



The Apple

Sustainable
Schools
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

November 2008

SOSI Green Pages

The SOSI Green Pages have just been launched and seek listings. They are a means of sharing products and services that can help support school environmental, social and/or economic sustainability efforts. They will become a resource for schools and districts seeking to become more sustainable, and are available at the SOSI website. The products and services listed have two or more sustainable attributes, as described by the companies offering them.

Products or services are listed as a benefit of SOSI sponsorship. Sponsors have the opportunity to list one qualifying product or service per \$100 contributed, up to a total of ten. To submit qualifying products or services please download and fill out the submittal form, available from the website

<http://sustainableschools.org/resources/greenpages.htm>

If you are a non-profit organization with program(s) to help schools, let us know and we'll list you in the appropriate Go-To Organization Matrix, in the Resource section of the [SOSI website](#).

SOSI Newsletter Archive

Did you know that all the previous SOSI newsletters are available from our website? Take a look!

http://sustainableschools.org/about/nltr_archive.htm

SOSI Workshop offered at OSBA Conference

SOSI staff together with a Corvallis School District school board member and Lincoln County School District administrator will be presenting a sustainability session at the November Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) conference on Saturday, November 15. Please come by if you are attending the conference.

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring a *Decade of Education for*

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Sustainable Development to begin on January 1, 2005. UNESCO, the Decade's lead agency, has described the four major thrusts of education for sustainable development to be:

- Promotion and improvement of high quality, relevant basic education.
- Reorienting of existing education policies and programs to address the social, environmental and economic knowledge, skills and values inherent to sustainability in a holistic and interdisciplinary manner
- Development of public understanding and awareness of the principles of sustainable development.
- Development of specialized training programs to ensure that all sectors of society have the skills necessary to perform their work in a sustainable manner.

Fortunately in our country the first of these, a basic education for all, is recognized as necessary and we are continually striving to improve it.

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

The second of these, re-orienting existing education, is especially relevant for our U.S. K-12 system. Currently the most educated societies are leaving the deepest eco-footprints, and are not fully factoring in the economic and social implications. To address this, our education system needs to be re-oriented such that it:

- Addresses the values, principles, perspectives, knowledge and skills that today's students need when they graduate.
- Integrates environment, economy, and society into an appropriate and relevant curriculum.
- Is based on local needs, priorities, perceptions, and conditions, but recognizes that fulfilling local needs often has global effects and consequences.
- Addresses content, context, and pedagogy.
- Engages formal, non-formal, and informal education including the school facility itself.

No single entity or discipline can do this alone; each must play a role and work together to achieve progress. This includes the dedicated individual, a whole school or a school district, all the way to the international initiative, and across all school disciplines.

It's important to understand that education ABOUT sustainability as a concept raises awareness but is theoretical. Education FOR a sustainable future is the use of education as a tool to transform our societies to achieve sustainability. This is what is needed to move forward and achieve change.

- To learn more about the U.N. work with sustainability see: <http://www.sustainableschools.org/discover/discover.htm#evolvesunderstanding>.
- To learn more about the U.N. Decade for Education for Sustainable Development, see http://www.sustainableschools.org/discover/sus_nor.htm#unitednations.
- For further details explore the Education page on SOSI's website: <http://sustainableschools.org/resources/education/edu.htm>, and
- The Portland State University, Graduate School of Education, EPFA website: http://www.pdx.edu/epfa/lecl_resources.html.

K-12 and Teacher Education Sector holds National Summit / offers Education Standards

The U.S. is participating in the U.N. Decade for Education for Sustainable Development through the U.S. Partnership, which includes a sector team for K-12 and Teacher Education. This

sector group recently held a summit for national professional education organizations, at which around 35 groups were engaged in a dialogue and planning related to Education for Sustainability. Some of the presentation materials are posted at the website below.

This group has worked to develop national sustainability education standards, and version 2 is also available from the site below.

Explore the U.S. Partnership website, including the K-12 sector link: <http://www.uspartnership.org/>.

