



The Apple

Sustainable
Schools
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

November/December 2007

A Year-end Note from the SOSI Staff-

Thank you for all your comments of appreciation for this newsletter. We like to get your feedback; keep it coming! There are now over 1,000 folks directly receiving *The Apple*, and we know some of you send it on to yet other groups of readers. If you are one of those who receive a forwarded copy, please consider subscribing yourself so that we can better track its reach for our own funding purposes.

We are a small team, doing a lot of work! We include two great half-time assistants; **Bob Filbin** moved to Portland nearly a year ago from the East Coast, and has a B.A. in natural science. He's been involved with a myriad of interesting environmental projects and grassroots sustainability efforts over the last years. **Brett Luttrell** is currently a senior at Portland State University, where he's studying Community Development and Sustainable Urban Development, and is active with various sustainability-related efforts. Brett came to Portland 2 years ago from Florida, by way of Alaska. Additionally there's valuable input contributed by **Larry Chalfan**, ZWA's executive director. In his previous career as CEO of Oki Semiconductor he was a sustainability pioneer. In order to share his experience and help others learn about sustainability he went on to form the Zero Waste Alliance. And lastly there's the SOSI Manager, **Lori Stole**, also just part time. Lori started as an engineer in industry, but changed paths after her twins were born and has been working for several years now in the realm of K-12 schools and sustainability. Also helping to make SOSI a reality are **Teri Stoeber** in the ZWA office and **Kim Hughes**, ZWA's Development Director.

We'd like to thank the many volunteers who contribute in so many ways to the success of SOSI! You serve on Topic Teams, on the Steering Committee, send information our way and help in many ways. We couldn't do it without you!

Take a moment too, to note the organizations that have helped to make SOSI possible with their financial sponsorship. They are listed at the end of the newsletter and on the SOSI website. We are grateful for our sponsors!!

School districts are starting to get interested in sustainability now, and are beginning to come to us to see how SOSI can help. Fortunately we're already creating a set of resources that will provide additional assistance. The SOSI resource website will launch very soon. Topic teams have been meeting and are producing a set of tools and resources that will "jump-start" school and school district sustainability efforts. The free SOSI newsletter provides information about resources, opportunities and related efforts from around the country. We have also been reaching out with presentations, partnerships and written articles.

Please support SOSI today with your year-end financial contribution! We're doing a lot with a little, and every dollar helps!

Show your support by becoming a contributor. To learn about individual donation opportunities and corporate sponsorship visit <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>. You can 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!

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>.

SOSI Topic Teams

An Opportunity to get Involved!

Two new Topic Teams are being organized now:

- Water
- Landscaping / Outdoor Grounds

Topic Teams currently underway include:

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

Meeting dates 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!

A New Option for Supporting SOSI

We are pleased to announce a new program – **Partners for Sustainable Schools** – that enables businesses to dedicate a portion of proceeds from their business or a product line to Sustainable Schools. We are delighted to welcome with appreciation our first Partner, Global Sustaining Equity Management, LLC, which has just launched "Our GlobO," a platform for products inspired by the values of stewardship, responsibility and sustainability. Their first product, the Go Jacket, will have a percentage of its sales dedicated to Sustainable Schools. Their press release and information on where to purchase the Go Jacket are available at the Our GlobO website (<http://ourglobo.com/>). For information on how you can be a Partner for Sustainable Schools, please contact Kim Hughes at khughes@zerowaste.org.

New Report on Projected World Energy Demand

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released its annual World Energy Outlook 2007, which looked this year in particular at energy developments in China and India. The report concludes that if governments around the world stick with current policies the world's energy needs would be well over 50% higher in 2030 than today. China and India together account for 45% of the increase in demand. The IEA also expects a 73 percent jump in demand for coal by 2030.

Report summary is available at:

<http://www.iea.org/Textbase/nptoc/WEO2007TOC.pdf>.

Learn more about the International Energy Agency at:

<http://www.iea.org/journalists/faq.asp>.

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Essay Contest - Creating a Green Neighborhood Plan

High school students are encouraged to address some of the critical planning issues in their own communities. The American Planning Association (APA) is promoting awareness of all the elements that go into making a great neighborhood through this essay contest and the 2007 National Community Planning Month's theme, "Great Streets, Great Neighborhoods: Greening Streets and Neighborhoods." Deadline: January 15, 2008.

<http://www.planning.org/institutions/hseessay.htm>

IAQ newsletter

The Fall 2007 issue of *Indoor Air Quality in Northwest Schools*, a newsletter from WSU's extension energy program is now available. This issue features sustainability and SOSI!

