



The Apple

Sustainable
Schools
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

September-October 2007

SOSI Topic Teams

An Opportunity to get Involved!

Topic Teams currently underway include:

- Managing Sustainability
- Purchasing
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Indoor Environmental Quality/Toxics

Upcoming meeting dates for these groups are posted on the SOSI website:

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

To participate on these or other topic teams, contact Lori Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org or 503-307-4067. All stakeholders are welcome!

We'd like to thank Coastwide Laboratories for their sponsorship of the Indoor Environmental Quality Topic Team! Please contact us if your organization would like to sponsor a particular topic team.

Roots and Shoots

Helping People, Animals and the Environment

Are you wondering how to engage kids with sustainability issues? The Roots and Shoots program from the Jane Goodall Institute may be of interest. This global, environmental and humanitarian program for young people provides an opportunity for involving an after school club, a classroom or even an entire school in the sustainability effort. Its mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for the environment, animals and the human community. All Roots & Shoots members, from pre-K to

In this Issue:

- *SOSI Topic Team Meetings*
- *Roots and Shoots*
- *Sustainable Design Guidelines*
- *School Buildings Across the US Performing Higher*
- *Global Warming and Sustainability*
- *Too Late to Avoid Global Warming*
- *Support SOSI and The Apple*
- *Bringing Global Warming into the Classroom*
- *Focus the Nation*
- *ClimateQuest*
- *Miscellaneous Resources*
- *Change a Light, Change the World*
- *Try a Sustainability Challenge at your School*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *Be a Supporter*
- *Thank you to our Supporters*

university, demonstrate their care and concern for living things through service projects in their communities.

Its goals are:

- To implement positive change through active learning about, caring for and interacting with the environment
- To demonstrate care and concern for all animals
- To enhance understanding among individuals of different cultures, ethnic groups, religions, socio-economic levels and nations through our global communications network
- To help young people develop self-respect, confidence in themselves and hope for the future

Learn more at <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/>.

Sustainable Design Guidelines

The Poudre School District in Ft. Collins, Colorado, created these sustainable building design guidelines for the construction of new facilities and the renovation of existing structures. Find the guideline at: <https://www.psdschools.org/documentlibrary/downloads>

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>.

[/Operations/Plan Design and Construction/Sustainable Design Guidelines 2005.pdf.](#)

School Buildings across the U.S. are performing higher

Perhaps in an attempt to prepare students for an eco-college experience, many elementary, middle, and high schools are getting in on the green-building trend. Sixty schools across the U.S. have been certified by the U.S. Green Building Council, and 360 more are waiting to have applications approved; in 2000, only four schools applied for certification. The new generation of educational edifices boasts features such as waterless urinals, motion-sensing light systems, rooftop gardens, and sunshine-streaming skylights that discourage naps in class. Students at the new green-built T.C. Williams High in Alexandria, Va., say they're hesitant to doodle on desks or deface other school property that was built to be sustainable and long-lasting. And according to USGBC's Rachel Gutter, green schools can increase test scores, retain teachers, and save districts up to \$100,000 a year in energy, water, and health-care costs. Lesson learned. (from *The Washington Post and The Grist*)

Global Warming and Sustainability

Global warming is a symptom of our current unsustainable global society. It is a complicated phenomenon related to many of the SOSI topic areas, often with energy as the common denominator. The process of constructing buildings uses energy, as does the day-to-day operation of those buildings. Food production and distribution requires energy. School buses and vehicles use energy. Water use entails pumping energy. Material goods require energy for their initial production and distribution, and use still more energy to recycle (but less than to make them new from virgin materials). That means schools can choose from a lot of different activities when considering how to reduce their global warming impacts.

'Too Late To Avoid Global Warming,' Say Scientists

The latest study from the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released this month, put the inevitability of drastic global warming in the starkest terms yet, stating that major impacts on parts of the world are unavoidable, and the focus must be on adapting life to survive the most devastating changes.

A rise of two degrees centigrade in global temperatures -- the point considered to be the threshold for catastrophic climate change which will expose millions to drought, hunger and flooding -- is now "very unlikely" to be avoided, the world's leading climate scientists said this month. Under the scale of risk used by IPCC, the words "very unlikely" mean there is just a one to 10 per cent chance of limiting the global temperature rise to two degrees centigrade or less.

