



The Apple

Sustainable
Schools
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

February-March 2009

March 27, Please Join Us at the Regional Innovation Forum!

SOSI was invited to partner with the new Regional Innovation Forum to coordinate a day-long track: Sustainable School Systems – Creating Agents of Change. This provides a great opportunity to further the discussion and understanding of how important a sustainable school system is for Oregon. It takes place at the Portland Expo Center on March 27. In Oregon this is the Friday of spring break, which will hopefully make it easier for teachers and those outside the Portland area to attend as well.

Do our school systems provide the education needed for our society to become sustainable? From issues of energy and water to global warming and social conflicts, can we learn how to address them fast enough to make a difference? The K-12 infrastructure accommodates 20% of Oregon's population daily, with corresponding impacts to sustainability. It gives every one of us the foundation for our future life, and establishes the starting point at which young adults enter our colleges, universities and businesses. Those same colleges and universities have their own impacts, and the ability to truly discover new solutions with their students. Our future depends on equipping our youth with the skills and resources necessary to prepare them for a new world, as students, workers, engaged citizens, and life-long learners. We all have a stake in the direction of our schools, so everyone's voice is needed to define the strategies that will make our schools the country's sustainability leaders. Together we'll expand the sustainable schools vision, and strategize to make it happen. Please join us!

Morning Bus Tour - *Gathering seeds for a vision*

The day begins with a first hand examination of local innovative school sustainability examples. Hear from the people who planned them about the leading edge sustainable features at each school, the key partnerships involved, and how the students interact with them. We'll start you thinking about what you

In this Issue:

- *March 27, Please Join Us at the Regional Innovation Forum!*
- *SOSI Managing Sustainability Team*
- *Find SOSI at the following upcoming events*
- *SOSI Introduces Blog*
- *Students: Wondering What College or University to Attend?*
- *Sustainability Education Listserve for K-12*
- *Cafeteria Trays, or Not?*
- *Can't bike, walk or bus? Carpool To School*
- *A Working Farm at School*
- *Summer Options for Teachers*
- *Green Cleaning Guide*
- *Eco-Schools Network*
- *New National Schools IAQ Connector Listserve!*
- *Using Too Much Paper?*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *Thank You to our Supporters*

find. Will it lead to the future we need?

Rosa Parks Elementary is the newest school in the Portland Public School District. This LEED Gold certified facility in North Portland opened in Fall 2006. Learn how it came to be, how it works together with the neighborhood, and see its features.

At da Vinci Arts Middle School, also in the Portland Public School district, we'll see the incredible rain garden and learn how it's become a living lab for students. Other points of interest include the solar array, cob structure, a net zero energy classroom that's taking shape, and more.

The Catlin Gabel School, an independent school on the west side of Portland, has an amazing organics loop to see and hear about: food, chickens, goats, orchard, hot composting, farmers, landscaping, and students of course; it's all integrated. Can you imagine the transportation system is linked to this too??

Although there isn't time to visit one of the Growing Gardens school project sites, they'll come to us. Learn all about school gardens and what their role should or could be on our joint sustainability journey.

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>.

Afternoon: Roadmap for the Future - Rethinking Schools to make them and their students Agents for Change

In the afternoon we'll hear from business, school and school district sustainability leaders. We'll combine what we learn from them with our findings from the morning bus tour or higher education session and, through small group activities and whole group discussions we will examine what a successful sustainable school system might include. We'll consider what's needed to achieve this vision, and the timeframe in which that needs to happen. Remembering that the education delivered by the K-12 system can limit or extend the ability of colleges, universities, businesses and society to actually address sustainability issues, we'll explore how the system should change in order for that education to provide not only a theoretical understanding, but also to result in changed attitudes and behaviors. The afternoon will conclude with a probing discussion, led by former Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, about what role schools and education should play in meeting state goals for sustainability, and how to achieve that role. Prepare to be inspired and have your assumptions about school sustainability and the role of schools in society greatly expanded!

Please join us! Learn more and register online at: <http://www.blueoceanevents.org/bo/programs.asp>

Find SOSI at the following upcoming events

- March 19, Presentation to the Oregon Board of Education about Education for Sustainability.
- March 27-29: SOSI will have a booth at the Better Living Show, at the Portland Expo Center; <http://www.betterlivingshow.org/index.asp>
- April 14, presentation at the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools Facilities Conference.
- April 15, presentation at the Oregon School Facility Managers Association Conference
- July 27-29, Sustainability Education Summer Institute in Washington State <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Resources/TFPF/Summer%20Institute.shtml>

SOSI Managing Sustainability Team

This team meets monthly to share progress and develop resources. Watch the SOSI website events page to see upcoming meeting dates, and join by phone or in-person. The April meeting will take place at the new sustainable facility in the Gladstone School District

and include a tour. Please consider joining!