Clean Air Cool Planet Online Climate Action Toolkit

Clean Air Cool Planet has released the newest version of its online Campus Climate Action Toolkit (CCAT). The toolkit is presented for use by colleges and universities, by whom it's being used nationwide. It should be equally useful for K-12 schools. It consists of guidance for every aspect of "campus climate action" along with hyperlinks to technical resources and examples/case studies that will help people understand, plan, and execute or implement the CCAT's various elements.

<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/toolkit/>

Learning from others: Sustainability Listserve

There is an active nation-wide listserv for school sustainability efforts. It is primarily focused on institutions of higher education, but much of the discussion is equally relevant for K-12 application, and K-12 folks are welcome to join. The posts tend to be largely, but not exclusively, about facilities and services issues, and involve sustainability coordinators from around the country.

To subscribe, send an email to

listserv@listserv.brown.edu. The message (body) of the email should say "subscribe grnsch-l" (without quotes).

Teach Africa Web Page Now Online!

The World Affairs Council launched a Teach Africa webpage. The page allows you to access keynote addresses and nine breakout sessions from both the 2006 Teach Africa K-12 Educators Conference and 2007 Teach Africa Youth Forum. "We hope to sustain the incredible wealth of information presented about Africa for use as both a classroom tool and for your own edification about this vast continent."

<http://www.worldoregon.org/more/education/teachafrika.php>

Support SOSI and *The Apple* !

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.sustainableschools.org/about/support.htm>.

Use your credit card to make a secure on-line contribution or, send a check payable to the Zero Waste Alliance (and indicating SOSI) to:

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

Thank you!

Let *Dandelions Unlimited* Inspire You!

Folksinger Dana Lyons launched this site in order to share all the great successful projects he hears about, that together will help our society to become sustainable.

<http://dandelionsunlimited.org>

School Buildings Rapidly Turning "Green" Across America

According to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) the number of environmentally sound and healthy, energy efficient and high performing schools is increasing rapidly. The non-profit USGBC administers the LEED Green Building Rating System For Schools. Their website details how high performance school buildings save operating costs, create a better workplace for teachers, provide a healthier learning environment for students and support a more sustainable community. As the 2008-2009 school year began nearly 1,000 school buildings met or were seeking LEED certification, with applications growing at a rate of more than one per day. The LEED standard is one of many tools available to help create a high performance building.

Maryland, Hawaii, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, Ohio, Washington, Connecticut and the District of Columbia already require that new school buildings be built "green"; California and Pennsylvania offer strong incentives to follow environmental specifications. Case study analysis of completed LEED certified schools show the facilities use 33 percent less energy, saving 32 percent more water and reducing solid waste by 74 percent, compared to traditional school buildings.

On average, such schools save \$100,000 per year, enough to hire two new teachers, buy 200 new computers or purchase 5,000 new textbooks, according to the report "Greening America's Schools: Costs & Benefits" by Gregory Kats of Capital E, a national clean energy technology and green building firm. According to case studies profiled in "Greening America's Schools," cleaner indoor air cuts down sick days for students and teachers alike. Well designed schools even provide a wealth of hands-on learning opportunities, where the building itself becomes an interactive teaching tool.

Visit the USGBC's Build Green Schools website:

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

Schools Too Close to Highway Exhaust

One in three U.S. public schools is in the "air pollution danger zone," according to new research from the University of Cincinnati (UC). UC researchers have found that more than 30 percent of American public schools are within 400 meters, or a quarter mile, of major highways that consistently serve as main truck and traffic routes. Research has shown that proximity to major highways—and thus environmental pollutants, such as aerosolizing diesel exhaust particles—can leave school-age children more susceptible to respiratory diseases later in life.

<http://www.eponline.com/articles/67052?recipid%3B=>

Anti-Idling Campaigns

The Oregon Environmental Council has redesigned their "It's Not Cool to Idle at School!" toolkit. It engages students to improve air quality in and around their school, and to help reduce fuel consumption. Designed for 5th-8th grade students, the project uses a multi-disciplinary approach to reduce pollution and raise awareness of important health and environmental issues. The new kit includes educational materials, a pollutant calculation sheet, a handy fact sheet about idling, and rear view mirror hanging pledge medallions to remind parents and bus drivers that: It's Not Cool to Idle at School! Details: <http://www.oeonline.org/our-work/kidshealth/schools>

Airwatch Northwest, based in Washington State, also offers an Anti-Idling Toolkit, which includes fact sheets, parent pledge forms and much more.

