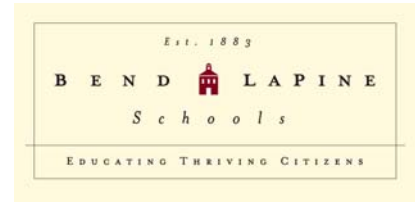


Bend-La Pine School District: Current Sustainability Actions

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I. NEW BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

LEED Certified New Westside School

This school, to be completed in the 2008-2009 school year, will be the first LEED certified (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design) school in Central Oregon, and one of only three schools in the state. Among many sustainable building features, the school will feature renewable energy sources, natural day lighting for optimal light, low VOC finishes and furnishings, and high performance mechanical and electrical systems. Future schools, such as the Bend Pine Nursery site school, and a new La Pine elementary school (which will also be LEED certified) will be constructed with green features.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- * Keep up to date on progress of new buildings.
- * Ensure that new buildings allow for sustainable practices like waste prevention, recycling, composting, water and energy conservation, and indoor air quality.
- * Continue communicating new building successes through EarthSmart E-News.

II. ENERGY USE, EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION: CURRENT BUILDINGS

The District has specific administrative regulations (EDD-AR) that address energy conservation guidelines for each building. The regulations include guidelines for heating and cooling temperatures and schedules, lighting, water temperature, and guidelines for additional appliances and energy use.

The District provides the “Bend-La Pine Energy Education Program” (BLEEP) to educate schools about the importance of energy conservation and specifics on how to conserve energy at each school site. Schools are allowed an “energy budget” for each school year. If a school is below budget, they are rewarded with 1/3 of the savings. For the 2006-2007 school year, five schools plus the Maintenance and Bend Transportation office saved a total of \$9830.

Each school received the following amounts as a reward for the 2006-2007 school year:

- * Amity Creek Magnet School: \$118
- * Juniper Elementary School: \$459
- * Pilot Butte Middle School: \$1184
- * Mountain View High School: \$414
- * Marshall High School: \$61
- * Maintenance: \$847
- * Transportation (Bend): \$194

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- * Review energy regulations with maintenance staff and with custodians at each school.
- * Choose three to five schools to target for the 2008-2009 school year. Conduct energy audits at those schools and make recommendations for conservation.
- * Promote energy education programs such as Watt Watchers to engage students in monitoring school energy use.
- * Continue BLEEP savings program for schools on the district. Distribute posters to each school as needed. Attend staff meetings at all schools to remind them of the program. Include reminders in the EarthSmart E-News.

III. TRANSPORTATION

School Buses and District Vehicles

The Bend-La Pine Transportation Department recently replaced 24 buses with new 2008 buses that meet new emissions standards for schools and produce nearly zero emissions. The department maintains all DEQ emission standards for all vehicles. Buses do not idle for more than 10 minutes in the mornings when starting up and do not idle at schools except in very cold weather to keep the heat on. The department recycles all old fluids when possible. They currently do not have any hybrid or bio-fuel vehicles.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- * Research and recommend bio-fuel options and viability for district school buses and other vehicles.

Alternative Transportation and Commute Options

Commute Options of Central Oregon partners with the District to provide various transportation alternatives and education for schools. Commute Options administers the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program at Central Oregon schools, serving grades K-8. They teach bicycle safety education to students at area schools, sponsor walking school buses and work with school, traffic and community officials to plan, develop and implement projects and activities that improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution near the schools.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- * Promote Commute Options programs through the EarthSmart E-News
- * Collaborate with Commute Options to assist with projects and provide support.
- * Develop more Safe Routes to School programs to encourage alternative transportation.

IV. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

EarthSmart E-News

The EarthSmart E-News is a monthly electronic newsletter that goes out to all District staff. The E-News includes information on sustainability education, opportunities for greening the schools, and events and curriculum related to sustainability and environmental education. Often the E-

News includes grant opportunities, interesting environmental education websites and information on what schools are currently doing with regards to sustainable practices.

EarthSmart Education Program

EarthSmart is reSource's sustainability education program and is offered to all Bend-La Pine schools free of charge. Classroom presentations include topics such as waste prevention, recycling, reuse, composting, energy and water conservation, ecological footprints, sustainable consumption, sustainable food and several other topics. In the 2006-2007 school year, EarthSmart reached 5,563 student-contacts in 20 different schools on the Bend-La Pine District.

V. WASTE PREVENTION AND RECYCLING

Currently, each school is responsible for their own waste prevention and recycling efforts. Each school appoints a "Recycling Coordinator", usually a teacher, custodian or other staff person to head up the recycling efforts within the school. Every school recycles the basic materials such as paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, aluminum cans.

reSource offers \$500 EarthSmart Grants to all district schools to implement or maintain innovative waste prevention programs within the schools. Examples of projects include: classroom or school-wide composting, reuse art projects, cafeteria recycling bins and others. These grants enable schools to take the next step with their waste reduction efforts and provide an educational opportunity for the students as well.

Cafeteria Waste

Lunch waste continues to be an issue in most schools, as many of the disposable containers that are used are not recyclable. Even things that should be recycled are not always recycled at lunchtime. A waste audit completed for Pilot Butte Middle School revealed that many plastic water bottles are not being recycled in the cafeteria area. Additionally, many schools do not have adequate recycling containers in the cafeteria. One school in particular, Cascade Middle School, received an EarthSmart grant for the sole purpose of buying recycling containers that can be used in the cafeteria areas.

Food waste is also a large part of the school waste stream as well. A handful of schools compost minimal amounts of food waste (fruits and vegetables), but it remains a large part of the waste stream. I am currently working with Nutrition Services and the local garbage collectors on how to handle food waste.