SOSI Introduces Blog

SOSI has now launched a Sustainable Schools blog (<http://sustainableoregonschools.blogspot.com/>). SOSI staff will post questions for discussion, and look forward to your comments! For those unfamiliar with the blog concept, it may help to think of it as an Op-Ed column in a newspaper. Comments, or to go with the newspaper analogy, "letters to the editor" are encouraged as a way to further stimulate the conversation. Past topics have included: What makes a sustainable school; Leadership and sustainability; President Obama and change; and Technology in the classroom. Check it out!

Students: Wondering What College or University to Attend?

The Sustainable Endowments Institute has released their 2008 College Sustainability Report Card. This independent sustainability evaluation of campus operations and endowment investments rates the 200 public and private universities with the largest endowments. <http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/sustainability>. You can find it and other information about sustainability of Oregon's colleges and universities on the SOSI website, in the "Take Action">> Students section. http://www.sustainableschools.org/action/s_high.htm. Did you know that the Oregon Institute of Technology has developed the country's first four-year undergraduate degree program in renewable-energy systems? Much is happening with sustainability in Oregon's higher education scene.

Sustainability Education Listserv for K-12

The K-12 and Teacher Education sector of the U.S. Partnership of Education for Sustainable Development has launched the first national listserv specifically for K-12 educators focused on the topic of Education for Sustainability. There are two ways to join it:
1) Go to <https://listserver.itd.umich.edu/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=sustaink12> and join; or
2) Send an email message to: sustaink12-request@umich.edu, with the word "subscribe" in the subject line of your message.

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 to:

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

Thank you!

Cafeteria Trays, or Not?

Universities are moving to eliminate cafeteria trays, to save the washing cost, and to cut down on wasted food and wash water. Is this an option for K-12 schools? Aramark has now published a whitepaper entitled, "The Business and Cultural Acceptance Case for Trayless Dining." The paper lists reasons to consider it and notes the cultural shift to accept it. The publication also provides best

practices and gives case studies.

[http://www.aramarkhighered.com/pdfs/articles/ARAMARK Trayless Dining July 02008 FINAL.PDF](http://www.aramarkhighered.com/pdfs/articles/ARAMARK_Trayless_Dining_July_02008_FINAL.PDF)

Can't bike, walk or bus? Carpool To School

The City of Portland and Portland Public School District have a new carpooling program as part of Portland's Safe Routes to School effort. Recognizing that not everyone can walk and bike to school, ride a school bus, or take transit, the goal is to get as many of these other families as possible to carpool. Carpool to School is easy to use; Just click on the link and register. You are matched instantly to other parents looking to carpool on the same days and at the same times as you. If you live in a different area, this provides a model that you could develop for your own community. If you have questions contact Transportation Options, Janis McDonald, janis.mcdonald@pdxtrans.org or 503-823-5358.

A Working Farm at School

Read how a California parent turned an acre of spare ground at a school into a working vegetable farm using a Community Supported Agriculture model. Students can watch it at recess time and enjoy food from it at lunch time. <http://campfire.theoil drum.com/node/5078>

Summer Options for Teachers

For details on these see the SOSI events page: <http://www.sustainableschools.org/about/events.htm>

July 20-24, New York, The Cloud Institute: Education for Sustainability Curriculum Design Studio.
WHO: Teachers, Curriculum Designers, Administrators, Grade Level Teams.

June 22- 25, Georgia, NAIS Summer Institute for Leadership in Sustainability
The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) offers this sustainability institute. It includes outstanding faculty and speakers, a comprehensive curriculum, and the example of a terrific learning environment with LEED buildings and geo-thermal installations.

June 22-24, Berkeley, A Summer Sustainability Seminar for Educators
The Center for Ecoliteracy offers Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability, a 3-day professional development seminar for individuals and teams of K-12 educators, parents, and others interested in schooling for sustainability.

July 27-29, Washington Sustainability Education Summer Institute
Three day institute for K-12 teachers, administrators, and college of education faculty, will provide strategies and models for integrating sustainability into schools

and college of education programs. Bainbridge Island, WA.