<http://airwatchnorthwest.org/anti-idling.htm>

Remanufactured Toner Cartridges, Q and A

School waste prevention and recycling efforts often consider remanufactured toner cartridges, and often result in many questions. The user forum of the Center for a New American Dream's Responsible Purchasing Network has a series of questions and answers about remanufactured toner cartridges.

http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/forum/user_messages

How-to Guide for Sustainable Print

Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc. of New Hampshire has released the third edition of its how-to guide for creating more sustainable print materials. With over 100,000 copies already in use, the publication, *A Field Guide: Eco-Friendly, Efficient and Effective Print*, is a single resource that objectively details alternative design decisions that impact sustainability.

The guide presents information from choosing paper to recycling the finished piece including paper types, paper contents, chemical labeling, sizing to reduce paper waste, inks and coatings, finishing techniques, binding, printing processes and the use of environmental logos.

A Field Guide features the whimsical nature illustrations of the late Charley Harper. It is available in PDF format and printed copies may be ordered through Monadnock's website at www.mpm.com. PDF Guide: <http://www.mpm.com/file.asp?F=Field+Guide+III%2Epdf&N=Field+Guide+III%2Epdf&C=articles>

Growing Lunch

Follow this link to an Oregonian newspaper article from October 14, entitled: Schools embrace healthier kids with locally-grown foods

http://www.oregonlive.com/foodday/index.ssf/2008/10/the_localfood_movement_moves_i.html

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Upcoming SOSI Meetings:

Managing Sustainability Topic Team

- November 17, 2008 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

SOSI Steering Committee:

- January 13, 2009 1:00 pm to 4:00 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 Zero Waste Alliance or the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative.

November 6 Webinar: 10 No-Cost Ways to Lower School Utility Bills

First of a three-part series highlighting energy efficiency strategies for schools. Presented by the USGBC.

10:00 am - 11:30 am PST. Free. See details

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1898>

November 7 Sustainable Foodservice Operations: Products, Practices and Resources

Part of the Fall U of O Sustainability Leadership Program. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Portland.

http://sustain.uoregon.edu/workshops/course_desc.php?CourseKey=550767

November 11 Sustainability Using the Natural Step Framework

Program from the Oregon Natural Step Network presents a great foundation for understanding sustainability. Portland. More details at www.ortns.org.

November 12-15 Environmental Education Association of Washington Annual Conference

Wenatchee, WA. More details

<http://www.eeaw.org/conference>

November 15 Groundwater 101

The Portland Water Bureau and Columbia Slough Watershed Council present a free workshop on the basics of protecting our groundwater resources. To register email

melissa.sandoz@columbiaslough.org.

9:00 am - 1:30 pm, Portland.

November 18-19 Indoor Environmental Health Workshop for Homes and Buildings

An overview of indoor air, mold, and moisture problems in the Northwest. Presented by EPA. Details:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/airpage.nsf/indoor+air/IEH2008>.

Seattle.

November 21 USGBC Educators Summit

The US Green Building Council presents a summit to connect educators. Boston, MA . Details

http://communicate.usgbc.org/html_templates/communication/usgbc_announcement_educatorssummit2.html.

December 3 Sustainability Using the Natural Step Framework

The Oregon Natural Step Network presents a great foundation for understanding sustainability.

Portland. Details at www.ortns.org.

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.sustainableschools.org/about/support.htm>.

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

Platinum Level:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Gold Level:

Bonneville Power Administration*, Coastwide Laboratories*, Dolphin Software*, Ecoworks Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation – Schamp Family Fund, Oregon Department of Administrative Services, Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon School Employees Association*, Portland General Electric*

Silver Level:

Artemis Foods, Community Development Student Group, 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, Harry & David*, Hot Lips Pizza, Johnson Controls, Neil Kelly*, Trane Oregon

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

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

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative - <http://www.sustainableschools.org>

The Apple, November 2008