The Lorax

Purpose of Activity: To examine how greed can lead to waste and environmental devastation.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
By actively participating in this activity, participants will:
- Understand the impact overconsumption can have on the environment.
- Reflect on current practices and ways to change behavior to be more sustainable.

Materials Needed:
- There is a DVD copy stored with the Director for Sustainability Education available for check-out.

Summary:
Follow one boy’s quest to find a Truffula tree. In the process, he meets a man who explains why the local environment is in such a terrible state. Once, the land was rich with flora and fauna, which were decimated by the Once-ler’s “Thneed” production. Hear the tale of the Lorax, “who speaks for the trees,” and attempted to protect the pristine valley. After learning of the devastation, the Once-ler gives the boy the last Truffula tree seed so he can begin the healing process.

Facilitation Guide:
Watch the movie and prepare a space for discussion afterward.

Discussion Questions:
- What did we just see? What stood out to you? What did you observe about your reactions and the reactions of those around you?
- How did you feel as you watched the film? What feelings stick out as positive ones? Negative ones?
- What did you think of the film? Why do you think we watched it? How do you define sustainability (Perpetual and cooperative environmental, social, and economic systems)?
- What does this film have to do with sustainability?
- What industries can you compare to “Thneed” production?
- What will happen if the world continues to consume our natural resources at our current pace?
• What new habits can you adopt that will make a difference for the environment? What actions can you commit to take?