



# The Apple

Sustainable  
Schools  
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

August 2009

## SOSI Receives EPA Grant

We're pleased to announce that SOSI has been awarded a grant from the EPA. It will fund a project that increases the capacity of Oregon's Educational Service Districts (ESDs) to support K-12 education for sustainability, with a special focus on how sustainability education can support career and technical education. SOSI will solicit ESD-formed teams from each of Oregon's 4 ESD Zones. Teams will participate in one of four sustainability education workshops to learn what sustainability education is and produce a set of work products. A follow-up phone conference of all ESD team coordinators will combine the results from all workshops. Work products of this process include a list of opportunities for ESDs to provide sustainability education services to school districts and identification of next steps. The summarized results will be presented to all ESDs at the 2010 Oregon Assoc of ESD (OAESD) annual conference, for feedback and discussion. The ESD participant teams will be asked to subsequently present their work at their respective ESD Zone meeting for discussion and feedback. This project will result in an understanding at ESDs of what education for sustainability is, how education for sustainability supports future jobs and careers, and a prioritized list of opportunities and needs for ESDs to provide sustainability education services. Also a set of PPT training modules used in the workshop will be available for everyone, from the SOSI website. SOSI is creating this project together with the Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD. If you would like to learn more or possibly become part of your local ESD's team, let us know!

## Visit the ReDirect Guide Green Sprouts Festival and support SOSI!

More good news: The Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative has been selected as the beneficiary of the upcoming ReDirect Guide Green Sprouts Festival. The Green Sprouts Festival is a fun, festive and educational one-day event for the whole family that celebrates and promotes the nurturing of life through nature. From pregnancy to childhood, parents can learn about and

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explore eco-friendly, community-involved, natural, and healthy options to raising their families. Proceeds from \$3 suggested donation go to benefit the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative. The ReDirect Guide Green Sprouts Festival is **Saturday, September 26** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Peninsula Park in Portland. For more information, visit [www.greensproutsfest.com](http://www.greensproutsfest.com).

## Sustainability Presentations to the Oregon Board of Education

SOSI was invited to give a presentation about Education for Sustainability to the Oregon Board of Education this past March. Our presentation team consisted of Ron Hitchcock, Superintendent of Multnomah ESD, Peg Cornell, teacher from the Corvallis School District and Lori Stole, SOSI. This was an overview presentation, and the details can be found on the state Board website for that date: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2369>.

We are excited that there is now an additional and more important opportunity to work with the state Board of Education on this issue. Sustainability has been selected

*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>.

as a topic to be more deeply explored during the Board's annual retreat at the end of this month. SOSI has been invited to plan the panel discussion, together with one of the board members. This is a great opportunity to move sustainability forward within the Oregon Department of Education because the annual work plan for the Board is created during this retreat.

### **Regional Innovation Forum, Sustainable Schools Track**

SOSI organized a successful day-long sustainable schools track for the Regional Innovation Forum. This new event, created by the organizers of the Better Living Show, was held at the same time in March, next door at the Portland EXPO Center. The day began with a bus tour of 3 school sites to observe and learn about projects of various types; the LEED Gold certified building at Rosa Parks Elementary, the water garden and net zero energy classroom at de Vinci Arts Middle School (both Portland Public Schools) and the resource management, food cycles and transportation incentive programs at Catlin Gabel School.

The afternoon included various presentations and activities to help understand what it means to educate for sustainability. Speakers included Lori Stole as facilitator and presenter, Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative; Louie Pitt and Pi-Ta Pitt, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Steve Faulstick, General Manager, Doubletree Hotel, Lloyd Center; Bob Stewart, Superintendent, Gladstone School District. Dave Cone, Facilities, Evergreen School District and Peg Cornell, teacher, Corvallis School District.

The event culminated with a discussion facilitated by Bill Bradbury, former Secretary of State and former Chair - Oregon Sustainability Board, to dig into why the K-12 system has not been recognized in our state for the important role it can and should play as a sustainability leader.

To see the powerpoint presentations and a summary of the day go to the event archive on the SOSI website: [http://sustainableschools.org/about/past\\_events.htm#r](http://sustainableschools.org/about/past_events.htm#r) if.