Green Cleaning Guide

The Healthy Schools Campaign has released the second edition of their *Quick & Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools*. They've also expanded and re-designed the website [GreenCleanSchools.org](http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/programs/qcs/), where you can access the complete guide online!

<http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/programs/qcs/>

Eco-Schools Network

The Eco-Schools Network is a group of parents and teachers in the Portland Metro area who are working together to forward sustainability efforts within schools. They support each other and the schools by sharing resources, project guides, exchanging ideas, coordinating efforts, and raising each others enthusiasm. Eco-Schools is supported by the Center for Earth Leadership with a mission to support citizen leadership towards a more sustainable culture. If you are not in the Portland area perhaps this program is a model that you could consider. To learn more or get involved contact Emily Cain at 503-227-2315 or emily@earthleaders.org.

New National Schools IAQ Connector Listserve!

Do you have a burning Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) question, or do you need advice about IAQ in your school? Would you like to share your successful IAQ management approach with others? Now you can with the Schools IAQ Connector Listserve! There are two options for subscribing to the listserve.

- 1.) Send a blank e-mail message to schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov.
- 2.) Request subscription online on the Listserve Web site. Then, check your e-mail inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

Once approved, manage your preferences to participate in discussions via e-mail, the Web, or both. If you have any questions, please contact the *IAQ TFS* Connector Coordinator at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Using Too Much Paper?

Have you wondered why margins on most word processing programs are set to 1.25 inches? Reduce them and save paper. Consider:

- Penn State University research showed that the University could save 72 acres of forest and over \$120,000/year by reducing the default margin settings across campus.
- Paper production is one of the top five water consuming industries.

Before you print your next document, change the margins to .75 inches. This leaves plenty of room for hole punchers, staples, etc. Don't forget to reduce the top and bottom margins too.

Visit *Change the Margins* : <http://changethemargins.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Upcoming SOSI Events:

Regional Innovation Forum: Sustainable Schools Track

March 27: SOSI is coordinating a program featuring a bus tour of sustainable features at 3 schools sites, and presentations and discussions recognizing the role K-12 has in meeting state sustainability goals. [Info](#).

Managing Sustainability Topic Team

March 16, 2009 9:30am to 12:00pm
April 27, 2009 9:30am to 12:00pm

SOSI Steering Committee:

June 9, 2009 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Related Events:

Listing on this page does not imply endorsement by Zero Waste Alliance or the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative.

March 19-21 National Farm to Cafeteria

Conference The National Farm to School Network's fourth National Farm to Cafeteria Conference. Portland, OR. [Info](#).

March 25-26 All Sustainability is Local Lecture Series

Reveals connections between green building, renewable energy, local farming and sustainable business development. Ashland, OR, March 25, 5:30pm-7:00pm: [Info](#). Eugene, OR, March 26, 5:30pm-7:00pm: [Info](#).

April - June Agent of Change Courses

Strategies for effecting change within your circle of influence. Portland, OR. [Info](#).

April 27 National Healthy Schools Day

Register an activity at your school. [Info](#).

May 6-8 Living Future Conference 09

Green building conference sponsored by Cascadia Region Green Building Council. Portland, OR. [Info](#).

May 7 Healthy Buildings, Active Learners: Improving Indoor Environments for Oregon Schools

Seminar for anyone interested in Healthy Buildings/Active Learners. Cottage Grove, OR. [Info](#).

June 6-8 THE "GREEN SCREEN" FILM FESTIVAL

Middle and High School students films will be screened and prizes given! Oregon City, OR. [Info](#).

June 22- 25 NAIS Summer Institute for Leadership in Sustainability

National Association of Independent Schools offers this sustainability institute. College Park, GA. [Info](#).

June 22-24 Summer Sustainability Seminar for Educators

Center for Ec literacy offers a seminar for K-12 educators, parents, and others. Berkeley, CA. [Info](#).

July 27-29 Sustainability Education Summer Institute

Strategies and models for integrating sustainability into schools. Bainbridge Island, WA. [Info](#).

Visit the SOSI Website Events List for more listings:

<http://sustainableschools.org/about/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 ****

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Bill Blosser, Boora Architects*, City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development, Food Alliance, Harry & David*, Hot Lips Pizza, Johnson Controls, Neil Kelly*, Trane Oregon

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

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