



School/District Sustainability Overview Gladstone School District

Date: June 23, 2009

Location: Gladstone, Oregon (South of Portland, near Oregon City)

The district is: Urban Suburban Rural

Total number of schools and students: 4 schools – approximately 2150 students

Gladstone Center for Children and Families – birth to Kindergarten
Wetten Elementary School – grades 1-5
Kraxberger Middle School – grades 6-8
Gladstone High School – grades 9-12

Contact person (and title) for sustainability efforts:

Bob Stewart - Superintendent – 503-655-2777
Susan Olds – Sustainability Curriculum chair – 503-655-2544
Bill Stewart – Bond Coordinator – 503-655-2777

Sustainability Policy:

In progress, not yet adopted by our School Board

Sustainability Advisory Committee, or equivalent

We have two working groups.

One is comprised of parents, local experts, local elected officials and “green” industry reps. It was formed to advise the District on the conceptualization, planning and design of our soon to be completed Applied Science and Technology Center, which focus on Renewable Energy, Pre-engineering and dual credit options with OIT’s program.

The other is a Curriculum review and development team comprised of teachers from grades K-12. It was formed by teachers who were interested in meeting the increasing demands for “green” content, new instructional strategies and relevant project-based learning for all students.



School Board involvement:

The Board became involved following a 2007 presentation made by student members of our middle and high school “Green Schools” clubs. The students challenged the Board to make the renovation and construction projects associated with our Bond levy as green as possible. The Board has been supportive of meeting that challenge even where some initial expenses were greater.

Status of a Sustainability page on the District website

Don't have one, but hopefully soon!

Role of the community:

We have embraced the advice of our community advisory group in relation to design & construction of our new facilities. We have held a number of community meetings to gather input / address concerns about how/whether we should pursue LEED certification, install renewable energy options, how to minimize waste generation and how to create the best possible environmental conditions for learning within the school.

Major sustainability-related initiatives, and how sustainability as a whole is being integrated into the district.

A list of activities / initiatives taking place in Gladstone –

- Bond construction practices directed toward LEED certification for Gladstone High School (GHS) and the Gladstone Center for Children and Families (GCCF).
- The areas surrounding the new construction and remodeled buildings will include several bio-swales, native plantings and a water retention pond.
- The new Applied Science and Technology Center (ASTC), when completed, will include a renewable energy R&D facility. The facility will have a pre-engineering program that will cover the engineering fields of electrical, mechanical, fluid power, thermal science and process control, electronic programmable controllers and automated systems (robotics) to support renewable energy R&D.
- 150-200 KW solar system in design phase for the new Science and ASTC additions at Gladstone High School
- Energy monitoring equipment will be installed at all District schools.
- Proposal from teachers led to the School Board adopting a Sustainability goal for 2008-09 and beyond.
- Cross-curricular district committee working on K-12 sustainability curriculum that includes economic and social equality issues in addition to environmental concerns.
- Staff assigned responsibility for sustainability curriculum development and planning.
- Active student “Green Club” will be three years old and they will have completed several meaningful projects including a carbon footprint of the school district facilities, development of recommended school district policies, specific activities to reduce carbon emissions and many student centered projects.



- Environmental Leadership class offered at Gladstone High School, starting in the 2008-09 school year. As a project based class, students took care of day to day “green” operations (recycling, beginning composting, etc.) as well as taking on several projects of student design that tackle various local and regional environmental issues.
- Established an advisory committee that includes local and regional experts in areas such as sustainability, solar, water resources, power generation, post-secondary education, architecture, wind, bio-fuels and local government.
- Won a regional competition selling energy efficient light bulbs and received a first place prize of a 1 KW solar panel, that is installed and working at Kraxberger Middle School.
- Made presentations to the Gladstone City Council and Gladstone School Board to deliver a vision of how the city and school district can become more “green” and to ask for support of green initiatives.
- Received grant, with several other districts and local colleges, for a Sustainability Career Pathway development & alignment thru Career and Technical Education Consortium, Clackamas Community College and Clackamas ESD
- Established partnerships with OSTP, OIT, PSU and CCC on various sustainability projects

Benefits experienced from the sustainability measures:

This is a current area of deficiency for us. Much of our data gathering effort planned for this year has been usurped by budget related demands. We need to do a better job of determining existing benchmark status and the resulting changes created by each of our activities / practices.

Describe the next steps:

- We will implement a data-based system for evaluating the effectiveness of the various activities we have undertaken and be sure that new initiatives are set-up to be measurable / quantifiable.
- We are sending a team of teachers to the “Teaching for a Positive Future” - Sustainability Education Institute 2009 - July 27-29 on Bainbridge Island, WA.
- We will complete the installation of our GHS solar array by October, 2009
- We will achieve LEED certification of our remodeled/new facilities at Gladstone High School, which will be completed in the Fall of 2009.
- We will continue to pursue partnership agreements with Metro area higher ed institutions.
- We will began planning for the implementation of a Clackamas County Relief Nursery in Gladstone and solidify tentative partnership agreements with local, regional and state agencies.

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative
www.sustainableschools.org
503-279-9383