



School/District Sustainability Overview Mary Woodward Elementary School

Date: October 2008

Location: Tigard, Oregon
School is generally suburban

Total number of students: 528

Contact person for sustainability efforts:
Michael O'Loughlin, 4-H Wildlife Steward
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Recognition: Certified Green School, Schoolyard Habitat, and Wildlife Steward School.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

There are two committees related to sustainability.

- A green team that started a year ago concentrates a lot of its effort on sustainability inside the school.
- A garden committee concentrates on the three acre garden that was built 12 years ago.

School board involvement: Two school board members have been involved; One as a principal and one as a parent of a student at our school.

Do you have a sustainability page on your website?

Website is just being redone. We have the information posted about the garden and the sustainable things there, but not the Green School info as of yet.

<http://www.betterlivingshow.org/WoodwardGardensphotos.asp>

Community partners:

We enlist the community's help at all levels. Pride Disposal is a great partner, as are many other corporations that donate materials and time. The volunteer base is huge and keeps us going even in the summer months when most schools have problems.

Describe major sustainability-related initiatives, and how sustainability as a whole is being integrated into your school or district.

We started with our school garden 12 years ago. Woodward Gardens provides a greater variety of learning experiences, a sense of stewardship for our natural resources in our children, and stronger ties to the community. For a complete description of our goals and curriculum to date, go to: <http://www.betterlivingshow.org/WoodwardGardens.asp>

Our program is one of the premiere programs in the country and has been used by many programs to highlight educational excellence and a commitment to the environment. Woodward

Gardens has the following sustainable elements: a METRO compost demonstration garden, vermicomposting, rain garden, rainbarrels, drip irrigation with separate water meter, weather station and a large wetlands restoration project. This year we will be adding a green roof to the garden and hopefully a solar panel project. Pictures of the garden can be found at <http://www.betterlivingshow.org/WoodwardGardensphotos.asp>

Our dedication has led us to be certified as a Green School both for the initiatives we have undertaken in the garden as well as in the school. Recycling, energy conservation and more is a part of the daily life of students. We are also a certified 4 -H Wildlife Steward School and the 400th Schoolyard Habitat.

This is a highly visible project both in the media and in the public. We have been covered in Sunset Magazine, The Oregonian, Portland Tribune, Garden Showcase Magazine, and Tigard Times. We were featured at the Portland Fall Home & Garden Show Twice, Green School Summit, and on a training DVD for Wildlife Stewards. We use our school as a resource for other schools and the community as a whole. The outdoor classroom is free for anyone to use for educational purposes and soccer parties. We were the only school garden on the Seed The Future Garden Tour in June of 2008.

Benefits from the sustainability measures:

In the simplest terms, connecting the students to these sustainability issues is the most lasting way it can be taught. We have a very close tie with the surrounding community and hundreds of people visit the garden each week to learn and enjoy.