



The Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative

Healthy Schools, Healthy Environments

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What is the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI)?

Unique: SOSI is the only entity in Oregon and the nation working to address all elements of K-12 sustainability (see reverse).

Vision and Mission: To prepare our children to create and succeed in a sustainable future, by facilitating integration of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable concepts and practices into all educational and operational activities of our K-12 school system.

This is accomplished with the following goals:

- Engage, educate, inspire and assist **the people** affiliated with the school system
- Engage with **schools, districts, and organizations** that support them
- Develop, pilot and promote **resources, tools and services**.

Sustainability considers the relationship between the environmental, economic and social elements of an issue in order to arrive at decisions that make sense for our future.

Why is a Sustainable K-12 School System Important?

Economy: Smaller budgets mean schools must save money by being more efficient with resources and greatly reducing waste.

Environment: With 20% of Oregon's population occupying school buildings, schools must play a part in climate change solutions by reducing their carbon footprint and operating within the limits of nature.

People: School buildings, buses and food must support human health by addressing toxic or unhealthy components that lead to asthma, obesity and other problems.

Future: To solve today's problems and remain competitive, **all** tomorrow's leaders, workforce and citizens need an education grounded in the principles of sustainability.

Please,

Visit the website, www.sustainableschools.org,
Subscribe to the free SOSI e-newsletter, and
Use the resources.

Consider supporting SOSI with a tax-deductible donation.

K-12 School Sustainability Topics

Eventually principals of sustainability become integrated into all school and district activities. To begin it's helpful to define a set of key topic areas. The Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative is developing resources for each topic area listed in the center column.

Category	Topic Area	General Topic Area issues
<i>EDUCATION</i>	Education for Sustainability	Formal (classroom), Non-formal (outside classroom), Informal education (school environment), Service learning, Career and technical education, Teacher education
	Sustainability Education for Staff	Sustainability training and education for school staff; opportunities and needs
<i>FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS</i>	Buildings	Siting, New construction, Building operations and Maintenance
	Grounds and Landscaping	Grounds: Natural areas, Landscaping design & maintenance, Learning gardens, Parking areas, Play areas
	Indoor Environment / Toxics	Indoor environmental quality, Chemical management (pesticides, cleaning, lab, other), Toxics
<i>SYSTEMS AND SERVICES</i>	Managing Sustainability	System and framework to guide school district progress toward sustainability. Ideally it covers all topic areas.
	Food and Wellness	Choices and sources of foods, Farm to school, Wellness
	Transportation	School vehicles, Maintenance shop practices, Alternative transportation options
	Procurement and Resource Management	<u>Procurement:</u> Sustainability of goods and services, Product stewardship, procurement infrastructure; Bulk and cooperative purchasing. <u>Energy:</u> Amount and source of all energy used <u>Material:</u> Waste prevention, End of life, Product stewardship <u>Water:</u> Water to and from facility (domestic and natural)
<i>COMMUNITY & CULTURE</i>	Community Involvement	Community support to school, Learning opportunities in community, Partnerships, School outreach to community
	Multi-Cultural Proficiency	Student and staff diversity, Cultural understanding, Language, Communication

SOSI Steering Committee

J.P. Batmale	Oregon Department of Energy	Jon Mayer	Multnomah Co.4-H Youth Development
Carol Brown	Portland General Electric	David McKay	Willamette ESD
Katy Bryce	Central Oregon Environmental Center	Jeremiah Patterson	Riverdale School District
Bob Carlson	West Linn/Wilsonville School District	Traci Price	Environmental Education Assoc. of OR/ Healthy Waters Institute
Mike Carroll	North Central ESD	Gail Rasmussen	Oregon Education Association
Suzanne Dalton	Conf. of Oregon School Administrators	Danny Santos	Office of the Governor
Ed Dennis	Oregon Department of Education	Anne Schuster	Corvallis School District
Connie De Yoe	Oregon School Employees Association	Eric Shawn	Catlin Gabel School
Catherine Diviney	Portland Public Schools	Greg Smith	Lewis and Clark College
David Furr	Salem-Keizer School District	Rick Gaupo	Oregon Green Schools Association
Ken Hiatt	Peraska	Bill Stewart	Gladstone School District
Peggy Holstedt	Oregon School Boards Association	Grant Watkinson	Coastwide Laboratories
Maureen Hosty	OSU 4H Wildlife Stewards		

The steering committee guides the Initiative, with staff support from the Zero Waste Alliance.

For more information or to sign up for the electronic newsletter: www.sustainableschools.org,
Or contact Lori Stole, 503-307-4067, lstole@zerowaste.org