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

Reducing pesticide exposures at schools

A new 4-page NIOSH fact sheet has been published, titled "Reducing pesticide exposures at schools".

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-150/>.

Sustainability on the Web – for kids

Would you like to learn more about books to read, exciting projects that other students have done, or access information for your own project? The following site includes lots of links within the following headers: Programs for Students, Sites for & by Students, Literature, Awards & Contests, Endangered Species and Info by Topic Area. See

<http://eelink.net/pages/Environmental+Information+-+General>. In particular, the resource links to sustainability-related websites are at:
<http://eelink.net/pages/Environmental+Links+-+Sustainable+Development>.

Free Energy Lesson Plans & Activities

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy offers 350 downloadable lessons and activities on energy efficiency and renewable energy, organized by grade level and topic.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/1587096>

HealthySEAT, Version 2

EPA recently issued version 2 of their Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT). This fully integrated, flexible, and free software tool can help manage school environmental health and safety issues. To download Version 2 or to access the posted webinar about its features go to

<http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat>.

The Magic School bus reduced its diesel emissions!

EPA and Scholastic Books have collaborated on a new Magic School bus book, in which the bus gets fitted with a particulate filter. These books are available from EPA through their website at

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/msb-book.htm>.

They are free to schools, libraries, non-profit organizations and organizations promoting diesel education and outreach. Also, DEQ has copies to distribute. Call Nancy Cardwell (503) 229-6610.

Antibacterial Soaps

Antibacterial soaps are common in schools, often brought by teachers or parents. However, in a review of recent studies, researchers at the U. of Michigan found that the ingredient commonly used in these products, triclosan, provides no additional benefits beyond those of plain soap; it also may contribute to the rise of many different drug-resistant bacteria. Given that triclosan can also form the probable human carcinogen chloroform when exposed to chlorinated water, you may take pause lathering up with that antibacterial soap next time you shower. (Never mind the fact that triclosan has been found in rivers or that it can concentrate in fish tissues to be eaten by us later.) What to do? Avoid soaps that advertise

themselves as "antibacterial" or "antimicrobial." The majority of products so labeled include triclosan or the similarly problematic compound, triclocarban. See more details at:

<http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc/122/antibacterial>

Organic food healthier than non-organic, research finds

Preliminary results of a four-year study funded by the European Union show that organic nosh contained more antioxidants and fewer fatty acids than non-organic. Organic milk was found to have up to 80 percent more antioxidants than conventional cow juice, as well as higher amounts of vitamin E. Organic wheat, tomatoes, cabbage, onions, and lettuce had up to 40 percent more antioxidants than their conventional counterparts, and potatoes, kiwi fruit, and carrots were found to have higher levels of vitamin C. The study is ongoing, and final results are expected to be published over the next year; the research has yet to be peer-reviewed. More details:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7067100.stm>

Climate Change info from Sightline

This in from the Sightline Institute; What are the three top factors when trying to reduce our climate-changing emissions? Transportation, transportation, and transportation! In the Northwest states, 53 percent of our CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels stem from transportation uses including commute traffic, freight, and planes. Our transportation sector produces more than *three times* as much climate pollution as electricity production does. [See charts for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington](#).

Also from Sightline, the [climate policy project](#). With communications strategies, thoughtful commentary, and nifty maps and charts, they're researching and advancing regional solutions to the climate crisis, that are both effective and fair.

http://www.sightline.org/research/energy/res_pubs/climate-policy-project

Colleges graded on sustainability

Are you a student thinking about college choices? The Sustainable Endowment Institute has released its second [College Sustainability Report Card](#), grading the environmentalliciousness of the 200 U.S. colleges with the largest endowments. Two-thirds of the schools got better grades this time than last; the average overall grade was a C+, and six schools received an overall A- for their efforts -- Carleton College, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Middlebury College, University of Vermont, and University of Washington. The colleges were graded on transportation, administration, climate and energy, food and recycling, green building, and investment priorities, as well as endowment transparency and shareholder engagement (both of which most schools solidly failed).

<http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/sustainability/>

United Nations report says world environment doing quite poorly

The United Nations Environment Program released a comprehensive 5-year report at the end of October. The fourth *Global Environment Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4)* assessment is a comprehensive and authoritative UN report on environment, development and human well-being, providing incisive analysis and information for decision making. It warns that governments are still failing to recognise the seriousness of major environmental issues. The study, involving more than 1,400 scientists, found that human consumption had far outstripped available resources. Each person on Earth now requires a third more land to supply his or her needs than the planet can supply, it finds. Access the report at: <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/index.asp>

Looking for Climate Change Resources?

