Action lesson post-tests.



## The 2020-2021 School Year at a Glance

Take Action SC (TASC) had another successful year and quickly adjusted to meet the challenges and changes with COVID-19. Overall, 99 percent of our presentations were made to students on virtual platforms.

Presentations were made to **38,965 students** and **1,700 teachers**. In

previous years, in-person classroom presentations focused on fifth-grade, seventh-grade and high school classrooms. This year, TASC expanded virtual classroom presentations to include all grades kindergarten through eighth grade and continued in high school environmental science classes. TASC included lesson demonstrations on natural resources, recycling, composting, landfills, food waste, energy conservation, litter prevention and used oil recycling as well as virtual field trips.

Each grade had a unique presentation correlated to that grade's science standards. Pre-test scores, on average, rose from 68 percent to 99 percent in post-tests. Teacher workshops were held for various groups from schools to districts training **652 teachers** (not including the summer virtual workshop with more than 300 registrants.) Post-test scores soared to 100 percent accuracy from 75 percent in the pre-tests scores.

The partnership also created a YouTube channel, creating and sharing various videos with teachers and environmental educators to use as supplemental resources with their lessons. Of the eight videos produced, there were nearly 3,000 views.

## Thank You Teachers!

**PATIENCE – Word of the Year!** Hats off to all of our South Carolina teachers for having so much patience from learning how to teach in a virtual environment to teaching with a mask on while social distancing amongst other challenges.

Thank you for allowing TASC to provide presentations in your classrooms during this challenging year. The positive feedback for virtual presentations from teachers of all grade levels was outstanding.

*"Your presentation was full of useful information and tied right in with our standards! The kids were engaged the entire time. **LOVED** all the visuals!"*

- Dana Coon, Sand Hill Elementary, Dorchester County



*This poster especially for the school*

*"Thank you **SO** much! This presentation was perfect and even better to be online this year! I truly appreciate your time, preparation and patience! You did an excellent job keeping the kids involved and hitting our standards **RIGHT ON!**"*

- Allison Woods, Daniel Island School, Berkeley County

## Looking Forward

TASC will continue to make virtual presentations for all grade levels for the upcoming year. TASC educators also will make in-person classroom presentations to not only fifth-grade, seventh-grade and high school environmental classes but also third-grade as well. The partnership will continue the Student Ambassadors for Sustainability Program with the University of South Carolina in the fall of 2021 for high school students. Check out more about this year's pilot program on the back page. To register your high school group or class for the 2021-2022 year, visit [takeactionsc.org](http://takeactionsc.org).

## About 'Action'

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 – S.C. Code of Laws § 44-96-110 – requires that the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) provide a curriculum and resource material on recycling for instruction at the elementary, middle and high school levels. DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling is charged with this responsibility and as part of that obligation to consult with the S.C. Department of Education in the development and offering of these resources.



was created  
the 2020-2021  
year.

Action for a cleaner tomorrow: A South Carolina Environmental Curriculum Supplement ("Action") is an award-winning, interdisciplinary, activity-based curriculum supplement. It was created by DHEC in conjunction with a statewide team of teachers, science coordinators, the S.C. Department of Education and other education professionals. "Action" is designed to provide teachers the tools and resources to bring the environment into the classroom. The curriculum supplement originally focused on waste reduction, recycling and composting, but has evolved since its first edition in 1993 to include air, water, litter prevention, energy, natural resources and sustainability lessons for grades K-12.

All lessons are aligned to the S.C. Academic Standards and Performance Indicators for Science and when possible contain South Carolina-specific information. Each lesson is reviewed by DHEC staff, subject matter experts as well as education and curriculum specialists to ensure accurate information and proper alignment to the current standards. The curriculum supplement also offers background information, student activities, video links, handouts and links to additional information and resources. "Action" is marketed throughout South Carolina and offered through

teacher workshops, classroom presentations and virtual learning options – all of which are offered at no charge. To learn more, please visit [takeactionsc.org](http://takeactionsc.org) or call Amanda Edwards at (803) 898-0998.

## About the TASC Partnership

The Take Action SC Partnership (TASC) brings together organizations dedicated to sharing knowledge, coordinating resources and working together to offer South Carolina's teachers and students the valuable resources to help protect and preserve the environment.

TASC is comprised of DHEC, Coastal Carolina University, PalmettoPride, the S.C. ORS Energy Office and Sustainable Carolina at the University of South Carolina. Each partner brings unique information and perspectives to the partnership.

*Thank you so much for the wonderful presentation. It kept the kids attention and they loved it! You were wonderful and a great addition to our **STEAM** unit. We thoroughly enjoyed it and we would **LOVE** to have you again in the future.*

- Allison Chmiel, Bowen's Corner Elementary, Beaufort County



## Acknowledgments

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For more information, please visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle).

## New Program Teaches Sustainability

TASC and the University of South Carolina's (UofSC) Sustainable Carolina's K-12 Outreach Team created a new mentorship program. The program – **Student Ambassadors for Sustainability** – helps high school students learn what they can do to take part in a sustainable future. The program will help them develop work plans while leading school and community efforts for a sustainable environment.

Students had the opportunity to work on a college level with UofSC students, learning and developing skills in project management, public speaking, communication and leadership. Each student group selected a sustainability project and developed a plan to put it into motion. They met virtually with their mentor from UofSC throughout the year and created sustainable projects at their schools or in their communities. The following schools completed sustainable projects for the pilot year of Student Ambassadors for Sustainability.

To learn more about their journey and projects, visit [takeactionsc.org](http://takeactionsc.org).

- **J.L. Mann High School Environmental Club** established an Environmental Awareness Week at their school plus started a school composting program with Atlas Organics.
- **A Dreher High School Student** created an e-newsletter (three issues) for students with environmental news and tips.
- **A Spartanburg High School Environmental Science Class** started a school garden in raised beds.
- **J.L. Mann High School Group 1** designed and created artwork from recycled plastic bottles.
- **J.L. Mann High School Group 2** designed and conducted an art contest for K-6 students across the state.
- **Mauldin High, Brashier Middle, College High and St. Joseph's Catholic School Students** created a garden tower with the purpose of donating all vegetables to a local shelter in Greenville.
- **Fairfield County Career and Technology Center** built additional raised garden beds at the school and started an on-site composting program to feed the gardens.



*Students at J.L. Mann High School in Greenville County created this artwork from recycled plastic bottles.*



*Pictured is winning artwork from J.L. Mann High School's statewide art contest.*



*Pictured is Mauldin High, Brashier Middle, College High and St. Joseph's Catholic School's vegetable garden tower.*



*Environmental science students work on Spartanburg High School's new garden.*

