



The Apple

Sustainable
Schools
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

February/March 2007

Seeking Your Input: Sustainability and the Oregon Science Standards

Teachers have often asked us about what we can do to get Sustainability incorporated into the state standards. Now there's an opportunity for input!

The Oregon science education standards will be considered and revised over the next 18 months or so. We met recently with ODE staff to learn more about this effort and whether there are opportunities to incorporate Sustainability. They are interested in identifying opportunities, and invited us to collect your input. Please share your thoughts with us! What additions or changes to the standards would be helpful for incorporating sustainability into your teaching? Which parts of the current standards do you find helpful now? Send your suggestions to Lori at lstole@zerowaste.org.

April 25 SOSI Event: Global Warming and Schools

Schools are an important element in our state's effort to reduce greenhouse gases that lead to global warming. Come to SOSI's "Reading, Writing and Carbon Reductions" event and learn more! It is April 25, 8:30 – noon in Portland, at the new Gerding Theater at the Armory, a LEED Platinum building. Come early for refreshments provided by Artemis Foods and networking. The presentation begins with 3rd graders from Forest Ridge

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Elementary (Salem-Keizer School District), to tell us about global warming and carbon credits. Next, Jill Sughrue, trained by the Climate Project, presents An Inconvenient Truth. David Van't Hof, sustainability policy advisor to the governor, will talk about the Governor's Global Warming Initiative, and how Oregon's K-12 schools can support it.

The event will conclude with a 3-member panel speaking about areas with which schools can take action to reduce their impacts on global warming. Dave Cone, Gresham-Barlow School District, will describe his district's award-winning energy conservation measures and their impact; Kevin Downing, Oregon DEQ, will speak on school bus impacts and opportunities and Scott Bricker, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, will talk about state-wide efforts at schools to increase biking and walking, a win-win for student and environmental health. Mark your calendars now!

This event will be informative for the entire community including school staff, business and government folks, parents and students. For cost and RSVP details go to: <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>

Topic Teams, An Opportunity to get Involved!

- April 26: Sustainability Management topic work begins, with a 2-hour introduction and discussion of the topic. All interested folks are welcome.
- Early May: Indoor Environment/Toxics team begins. Date is being finalized now.
- June 18: Purchasing and Materials topic teams begin. (It was moved out to meet participant needs).

To participate on these or other topic teams, contact Lori Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org or 503-307-4067. All stakeholders are welcome! For more on topic teams: http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm.

The Apple is the monthly newsletter from the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI). This and past newsletters are available in PDF form at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/newsletters.htm>.

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April 24/May 31 SOSI events; The Human Benefits of Sustainable Design

SOSI is partnering with several other organizations to bring Judy Heerwagen, an environmental psychologist and nationally recognized indoor air quality expert, to Oregon for two 3-hour workshops; in Bend (April 24) and Portland (May 31), both from 8:30 - noon.

Ms. Heerwagen will talk about building design features that impact indoor environmental quality, and the human and economic implications. She will present research and examples from schools, offices and other settings demonstrating the human health and performance benefits. High performance buildings with such features as daylighting, improved indoor air quality and a connection to the outdoors, can improve occupants' cognitive, emotional and physical abilities.

See the SOSI events section for registration details!
<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>

Eco-Friendly Fundraising for Schools

We have all been inundated with glossy magazines urging us to purchase tins of packaged candy and wrapping paper to support local schools. Parents, friends and relatives usually feel compelled to support the school's fundraising efforts without regard to their possible impact on our long term sustainability. However, many traditional options involve non-recyclable products, unhealthy items, or objects with other consequences. At SOSI, we have compiled a set of alternatives for parents and schools that are more eco-friendly and help move towards long-term sustainability. This resource is now available on the SOSI website and includes the following major categories.

Environmental: for example clean-up days where students get sponsors to donate 5 or 10 cents for every pound of garbage they gather from natural areas. **Sales:** for example plants grown in student nurseries and sold out of discarded containers, green fundraisers such as Zero Waste Eco-bags. **Student performances:** musical, acting, writing, puppetry. **Friendly competitions:** such as track meets, geography bees, egg rolling contests. **Event days/nights:** for example an ethnic-themed evening, pet show, or a used book sale. **Exhibitions, Within-school events, Collecting donations,** and **Student services:** for example delivering locally grown produce or creating classes to teach.

The Eco-friendly Fundraising list is available at
<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/resources.htm>

What is Sustainability?