Visit the growing list of resources on the Climate Change page of the EE-Link Web site. <http://eelink.net/pages/Climate+Change>

"Be the Change, Share the Story" Contest

The North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE) has teamed up with QuantumShift.tv to launch the 'Be the Change, Share the Story! School Video Contest. The contest is challenging 5,000 teams of students at schools across the US and Canada to make a difference and tell the world. Teams pick a social or environmental project and create two short videos about their project. The first video tells how the team plans to make a difference, and the follow up video shows the team in action, making a difference! Students, viewers, and celebrity judges can log on and vote for their favorite videos. The top teams in each age group will win \$50,000 in cash and prizes for their schools. Quantum Shift.tv wants to empower kids to Be the Change, and Share the Story."

For more information on the contest: <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/1279051>
Contest runs from September 4, 2007 to April 30, 2008

A Call for Responsible Paper in Textbooks

The Green Textbook Initiative is coordinated by the National Wildlife Federation and the Green Press Initiative and aims to reduce the environmental impacts of textbooks. By going to the link below, teachers and other educational stakeholders can sign a statement calling on publishers of educational materials to minimize their environmental impacts by using environmentally responsible paper.

<http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/textbook-signatory.htm>
<http://greenpressinitiative.org/documents/Campus%20Toolkit.doc>

Columbia Gorge CC Receives Grant for Renewable Energy Training Program

PPM Energy committed \$50,000 per year for three years to Columbia Gorge Community College to assist in the development of its renewable energy training program, the first of its kind on the West Coast. The funds will be used primarily for faculty support. PPM sees the programs as an important new educational opportunity for developing next generation of wind power technicians.

School Health Policies and Programs Study

CDC recently released the data from the 2006 School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS). SHPPS 2006 is a very comprehensive nationally representative survey of states, school districts, and schools on a wide range of school health issues. Comprehensive results are published in the Journal of School Health, Volume 77, Number 8, October 2007, available free from the American School Health Association at: http://www.ashaweb.org/journal_schoolhealth.html#shpps.

Youth Awards

The 2007 Brower Youth Awards were recently presented at a ceremony celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of David Brower's founding of Earth Island Institute. The awards recognize six young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in environmental and social justice advocacy. Winners receive \$3,000 cash awards and are invited to use Earth Island Institute as a resource for networking, mentoring, and fiscal sponsorship of their projects. To learn about this year's winners, or how to apply for next year's awards visit:

<http://www.broweryouthawards.org/article.php?list=type&type=37>

Global Action Awards: The Global Action Awards honor U.S. high school students who have led a project that had a direct, positive impact on people in developing countries or that raised awareness about global poverty. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2008 awards. Learn about Net-Aid's Global Action Award finalists for 2007 at: <http://www.globalactionawards.org/>

Action For Nature is proud of its 2007 International Young Eco Hero Award winners. Young people aged 8 to 16, selected for their outstanding environmental achievements, come from around the world. The next application deadline is February 28, 2008. Read about the inspiring 2007 awardees and get information on the guidelines and application for 2008 on the Web site. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/1587072#>

Practice spelling words and feed the world

A new site allows just that! <http://www.freerice.com/>

Farm to School Portal Launched

As a means to support community-based food systems, strengthen family farms and improve student health by reducing childhood obesity, the National Farm to School Network launched its new and improved website, www.farmtoschool.org. Farmtoschool.org is *the* portal for farm to school information in the U.S, including extensive content with easy access for submitting information about programs, upcoming events, news and funding opportunities, and online discussion forums to dialogue about issues facing farm to school programs. Farm to School supporters, from farmers and food buyers to food service directors and parents, are invited to use the new site to strengthen growing movement

As the Regional Lead Agency, Ecotrust's Food and Farms Program is the hub for farm to school activities in the Western region, which encompasses Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Hawaii and Nevada. In this role, Ecotrust supports the National Network in areas of policy, information, media, and networking opportunities as well as training and technical assistance for individuals working on farm to school issues. Learn more about Ecotrust's Food and Farms Program: www.ecotrust.org

