Dear Jessica,

Things are getting even more exciting here at OGS. New schools continue to get certified, and we are gearing up for our 18th annual Green Schools Summit on Friday April 11th! **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. Details and links below.** Visit our Summit Showcase pages for display ideas.

If your school is working towards BECOMING an Oregon Green School (or renewing your expired certification) and wants to attend the Summit, please contact your Regional Coordinator to get Certified as soon as possible (required for attendance).

**Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!**

Jeanette Hardison,
Admin Assistant to the OGSA Board

*PS. Our newsletters include images and graphics to enhance your reading experience, so please be sure to enable images in your email program for maximum enjoyment. Thanks!*

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You can help Oregon Green Schools earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

**It's easy and quick!** In under two minutes, you can link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Oregon Green Schools to help us earn donations! Look for us by name, or Community Rewards Member #91914.

Your rewards stay the same. Fred Meyer donates $2.5 million a year to non-profits their customers direct them to!
CLICK HERE for a flyer with more information, or CLICK HERE to sign up! Thank you!

Oregon Green Schools Summit, Corvallis
Friday, April 11th, 2014, 8:30am-2:00pm

Registration is now open for our 18th annual Oregon Green Schools Summit! This year it will be held at Cheldelin Middle School in Corvallis (Note: the time has been extended to 2pm).

SIGN UP to meet other certified Oregon Green Schools from across the state for a day of learning and networking. Get energized about resource conservation and waste reduction. It's FREE and fun, and sponsorships are available (covers the cost of substitute and/or mileage).

Attendance: One adult and four students from each school is the max. we can accommodate.

Qualifications: Your school's Oregon Green School certification must be current on the day of the Summit, to be qualified to attend. If you need help getting certified or REcertified in time, please contact your local Oregon Green Schools Coordinator for details.

Please start planning your school's display, to show other schools what you've been up to!

If you have questions about the 2014 Green Schools Summit, please contact Jeanette Hardison, our OGS Administrative Assistant, or call her office at 541-752-5860, M-F 9-5pm.
Submit YOUR School's Recent Videos to the White House for the 1st ever Student Film Festival!

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 29th, 2014!!

From the website: "Yeah, having your schoolwork posted on the fridge at home is cool. But having a video you made posted on the White House website and screened at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue? We think that's pretty cool, too.

"That's why we're super-excited to announce the first-ever White House Student Film Festival: a video contest created just for K-12 students, and whose finalists will have their short films shown at the White House. Finalist videos may also be featured on the White House website, YouTube channel, and social media pages." Visit website for specific parameters.

Area Spotlight:

Salem Eco-School Network
Informational Meeting
- - - - - - - - - - - - -
Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Straub Environmental Center
1320 A Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

The desire for a Salem Eco-School Network is emerging. All interested parents and teachers from each district and private school in the area are invited to attend an informational meeting on February 11 to learn more about this idea and to contribute their thoughts. The meeting will be of great interest to any parent or teacher who is or would like to advance sustainability initiatives at a school.

The Salem Eco-School Network idea is supported by Straub Environmental Center and the Center for Earth Leadership, which formed similar networks in Portland, Beaverton, Corvallis, and Lake Oswego school districts.

At the meeting on Feb 11, parents from the Portland Eco-School Network will share about their experience and Center representatives will lead a discussion on how the program might benefit Salem schools.

More information can be found at earthleaders.org/programs/eco-school-networks.

RSVPs requested to Emily Klavins at 503-227-2315 or emily@earthleaders.org or, if you cannot attend but would like information, please contact Emily.

THE STORY OF STUFF BOOK PROJECT!


The amazing "Story of Stuff" started with a movie about sustainability and went viral. Its creator, Annie Leonard, is now seeking input from teachers as she produces a book for 3rd-8th graders.
School Resources

National Wildlife Federation's next webinar:
JANUARY 29, 2014, 4:30-6:00pm PST

Professional Development Programs for Climate Change Education (USFS)

In this webinar, ClimateChangeLIVE partners highlight professional development programs to empower you as a climate change educator! Each program offers training to increase your understanding of essential climate concepts and provide you with tools and resources to implement a science-based climate change curriculum in your classroom and connect with networks of other educators teaching about climate change. Most of these programs offer grants to schools to help them implement climate change solution-related action projects, and include on-site and online training opportunities.