The first step toward achieving sustainability is understanding sustainability. So... what is it? To help answer that question, we've created a new one page information sheet, which starts with this message: "There are multiple ways to define sustainability, but all include a respect for the future. Schools, as stewards of our next

generation, need to understand and embrace sustainability in order to help students build a healthy future for their communities and the planet. "What is Sustainability" pulls together several of the common approaches to defining this concept, from the EPA's economically-driven model to the Iroquois Confederacy's concept of considering our impact on the next seven generations. It includes a look at the difference between "sustainable" and "green" and shows how sustainability follows nature's timeless closed-loop model of zero waste. Find out at

<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/resources.htm>

Sustainability for Kids: We've also created an info page/worksheet about sustainability for kids. Take a look at
<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/resources.htm>

IAQ Resources

- The winter edition of the school IAQ Newsletter from WSU's Energy office is available. See

http://www.energy.wsu.edu/documents/building/iaq/nl/07_wtr_iaq_nl.pdf

- The American Association of School Administrators has a new IAQ Resource, *Putting the Pieces Together: An Urban School Leader's Guide to Healthy Indoor Environments*. This tool examines the challenges of urban school districts in the context of the school environment and offers practical, immediate action steps to undertake according to your leadership role.

<http://www.aasa.org/focus/content.cfm?ItemNumber=8341&token=41563&userID=>

Student Awards

- **Focus Awards:** <http://focusthenation.org/awards/>

- **2007 Brower Youth Awards:**

Annual award from Earth Island Institute recognizes 6 young people (age 13-22) for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy. Deadline: May 15, 2007

<http://www.broweryouthawards.org/article.php?list=type&type=12>.

Student Opportunity: NetAid Global Citizen Corps

Want to make a difference in the lives of the world's poor? Think we can do more to tackle problems like HIV/AIDS and hunger? Join this national network of high school students working to rally their peers to fight global poverty. Learn more and apply online at www.netaid.org/go/apply. Deadline: May 15, 2007.

Raise Sustainability Awareness in your Group

The Northwest Earth Institute offers a number of discussion courses for all, no matter your location. You get a group and they supply the materials. These are a great way to learn and increase discussion. The latest course is called Global Warming: Changing CO2urse.

<http://www.nwei.org/NWEI/What%20Is%20A%20Discussion%20Course.html>.

Greenworks! Grants

Service-learning grant program from Project Learning Tree. Helps fund neighborhood environmental improvement projects that partner PLT educators and their students with local businesses or community organizations. Deadline: 4/30/07. http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html

Oregon Legislation of Interest

Some of the bills related to school sustainability that are being considered this session in the Oregon legislature are listed below. Status is listed as of last week of March. Full text of Oregon State Legislative measures can be found at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/searchmeas.html>, together with the latest status.

Buildings and Energy

- HB 2211: Renewable energy and tax credits. Status: passed the House, referred to Senate committee.
- HB 2620: Inclusion of solar energy technologies in public buildings. Status: Public hearing held end of February.
- HB 2628: Prohibits installation of certain outdoor lighting fixtures, and sale of mercury vapor lights. Status: Referred to House committee mid-Feb.
- SB 87: Relates to electric company public purpose charges and energy conservation, new renewable energy resources. Status: Public hearing held mid-February.
- SB 479: Prohibits use of R type metal halide or mercury vapor light bulbs in schools. Status: Several hearings and work sessions in March.
- SB 576: Requires new public buildings to meet LEED silver standard. Status: Referred to Senate Committee in mid-Feb.

Food and Nutrition

- HB 2288: Creates Oregon Food Policy Council, includes Farm to School. Status: Mid-March passed through House committee to Ways and Means Committee.
- HB 2650: Sets nutrition standards for school foods not sold within school food program. Status: Hearings and work session held through March.
- HB 3185: Directs ODE to establish school garden program. Status: referred to committee in mid-March.
- HB 3307: Directs Or. Dept. of Ag. to improve use of locally grown foods, including their distribution to schools. Status: referred to committee in mid-March.
- HB 3476: Directs ODE to establish farm to school program. Status: referred to committee in mid-March.

Transportation

- HB 2172: Directs Environmental Quality Commission to establish a goal to reduce diesel emissions, targets emissions by school buses. Status: Referred on to House Revenue Committee in mid-March.