### **If you haven't seen these SOSI articles...**

In the last months SOSI has been invited to write articles for several publications in the state, as well as being the subject of other articles. If you haven't already, check these out! They can all be accessed from SOSI's website:

<http://sustainableschools.org/about/news.htm>.

- OSFMA News (Oregon School Facilities Management Association), Spring 2009, "Green Cleaning: An Element of School Sustainability"
- Today's OEA (Oregon Education Association), April 2009, "Education for Sustainability: How to get the movement started"
- District Administration magazine, April 2009, "A Deeper Shade of Green".

### **Fullbright Japan Conference Opportunity: "Best Practices in ESD"**

*Submit applications by Sept. 14 for a limited number of spots.*

Fullbright Japan is organizing a conference to be held in Portland, Nov. 1-6, 2009 on "Best Practices in ESD (Education for Sustainable Development)." The fully-funded conference will be the inaugural event for a new Japan-U.S. ESD Teacher Exchange Program administered by Fulbright Japan. It's designed to bring together innovative teachers from Japan and the United States, representing K-12 schools in each country with focused ESD-oriented projects or programs.

The sharing of "Best Practices" from both countries is designed to raise awareness of ESD-oriented school programs, enhance ESD-related curricula in both countries, and deepen a sense of global interconnectedness between teachers in Japan and the U.S. in four vital areas of ESD focus: food and sustainable nutrition; environment; energy and resources; and international understanding and cooperation. SOSI will be among the presenters.

The conference seeks a maximum of 15 teacher participants competitively selected from a broad cross-section of the American primary and secondary educational community in order to reflect the rich cultural, institutional, and regional diversity of the U.S. Fifteen teachers from throughout Japan will also be selected to take part. Applicants must be employed full-time as teachers or administrators at primary or secondary levels (grades K-12); Be a U.S. citizen, and resident in the U.S. or its territories; Be involved in ESD activities in a U.S. school and/or be engaged in ESD curriculum development.

For more info on the Japan-U.S. ESD Teacher Exchange Program contact Susan Gundersen, 1-888-527-2636, [ESDteacher@iie.org](mailto:ESDteacher@iie.org). To access the online application: [www.iie.org/ESDteacher](http://www.iie.org/ESDteacher).

### **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!***

**NAAEE Conference: Special K-12 Teacher Day - Oct. 10**

The annual North American Association for Environmental Education Conference (NAAEE) takes place in Portland this year, Oct 7-10. This conference provides a great opportunity to learn more about sustainability education and meet others who are active in this area. If you are a teacher and not able to attend the entire conference, consider attending on Saturday for the teacher day. There is a special teacher registration rate of \$60 through Oct. 1 as well as CEU credits. To apply go to: <http://www.cof.orst.edu/onrep/> Link will be on right side of homepage.

This day is for you! Join a network of K-12 teachers and environmental educators from around North America in workshops, plenary sessions and educational entertainment that demonstrate how they deliver quality environmental education that teaches people how to think, not what to think. The one-day teacher registration includes the NAAEE Awards Luncheon, with keynote speaker Charles Jordan, a former director of Portland's Bureau of Parks and Recreation. SOSI will be presenting several sessions earlier in the conference. The full list of sessions is available on the NAAEE Web site. To register go to <http://www.naaee.org/conference>.

**New Curriculum Unit from Facing the Future  
Real World Math: Engaging Students through  
Global Issues**

This 2-part math resource engages students in learning foundational algebra and geometry through real-world data on global issues. The teacher's guide and corresponding student workbook contain 15 lessons on topics such as climate change, population, and financial literacy.

Built into each lesson are:

- Real-world data
- Contextual math problems
- Step-by-step instructions
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards alignment
- Activity-based lesson 'hooks' that grab students' interest
- Critical thinking
- Collaboration
- Bonus and extension problems
- Action project ideas
- Additional resources

The corresponding Real World Math student workbook includes lesson handouts, supplemental worksheets, and topical background readings that directly connect with the lessons in the teacher's guide. Learn more about this resource and download sample lessons. [www.facingthefuture.org](http://www.facingthefuture.org).