To read the study or learn more about the IPCC visit: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Bringing Global Warming into the Classroom

- **Climate Classroom Website:** National Wildlife Federation's new ClimateClassroom.org website is designed to help parents and teachers talk to students of differing ages about global warming. Its features include guidelines for parents, proposed new national global warming educator guidelines, age-adapted sources of useful curricula, a downloadable slide presentation for kids, presenter's guide, and more. <http://www.ClimateClassroom.org>
- **carboNZero School Calculator:** The carboNZero school calculator will help teachers and students estimate the amount of CO2 your school releases into the atmosphere. Using the tips suggested as a guide, you can develop an action plan for the school. Then you can see how effective you are at reducing the emissions. The school calculator is an excellent hands-on learning resource. http://www.carbonzero.co.nz/calculators/calculators_school.asp

Support SOSI and The Apple!

The success of the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative depends on your financial contributions!

Help keep us going!

If you find this newsletter helpful, please help support it with you tax deductible donation today. To learn about individual donation opportunities and corporate sponsorship visit <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>. Show your support by becoming an individual donor.

Use your credit card to make a secure on-line contribution or, send a check to:

Zero Waste Alliance
One World Trade Center, Suite 210
121 SW Salmon St, Portland, OR 97204

Thank you!

- www.climatechangeeducation.org: This comprehensive website contains helpful information on the whole spectrum of global warming education from teacher training, to finding funding, to fun field trips and fairs.

Focus the Nation is for K-12 Schools too.

Focus the Nation is coordinating teams of faculty and students at over a thousand colleges, universities and K-12 schools in the United States, to

collaboratively engage in a nationwide, interdisciplinary discussion about "Global Warming Solutions for America". It will culminate January 31, 2008, in the form of national symposia held simultaneously around the country. On that day, each Focus the Nation team will invite local, state and federal political leaders to come to campus and participate in a non-partisan, round-table discussion of global warming solutions.

The simplest way to participate is to organize a viewing of the Focus the Nation Webcast on January 30th. This interactive, two hour special will feature Stanford Professor Stephen Schneider, college and high school students, and global warming solutions experts. It will be available free of charge on Earth Day Network TV. www.earthdaytv.net The webcast will be organized to support small group discussion in the audiences across the nation.

To make it more interesting, involve teachers from across the curriculum: art, religious studies, the natural sciences, communication, theater, social studies and economics, foreign languages, psychology—all have a perspective to share. Devote an assembly to global warming solutions. Get the science and art departments to team up with a set of joint poster presentations. To learn more, consult the Model High School Agenda. http://www.focusthenation.org/HS_model_curriculum.pdf

ClimateQuest Offers Summer Program

This past summer, Sonoma State College, Western Washington University and American University offered new summer programs for high school students to educate them about the fundamentals of the climate challenge through video production. The program, called ClimateQuest, equips participants with the skills to show how climate change will impact their local communities and what solutions are emerging. The videos produced by the students appear on the Campus Climate Challenge site and on It's Getting Hot in Here. ClimateQuest plans to expand the program to more campuses in summer 2008 and is seeking additional campuses to participate in the program.

Learn more at:

<http://www.climateprotectioncampaign.org/climatequest.php>

Miscellaneous Resources:

Indoor Air Quality: Past EPA-organized web conferences are available for download online.

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/webconferences.html>

Social Justice Education: Include social justice issues in the classroom. Rethinking Schools has an assortment of

publications and information to help.

<http://www.rethinkingschools.org/>

Energy/Community: The Energy Justice Network has released a "Campus - Community Organizing Guide", Building Power for Lasting Change in the Youth Movement for Clean Energy, designed to provide high school and college-aged youth with the tools and guidance to get involved in community organizing efforts. The guide also includes examples of successful campus-community collaboration.