Farm to School Efforts

- Oregon Farm to School Team

An Oregon farm-to-school group has met several times. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 12-3 PM in Portland, and all interested folks are welcome. Contact Dana Christensen: dana.christensen@state.or.us

- Eastern Oregon Farm-to-School

An eastern Oregon Farm-to-School group will hold an initial meeting, April 13, 1-4, Bend. For info contact Katrina Wiest, 541-383-6111, kwiest@bend.k12.or.us

- New National F2S Resource

"Going Local: Paths to Success for Farm to School Programs" is a new resource from the National Farm to School Program, Center for Food & Justice, Occidental College and the Community Food Security Coalition. The 28 page publication provides a snapshot of the diverse ways in which farm to school is making a difference nationwide. It contains case studies from 8 states, including Oregon, which will facilitate a better understanding of the farm to school approach and encourage the development of future programs.

The section on Oregon features the Bend-LaPine School District program, efforts in Lane County through the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, and the Portland Public Schools pilot at Abernethy Elementary School. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>. Download for free at <http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/cfj/publications/goinglocal.pdf>.

Schools for the 21st Century

A recent Time magazine article points out what our students need for success tomorrow. These are elements we recognize as part of a sustainable school.

- Know more about the world. Learn to be global citizens.
- Think outside the box. Think across disciplines.
- Process new sources of information.
- Learn to communicate across cultures.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1568429,00.html>

EPA Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign

The U.S. EPA just announced its Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign, to help schools prevent chemical accidents. Under this program, EPA, working with the U.S. Department of Education and industry, will help schools safely manage chemicals. Across the country, EPA estimates that about 33,000 middle and high schools have laboratory and other chemicals that could cause accidents and injure students. Through the campaign, schools are connected with local chemical management experts and a web-based toolkit. Information about Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign: <http://epa.gov/sc3/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SOSI Events

April 24: Investing in People: The Human Benefits of Sustainable Design
Nationally recognized expert, Judy Heerwagen, speaks on Indoor Environmental Quality.
Bend, 8:30 – noon, COCC

April 25 Reading, Writing and Carbon Reductions.
Learn about global warming, the impact of schools and how to reduce it.
Portland, 8:30 – noon, Gerding Theater at the Armory

May 31: Investing in People: The Human Benefits of Sustainable Design
Portland, 9 – noon, Ecotrust, Same description as above.

Info and Registration details for the above events are at:
<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>

SOSI Meetings

April 26: Managing Sustainability Topic
Intro and discussion

Early May Topic Team: Indoor Environment /Toxics

June 18: Topic Teams: Purchasing and Materials

Related Events:

Many events that help support sustainable schools occur throughout the year. This information is provided as a service. Listing on this page does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Zero Waste Alliance or the Oregon Sustainable Schools Initiative.

Due to space constraints not all events could be included here. For the full list, see our website:
<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>

Check the website for details and updates.
<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>.

April 7 Curriculum & Game Infoshare
TLC Farm, Portland, 2:00-5:00 PM, Tryon Life Community Farm, 11640 SW Boones Ferry Rd. Farm and garden educators are invited to share ideas on rainy day gardening activities, games, & seed starting activities. RSVP to lauradvorak@hotmail.com. <http://www.tryonfarm.org/edu>

April 10 From Here to Where? Climate Change and Salmon Nation
6:00 – 8:30 PM, Portland, Ecotrust
Free event. For panel line-up see the flyer at:
<http://www.cascadiagbc.org/resources/events/april-events/climate-panel-041007-flyer>

April 24 EPA's IAQ TfS Program Web call; Leading Edge IAQ TfS Assessment
10 – noon PDT, Tuesday, April 24th, 2007
Hear how IAQ TfS award winners regularly assess their school facilities to detect potential problems before they become larger IAQ issues. Register online at
<http://t.lt05.net/c.asp?NLPVa0ujUuuIDBEYjbOuwucMRg/wrTG7J9V1p6j1+rlg>

April 25-7 Living Future, Green Building Conference
Seattle. Presented by Cascadia Green Building Council,
<http://www.cascadiagbc.org/resources/LivingFuture07/living-future>

May 1 Green Cleaning in Schools
Teleconference sponsored by the Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership.
10:00 – 10:45 AM, See flyer for info and registration details:
http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events_files/Green_Clean_Schools_Flyer_May_1_Call.pdf

May 8 Mold in Schools
Teleconference sponsored by Oregon Schools Indoor Air Quality Partnership.
1 - 1:45 PM, Flyer will be posted on the SOSI site when available.

BE A SUPPORTER!! Contributions from you and your organizations make this initiative happen. Please consider contributing. Details at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>.

**** Thank You to our supporters ****

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Bronze Level: Bill Blosser, Boora Architects, Johnson Controls, Neil Kelly Remodelers*

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To unsubscribe, please contact Lori Porter Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org. Thank you!