New York Guidelines for High-Performance Schools

Voluntary design guidelines for high-performance, sustainable schools in New York State will encourage energy-efficient design for new buildings, renovations and additions. The document was released in September by the State Education Dept. and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Called Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NY-CHPS), the guidelines are already being used to design the East Hampton Union Free School District's high school, as a pilot. The guidelines encourage such features as drought-tolerant plants in the landscaping, deciduous trees to keep the parking area cooler, minimizing the heat island effect, use of low-consumption plumbing fixtures, increased roof and wall cavity insulation, solar window shades and deep overhangs to minimize solar heat gain, and a white roofing system for high reflectance. These guidelines are based in part on the California-based CHPS, <http://www.chps.net/>. For more information about NY-CHPS, read the design guidelines online at http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/facplan/NYSERDA/NY-CHPS_Ver_1-1_Feb_07.html

Air fresheners found to be toxic

Bathrooms in schools often have air fresheners. A recent study by the Natural Resources Defense Council found that 12 out of 14 air fresheners tested positive for harmful levels of phthalates, which are known to cause reproductive problems and hormone disruption

in humans. Neither the FDA nor the EPA conducts any spot checking of toxic chemicals in air freshener products. Some of the twelve products testing positive were labeled "natural". See the report at:

<http://www.nrdc.org/health/home/airfresheners/contents.asp>

Ozone Air Cleaners

Schools have been approached to install ozone air cleaners to "clean the air and improve health". Think twice. California just passed the first-in-the-nation regulation of ozone generators sold as air cleaners. There's more info at the following sites:

http://www.imakenews.com/pureaircontrols/e_article000920191.cfm?x=bbm110k,b4qvTrkj,

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/aircleaners/aircleaners.htm>,

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/o3g-list.htm>

U.S. Green Building Council Launches Green Schools Web Site

A new Web site launched on Oct. 16 by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) gives students, parents, teachers, school administrators, elected officials and community members a new resource in the effort to ensure a future of green schools.

<http://www.stevenspublishing.com/Stevens/EPPub.nsf/frame?open&redirect=http://www.stevenspublishing.com/stevens/EPPub.Nsf/bbe57734f991964b86256711005770b7/f2612e4484fe52318625737c004f82ff?OpenDocument>

School and Community Real Estate Workshop

The OSBA Bonds and Ballots 2008 workshop has added a Thursday session presented by Innovation Partnership. This day of sessions will explore real estate, new construction and "rehab" for school and local governments including experienced professionals and panels of school, city and county experts on a variety of topics, including sustainability.

Thursday-Friday, January 24-25, 2008

Salem Conference Center

Watch for registration details at

<http://www.osba.org/commsvcs/bnb/>

Recycling Bin Grant Program

National Recycling Coalition and Coca-Cola have partnered on a recycling bin grant. NRC will provide guidance and consultation to grantees on setting up a recycling program, assess recycling bin needs and determine bin selection. NRC bin suppliers will then deliver bins directly to the recipients. Grant recipients will be selected and awarded recycling bins throughout 2008. The next grant cycle begins in the spring and details will be posted in January:

<http://www.nrc-recycle.org/bingrantherelease.aspx>.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

SOSI Meetings:

Upcoming SOSI Topic Team Meetings:

- Procurement and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Topic Teams
 - January 15, 2007 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Indoor Environment /Toxics Topic Team
 - December 10, 2007
 - January 14, 2008 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Managing Sustainability Topic Team
 - January 10 & 28, 2008
 - February 25, 2008 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Coming soon: Water and Landscaping Topic Teams

SOSI Steering Committee: January 8, 2008, 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.

December 4 Green Roofs Design 101 Course

Cascadia Green Building Council presents this introductory course covering the components and benefits of green roofs. 8:30am-5pm, Springfield, OR
[http://www.greenroofs.org/storage/Promo Eugene Dec4.htm](http://www.greenroofs.org/storage/Promo_Eugene_Dec4.htm)

December 4-6 Green California Schools Summit & Exposition

Over 150 exhibits and breakout sessions featuring the latest products and services to help you make your school "green". Register or learn more at:
<http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/attendee.htm>
Pasadena Conference Center, Pasadena, CA

December 11 Northwest Paper Forum

Hear new developments and celebrate successes in the markets for sustainable paper and reducing waste. For information visit <http://www.pprc.org/paperforum/>
8:30 am-4:15 pm, Seattle City Hall

December 17-18 engineeringgreen07

Cascadia Green Building Council presents this innovative conference on integrating green practices into all types of engineering – from the site to the systems. Information at: <http://www.cascadiagbc.org/events/engineeringgreen07/engineeringgreen07/>
Nike Campus, Beaverton, OR

January 18, 2008 Carbon Footprints and Climate Risk: Tools for Business and Government

Sustainability Leadership Program.
<http://sustain.uoregon.edu/>
8:30 am-4:00 pm, UO Portland Center

Visit the SOSI Website Events List for 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 ****

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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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!