Printer Cartridge Recycling

All schools recycle their printer cartridges, and several of them use cartridge recycling programs as fundraisers. A handful of schools also recycle rechargeable batteries, cell phones and other small electronic parts.

Computer and Electronic Recycling

The District recycled several thousand computers through the Apple program and always look for environmentally sensitive ways to dispose of technology equipment.

Composting

Composting is another tool to reduce waste and can be a great science education opportunity. To date, seven schools are composting in some form. Some schools are doing school-wide composting, and others are participating in smaller scale classroom worm composting. The following schools are participating in composting:

- * R.E. Jewell Elementary School
- * Westside Village Magnet School
- * Three Rivers School
- * Pilot Butte Middle School
- * Bend High School
- * Highland Magnet School
- * La Pine Middle School

Printing Services

The District print shop offers several options to reduce the impact of printing and paper for the District. Double-sided printing is offered and is strongly encouraged through pricing discounts. For in-district, a two-sided copy runs 2.85 cents per copy, while two one-sided copies run 4.4 cents each. However, double-sided copying is not required as there are often special cases where it makes the most sense to have educational materials printed using only one side of the page.

The District offers Boise Aspen recycled paper. The ink toners for the copiers are not recyclable at this time, according to the IKON technicians. All paper scraps are either recycled or made into scratch paper pads.

Purchasing and Procurement

Each school is responsible for their own purchases and office managers at each school order what is necessary. Where everything else is equal, the District does purchase recycled content products when available. Many items in the classroom that are used around children are non-toxic. The custodial cleaning supplies are safe to use around children. Each school makes their own choices on whether to purchase environmentally friendly products.

Recommendations and Next Steps

- * Continued education is a priority for all schools to remind them of all recycling standards, waste prevention, reuse ideas and information on composting.
- * Pilot successful cafeteria recycling programs at Lava Ridge Elementary School and Sky View Middle School for 2007-2008 school year. Work with Bend Garbage & Recycling to recycle as many materials as possible.
- * In 2008-2009, add more schools to the program, ensuring that each school has a sustainable, simple program that will last year to year.
- * Work with the local garbage collectors to get baseline data on waste and recycling for each school as well as up to date educational materials and containers to ensure proper recycling.
- * Continue EarthSmart presentations to educate students and staff on recycling and waste prevention.

- * Continue promoting composting in schools through classroom presentation and EarthSmart grants for start-up projects.

VI. NUTRITION SERVICES

Farm-to School Program

The Bend-La Pine District has one of the more successful Farm-to-School programs, whereby the district gets produce direct from local farms and orchards. Nutrition Services gets produce May thru March. During the peak growing season, they receive fresh, locally grown produce from up to four Oregon farms. Through February, the District brings in 3500 pounds of apples from Kimberly Orchards, northeast of Bend. Produce from local farms includes melons, blueberries, lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, celery, strawberries, cherries, zucchini and green beans. Much of the locally grown produce is organic. Future plans are to grow school gardens and the Farm-to-School program.

Nutritional Food Policies

Nutrition Services has also removed all trans-fats from their own baked goods. The District has a strict policy on vending machines within the schools and there is no district-wide contract on soda machines any more, so each school decides on whether or not to have those machines. Elementary schools do not have student accessible vending. Middle schools may not have soda or snack vending machines. High schools are limited in their soda vending to 50% and snacks must not be candy or pastries.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- * Work with Nutrition Services to set-up optimal cafeteria waste prevention and recycling, starting with two pilot projects at Lava Ridge Elementary School and Sky View Middle School.
- * Continue working with farmers to bring healthy local food to the schools.

VII. WATER USE AND CONSERVATION

Outdoor Water Use

Many of the schools' outdoor water use is controlled by WeatherTRAK smart controllers, sophisticated weather tracking systems that regulate water use by day. This fine tunes their watering needs and ensures that they are not over-watering. The following schools and facilities use the WeatherTRAK system:

- * Administration Building
- * Bend High School
- * Buckingham Elementary
- * Elk Meadow Elementary
- * High Desert Middle School
- * High Lakes Elementary
- * Highland Magnet School

- * Westside Village Magnet School
- * Lava Ridge Elementary
- * Marshall High School
- * R.E. Jewell Elementary
- * Sky View Middle School
- * Summit High School
- * Maintenance Facility

Recommendations:

- * Work with the water utilities and the district to obtain all baseline data for water usage for each school.
- * Move remaining schools onto the WeatherTRAK system.

Indoor Water Use

Indoor water use varies with each school. Depending on the age of the building, bathroom fixtures vary. However, most schools have faucets that automatically turn off.

Recommendations:

- * Target 3-5 schools to do walk-through assessment of their indoor water use.
- * Work with the water utilities and District to obtain baseline water data for each school.
- * Provide reminder cards to remind students and staff about water conservation.

VIII. INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Indoor air quality trainings and walk-throughs were last done in 2005 with the help of the Washington State University Energy and Building Science Department.

Recommendations:

- * Consider reassessing air quality in the next five years, or earlier if any issues arise.

CONCLUSION

The Bend-La Pine School District has done some great things with regards to sustainability! In particular, building a LEED certified school, implementing the Farm to School Program, and using smart controllers for outdoor watering are innovative programs that show a commitment to sustainability. These are all successes that should be shared within the District and the community at large.

Where I do see need for improvement is with waste and energy for each school, implementing measures that will further lessen the impact on the environment and potentially save money for the district. I plan on addressing these issues more in-depth for the remainder of this school year and next school year.

Communicating a commitment to sustainability to all District staff is also important to build awareness and momentum with maintaining current actions and implementing new initiatives. I hope in the future to be able to meet with each department and establish specific sustainability goals.