



From Idea to Reality

2015 Impact Report



by [Tanya Dimitrova](#), science teacher at Gateway College Preparatory School, TX.

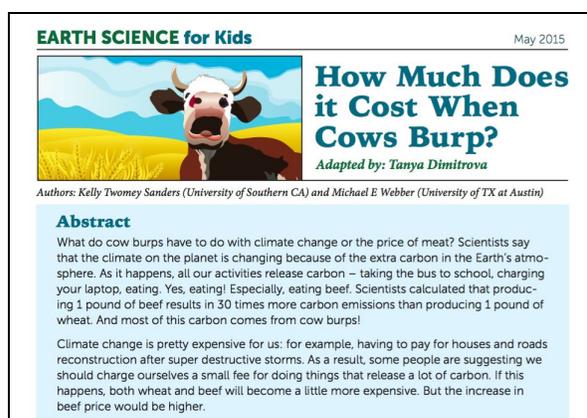
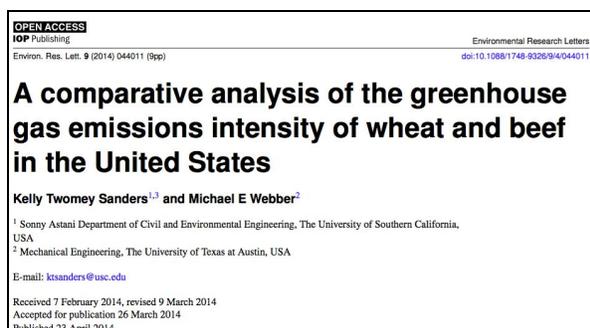
25 December 2015

I conceived the idea for *Science Journal for Kids* in my own classroom in the spring of 2015. I was teaching AP Environmental Science and I had assigned a project: pick one primary research paper from a [peer-reviewed journal](#) to summarize and present to the class. Oh, how my students struggled! The language in scientific papers is so far over

their heads. It's over the heads of most people, really. Yet, I felt strongly that they had the *right to know* about the state of the world they were inheriting from us!

In that moment, I saw an opportunity: I could translate this cutting edge peer-reviewed environmental science research and make it accessible for school students. Further, I decided to develop educator's resources to help fellow teachers incorporate the research in their lesson plans. *Science Journal for Kids* was born.

Six months later, we've come a long way from the initial idea. Below is a summary of our accomplishments during the latter half of 2015.



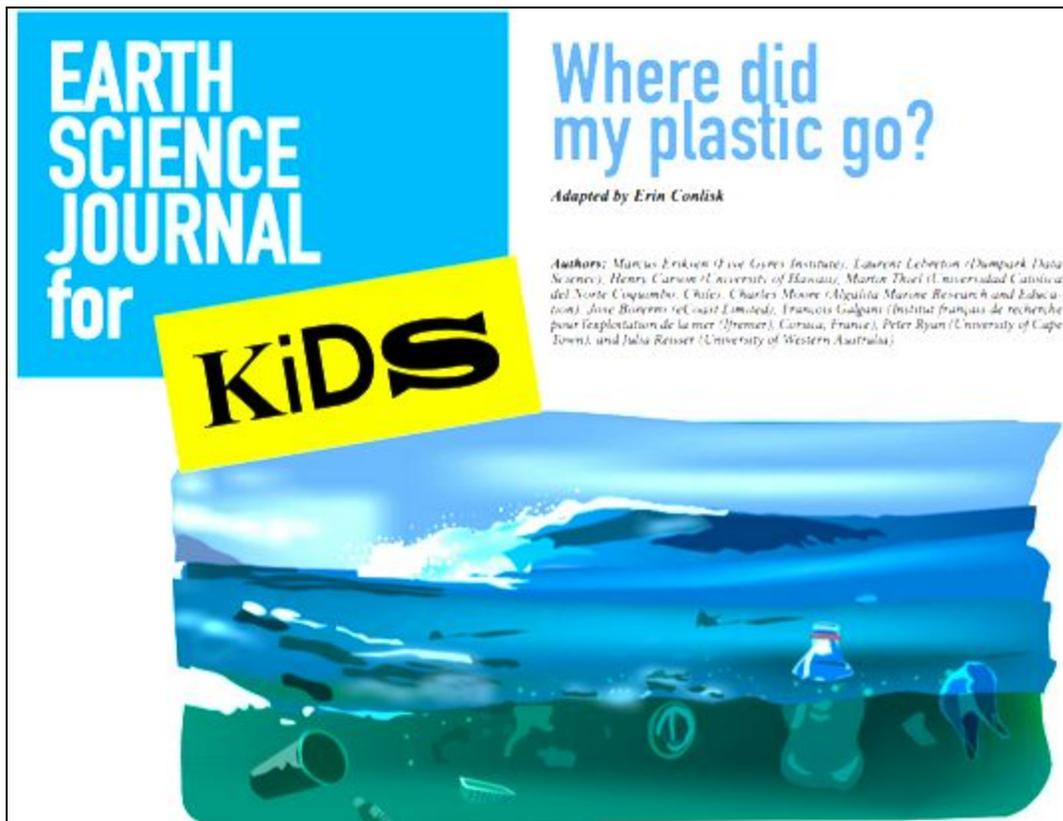
The first paper we translated: original paper (on the left) and its adaptation (on the right).