<http://www.energyjustice.net/campus/ccog.pdf>

Change a Light, Change the World Fundraiser

You can raise funds for your school, increase energy conservation awareness in your community, and compete to win a free solar electric system valued at \$15,000. When your school participates in the Change a Light, Change the World Fundraiser, you have a chance to go solar with a Solar 4R Schools contest. This valuable learning tool is made available through Energy Trust of Oregon in cooperation with Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Sign up today! This remarkable prize includes a one-kilowatt solar electric system with data monitoring, weather station, renewable energy curriculum, teacher training and more—and only the first 30 schools to register are entered into the contest. NOTE: Only schools served by Pacific Power and Portland General Electric are eligible to participate.

http://www.energytrust.org/residential/es/products/light_s_fundraiser.html

Try a Sustainability Challenge at Your School!

Seattle University's Environmental Advisory Council held a six-week Sustainability Challenge this spring. They created the Challenge as a fun competition to show how individuals can be an agent for change by taking small, easy steps in their daily activities. Each team had four people who competed by doing simple actions like turning off lights and using a reusable mug. There were student, staff and faculty teams. Participants earn points each week based on the actions they take. Each of the challenge's six weeks had a different theme (transportation, energy, waste, consumption, water and ecological "footprint").

Educational events for points included tours of SU's composting and recycling facility, ethnobotanical garden, pesticide-free landscape, solar installation, and the cafeteria's sustainable food practices. In the first year, 103 teams of four players finished all 6 weeks. Six professors used the Challenge as a learning tool and made it a class requirement in their ecology, biology and business classes. Details at:

http://www.seattleu.edu/sustainability/gi_challenge.asp

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

SOSI Meetings:

Upcoming SOSI Topic Team Meetings:

Purchasing and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Topic Teams

- October 2, 23 and November 6, 2007
9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Indoor Environment /Toxics Topic Team

- October 8 and 29, 2007
9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Managing Sustainability Topic Team

- October 22 and November 26, 2007
9:30 am to 11:30 am

Steering Committee: October 2, 1 - 4 PM

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 Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative.

Oct 2-4 Symposium on Environmental Affairs

At: Lewis and Clark College, Portland
<http://www.lclark.edu/dept/envs/symposium.html>

October 3 Walk+Bike to School Day

Register or learn more at:
<http://www.walknbike.org/site/index.html>

Oct 4 Sustainability Using the Natural Step Framework

Workshop sponsored by Garten Services
Where: West Salem 7:30 am - 12:00 pm
See the [flyer](#) for details and registration information.

Oct 4 Panel Discussion: Sensibility of Sustainability

Portland area, Marylhurst University, 7-9 PM, Free
See [flyer](#) for details.

Oct 4-21: Salmonpeople: Oregon Coast Tour

7 Oregon coast locations. See [flyer](#) for dates and registration info. More info at:
<http://www.salmonnation.com/events/salmonpeople/index.html>

Oct 10 A Common Path for Success and Sustainability

Conference presented by the Oregon Natural Step Network.
Details: <http://www.or-natural-step.org/>

October 12 Writing Your Sustainability Plan

UO Sustainable Leadership Program
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., UO Portland Center, Details:
<http://center.uoregon.edu/sustainability/workshops/>

Oct 12-13 Reading & Writing about Race in Portland

Teacher Workshop: Offered by Portland Area Rethinking Schools. 9am - 4pm, Portland
Details at: <http://www.lclark.edu/dept/owp/>

Oct 16-18 Implementing Biomass Boiler Systems

Fuels for Schools and Beyond is holding a national 3-day workshop on implementing woody biomass energy systems. Missoula, Montana. Details:
http://fuelsforschools.org/biomass_boiler_workshop.html

Visit the SOSI Website Events List for MANY more listings: <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>

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 ****

Platinum Level:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Gold Level:

Coastwide Laboratories*, Dolphin Software*, Ecoworks Foundation, Oregon Department of Administrative Services, Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon School Employees Association, Portland General Electric*

Silver Level:

Artemis Foods, Bonneville Power Administration, Energy Trust of Oregon, Metro Regional Government*, Northwest Natural, Oregon Department of Education,

Portland Center Stage, Siltronic Corporation*, The Catlin Gabel School

Bronze Level:

Bill Blosser, Boora Architects, City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development, The Food Alliance, Hot Lips Pizza, Johnson Controls, Neil Kelly*

* Honor Roll Contributors have contributed for more than one year.

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