REGISTER HERE for the Jan. 29th EPA Webinar

Watch Oregon Green School's recorded webinar, regarding the new requirement for schools to have Integrated Pest Management in place:

Josh Vincent from the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) presented a 45 min. webinar about a law that requires all Oregon schools to have an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan in place.

If you know school custodians or others that work in facilities, this is a great resource for them! The video will be available on our website and is also posted on YouTube:
U.S. EPA Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments WEBINAR SERIES

This webinar series will outline sensible, low- or no-cost steps that school communities can take to create healthier environments in their buildings. Each webinar features school district personnel from across the country presenting their real-life examples & solutions. Previously-recorded webinars are available at the link above.

NEXT WEBINARS:

JANUARY 22, 2014, 12noon - 1pm PST:

Sensible Steps for Prevention of and Response to Mercury Spills in Schools

Attend this webinar to:
- Understand how to eliminate sources of mercury in your school and use safer alternatives;
- Learn about the student education materials available on the "Don't Mess with Mercury" website;
- Learn step-by-step what to do when mercury spills at school, and what to communicate after a spill;
- Hear firsthand "lessons learned" from a school official about a mercury spill in her school district.

FEBRUARY 18, 2014, 12noon - 1pm PST:

Sensible Steps for Addressing PCBs in Schools

PCBs are man-made chemicals that were were added to many products for their favorable flame-resistant, stability, plasticizer, and electrical insulation properties. They were banned from production in the U.S. in 1979. Products containing PCBs may still be present in some school buildings built or renovated in the 1950s through the 1970s.

Join us for this webinar to learn:
- What PCBs are and how people may be exposed in school buildings;
- How to determine whether your school may have potentially PCB-containing materials;
- Approaches for assessing PCBs in the school environment and developing a remedial action plan for removal and/or cleanup of PCB-contaminated materials;
- Best practices to limit exposures both short and long-term.

Educator Resources

FREE Permaculture Design Course: Complete Online Self-Paced Program
Learn from World-Class Instructors for FREE

Complete 72+ Hour Permaculture Design Certificate Course Covers:

- Natural building construction
- Pattern observation and site analysis
- Renewable energy and appropriate technology
• Reading the land and natural cycles
• Rainwater harvesting and conservation
• Soil regeneration and land restoration
• Passive and active solar design
• Food forests, trees, and garden design
• Greywater considerations and system design
• Business and financial permaculture
• Waste recycling and treatment
• Urban permaculture for sustainable cities
• ...and much, much more!

Additional Online Environmental Classes from OSU's ECampus

Oregon State University has a HUGE variety of environmental classes that are available online, geared toward adults. Here are just a few of the offerings, below.

• Oregon Master Naturalist (next course runs Jan. 20 to April 13, 2014)
• Landscaping with Native Plants (available anytime, online, self-paced)
• Recycling 101 (available anytime, online, self-paced)
• Master Interpretive Guide Professional Certificate (begins May 1, 2014, online)
• Free-Choice Learning Professional Certificates (various dates, all online)
• Click HERE for a complete listing of classes

Meet the OGS Regional Coordinators

This month, we are once again featuring one of our Green Schools warriors, out there in the field:

Gretchen Ammerman has been the Recycling Educator at North Lincoln Sanitary Services in Lincoln City for the past five years, and finds that she quite likes working for a private company, after spending most of her career in city, county, and state level government positions. Although Oregon Green Schools is only part of what she does at NLSS, it is one of her favorite parts the job, especially when she gets to work outside with kids on composting and gardening projects.

Originally from California, Gretchen graduated with a Bachelor in Environmental Sciences from Humboldt State University, and then followed a cute boy to Hawaii, where there just happened to be a job opening for a State Recycling Coordinator. Although fresh out of college, her degree and the work she did to pay her way through college earlier at the City of Arcata's Environmental Services Department made her the most (actually only) qualified applicant for the job. Getting paid to island hop was adequate compensation for the stressful but ultimately rewarding experience of going up against lobbyists from Coke, Pepsi, and Anheuser-Busch for two years helping to get the State's bottle bill passed. (Go, Gretchen!)

When not at work, tending to her small goat herd, or writing for Oregon Coast TODAY magazine, Gretchen can be found running trails, talking about running trails, thinking about running trails, shopping for trail running supplies, or reading Trail Runner magazine.
The Oregon Green Schools Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization formed in 1997. We are dedicated to helping Oregon schools set up and maintain effective, permanent waste reduction and resource efficiency programs that improve school environments and communities, and to recognizing schools for their efforts and achievements.