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Journal

- We digitally published six adapted papers covering environmental science topics ranging from climate change to plastic pollution. All papers are open access, i.e. free to the public.
- Each scientific paper is accompanied by multiple free educators' resources: opening videos, labs and activities, student worksheets, teacher's slide presentation, quizzes etc.
- Our home page, ScienceJournalforKids.org has been steadily growing. It had 1000+ page views in the last month alone.
- On the home page, we have links to 15+ [other awesome science teaching resources](#).

- We shot a short [video trailer](#) for the Journal at The Thinkery - Austin's Children Science Museum - starring Misha and Zane - the Journal's student-hosts.
- Our Facebook page has attracted 150+ followers
- We have a [Twitter page](#) and a [YouTube channel](#)
- We have 60+ mailing list subscribers, most of them fellow science teachers
- We presented the Journal at the Texas Science Teachers Association annual conference CAST 2015 obtaining fantastic feedback from colleagues.
- We are scheduled to teach a workshop based on the Journal's resources at the next regional CAST conference in 2016.
- We have launched collaborations with other educational organizations: [Data Nuggets](#) and [Ucha.se](#).



The Organization

The simple idea of a children's science journal grew into a real-world organization. *Science Journal for Kids* is a nonprofit organization incorporated in Texas. It has a 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service. All donations to *Science Journal for Kids* are tax-exempt.

We have formed a nonprofit organization with the same name in Bulgaria to facilitate European collaborations. The organizations is in the process of registration.

The initial funding for our work came from an overwhelmingly successful crowdfunding campaign which raised more than \$3500 from 50+ donors.

The screenshot shows a crowdfunding campaign page for "Earth Science Journal for Kids". The page is titled "Earth Science Journal for Kids" and is located in Austin, United States, under the category "Education". The campaign has 53 backers, 0 updates, and 1 comment. A video player shows a woman, Tanya Dimitrova, with a pink play button overlay. The video title is "Earth Science Journal for Kids: Traditional Science Journal for a New Audience". To the right of the video, there is a section for "InDemand" perks. The first perk is for \$10 USD, titled "Shout out", which offers a hand-written acknowledgment in a published paper. The second perk is for \$25 USD, titled "Note from a student", which offers a hand-written thank you note from a high school student. The campaign has raised a total of \$3,540 USD, and the original campaign was 116% funded on July 29, 2015. The creator, Tanya Dimitrova, is listed as a verified email user with 1205 Facebook friends and is a member of the "Education" category in Austin, Texas, United States.

The Team

No such deed can be accomplished by a single person. I am lucky to have a [fantastic team](#) of educators and other professionals contributing to the Journal.

- The Nonprofit Board of Directors composed of Marc Richmond and Mitch Sengson, who have each volunteered dozens of hours for lifting the organization off the ground.
- Two amazing staff writers and fellow Berkeley alumnae: Erin Conlisk and Laney Siegner who masterfully adapt tough scientific concepts making them kid-friendly.

- Four highly professional graphic designers who make sure the papers look attractive and easy-to-digest: Sarita Geisel, Maria Minkova, Nikoleta Antova & Presiyan Iliev.
- Three scientific advisors from some of the top universities in the country: Dr. Michael Webber, Dr. John Harte and Dr. Misha Matz, professors at UC Berkeley and UT Austin.
- Friends at Dell, Round Rock who volunteered more than 30 hours for administrative and technical tasks at the Journal.

I am grateful for a wildly successful year! What started as a mere idea in my mind is today a valuable live product with a vibrant organization behind it. Up and onward in 2016!

Cheers,



Tanya Dimitrova

Science Teacher. Editor-in-Chief. Executive Director for *Science Journal for Kids*

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.ScienceJournalForKids.org



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