*Facing the Future is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and motivating today's students to be responsible stewards of tomorrow's world. The organization develops and delivers standards-based hands-on lessons, student textbooks, curriculum units and professional development opportunities for educators that promote critical thinking on global issues, sustainability and positive solutions.*

**Corvallis High School Wins Big!**

Congratulations to Corvallis High School in Corvallis, the Walmart "Earth Day Every Day School Challenge" grand prize winner! Corvallis High School received the highest number of votes during the online voting, and will receive a \$20,000 grant from Walmart to further its environmental efforts.

Here are some of the things that Corvallis High School has done to help make the world a greener place:

- Consumption of 30 percent less energy than every other school built to the Oregon code
- Green Club campaign to encourage the use of carbon neutral transportation by offering incentives to students
- A goal to install solar panels on the school

Oregon really stood out! Four of the 20 other schools selected as finalists were also from Oregon, including:

- Days Creek Charter School (Days Creek, Oregon)
- Hood River Valley High School (Hood River, Oregon).
- Kelly Creek Elementary School (Gresham, Oregon)
- Wilsonville High School (Wilsonville, Oregon)

Read more here:

<http://www.earthdayeverydaychallenge.com/>

**Book Overview: The Dragonfly's Question**

To create a sustainable future, we must first envision it. The *Dragonfly's Question*, by sustainability expert Darcy Hitchcock, is a discussion course organized around a novella. This is a great way to teach sustainability concepts to students and citizens because the story draws them in and shows them how sustainability practices could play out in real life. Fourteen short chapters and the associated discussion guide cover a wide range of topics including distributed energy, smart growth, toxic exposure, urban agriculture, local currencies, sustainable investing, homelessness, etc. This is wrapped in a sweet father-daughter story set 8 years in the future. Use it as the basis of course work, or set up discussion groups at work or in your neighborhood. Go to Lulu.com

<[http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback\\_book/the\\_dragonflys\\_question/6254827](http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback_book/the_dragonflys_question/6254827)> to see the table of contents and read a preview.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

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

**Upcoming SOSI Events:**

Managing Sustainability Topic Team

Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 23, 9:30am to noon

SOSI Steering Committee:

October 13, 2009 1:00pm to 4:00pm

**NON-SOSI Events:**

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

**Aug 18-20 Renewable Energy Workshop**

Science Education Partnerships (SEPS) offers free workshop to learn about renewable energy sources and have access to equipment and supplies to teach workshop lessons in your classroom.

[http://sustainableschools.org/events\\_files/energy\\_wksp\\_on\\_SEPS\\_letterhead.pdf](http://sustainableschools.org/events_files/energy_wksp_on_SEPS_letterhead.pdf)

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

**Aug 19-21 National Safe Routes to School Conf.**

Learn about Safe Routes to School programs in Oregon and across the country.

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

Portland, OR

**Sept 26 Redirect Guide Green Sprouts Festival**

A fun, festive and educational one-day event for the whole family. Proceeds from \$3 suggested donation go to benefit the **Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative**. Info at

<http://www.greensproutsfest.com>

Portland, OR

**Oct 1-3 NW Children's Environmental Health Forum**

Event showcases new research, current science, and effective programs. <http://www.washington.chenw.org/CEHforum.html>  
Tukwila, WA

**Oct 7-10 NAAEE 38th Annual Conference**

North American Association for Environmental Education presents on "The Power of Partnerships: Creative Leadership in Environmental Education". Sustainability education is included. <http://www.naaee.org/conference>

Portland, OR

**Jan 14-16, 2010 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools National Symposium**

Annual EPA event. <http://www.iagsymposium.com/>  
Washington, D.C.

**Visit the SOSI Website Events page 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 \*\***

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**Silver Level:**

Artemis Foods, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Catlin Gabel School\*, Community Development Student Group, Energy Trust of Oregon, Metro Regional Government\*, Northwest Natural, Oregon Dept. of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Oregon Department of Education\*, Oregon Education Association, Portland Center Stage, Siltronic Corporation\*

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

To unsubscribe, please contact Lori Porter Stole, [lstole@zerowaste.org](mailto:lstole@zerowaste.org). Thank you!