Dear Jeanette,

Summer is over, the weather is changing, your students are back and OGS has been getting ready for you! We continue to update our website and database, and communicate with the OGSA Regional Coordinators to find out how to best support them, as they support (and reward!) all your efforts.

Included in this issue are a variety of webinars and classes for expanding educators' programs and knowledge, plus a few competitive opportunities to make greening your schools fun!

As we continue to bring you news and resources, please know that OGSA welcomes your feedback — on our newsletter content, regional Green School Summits, and anything else we're working on, or that you would like to see us work on.

THANK YOU for all you do to help raise student awareness about environmental stewardship. Together, we are creating green leaders! Let us know how we can help.
Email us at: mail@oreongreenschools.org.

Happy Autumn!
Jeanette Hardison,
Admin Assistant to the OGSA Board

PS. Our newsletters usually include images (photos, logos, etc.). If you cannot see any, please enable images in your email program for maximum enjoyment. Thanks!

School Spotlight:
Renewing Premier-Level School, Forest Ridge Elementary in Keizer

Congratulations to Forest Ridge for all your hard work maintaining a PREMIER Green School status!
Forest Ridge Elementary has excellent **sustainable lunchroom practices**, including a "Take What You Want, Eat What You Take" policy, and waste free lunches through a Zero Waste Club. Some of their goals include reducing overall food waste generated by all sources as well as reducing disposable containers and packaging in lunches brought from home, with a 100% reusable lunch container campaign.

They help other schools with their eco-efforts and provide assistance to the local community by **contributing content to the CCTV Environmental Conservation Program** and to the educational programming used by **Straub Environmental Learning Center’s summer camp and Nature Kids Program**. Forest Ridge even participates annually in teaching conservation at the **SCIENCE EXPO** at Willamette University.

In addition to what they call the "8 R's = reduce, reuse, rot, recycle, renew, repair, reject, react," they also **focus on energy and water conservation** in their school, crucial to becoming truly sustainable.

Forest Ridge activities also include regular classroom recycling audits and parental training by their HOPE team, strong parental financial support, and family participation in "Walk, Ride or Roll to School."

For all of these reasons and more, we again congratulate Forest Ridge Elementary for their dedication to be an Oregon Green School at the Premier level. Way to go!!

---

**Call-out for School Videos to post on website**

Has your school created a video you'd like to share, perhaps about your efforts to be even greener, or a video designed to educate others on an environmental issue? The OGSA would like to hear about it. We'd love to watch it!

As an example, here is a link sent our way of a great little YouTube video, recently created by the Green Team at Taft Elementary School in Lincoln City.  [Check it out!](#)

Send us your videos and we'll choose some for posting on our website, in the School Tools section.  [Email links or smaller files to mail@oregongreenschools.org](mailto:mail@oregongreenschools.org). Thanks! We look forward to seeing all the creative works out there.

---

**National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA and Oregon Green Schools Association**

When a school earns certification as an Oregon Green School, it automatically becomes an "Eco-School" with the **National Wildlife Federation** (unless they have opted out).

NWF's Eco-Schools USA is an internationally-acclaimed program that provides a framework to help educators integrate sustainable practices throughout their schools and curriculum. The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization.

This FREE program "helps schools improve academic performance,
Getting Parents involved through Eco-School Networks

Do you know anyone interested in joining a local, free, fun support network for parents, working at their children's schools to help introduce sustainable practices and values?

Contact Emily Klavins at emily@eatleaders.org or 503-227-2315, for information about existing Eco-School Networks in Portland and Beaverton, and new Networks in other areas forming this school year!

Stay tuned for more about Parent Eco-School Networks in our October newsletter.

School Resources

Apply for a PLT GreenWorks! Grant

Help students learn about and improve the environment at their school and in their neighborhood. Project Learning Tree is offering GreenWorks! grants up to $3,000 this year. The deadline is September 30 so don't delay - apply today!

http://www.plt.org/newsletter-summer-2013-plt-greenworks-grant

PLT GreenSchools! Webinar

Wednesday, October 16, 1:00-2:00pm PDT

Register now to ensure your space in our upcoming webinar entitled, "What Can We Learn from Schoolyard Trees?" In this webinar, students will discuss how they used PLT's GreenSchools! School Site Investigation to critically assess their school yards, and what they have done to improve them. The Smithsonian Museum and Casey Trees Foundation will share tools and resources, for example, how to calculate the "real" value of a tree's services, such as energy savings, clean water and air, and carbon sequestration.

Enter Keep America Beautiful's Recycle-Bowl for a chance to win $1,000 for your school!

Keep America Beautiful is once again hosting the Recycle-Bowl competition for schools across the nation to increase recycling efforts. Through October 15, 2013, you can sign your school up to compete to win $1,000 at the state level, as well as additional prizes at the national level.

Get your students excited about recycling and solidify your recycling goals through this...
EcoChallenge 2013: Kick Start Change with the EcoChallenge

At Northwest Earth Institute, we often hear from people who are looking for ways to live more sustainably—in their local communities, on college campuses, within faith communities, and at work. **Good news:** this October 15-30, our EcoChallenge gives you the perfect opportunity to take action with thousands of people, make a difference for the planet, and share the inspiring journey from "I should" to "I do."

**Here's how the EcoChallenge works:** First, you set one goal to reduce your environmental impact in one of five categories: water, energy, food, waste or transportation. The idea is to pick a stretch goal, something that takes you outside of your comfort zone and starts conversations with people around you. Then, for two weeks, you take action toward that goal.

We connect you with thousands of EcoChallengers to help make the process easier and more fun. In fact, most Ecochallengers discover that what starts as a two-week challenge leads to meaningful change.

Chances are there's already something on your "to-do" list for the planet—whether it's replacing your lawn with a veggie garden, installing rain barrels, getting a bus pass or kicking your bottled water habit, it's time to seize the moment and make it happen!

**Learn more and choose your challenge today at:** [www.ecochallenge.org](http://www.ecochallenge.org)

**About NWEI:**

*Based in Portland, Oregon, NWEI is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire people to take responsibility for Earth. We believe the solution to many of Earth's biggest challenges lies in the power of collective change. The EcoChallenge is our annual event to help people kick-start change and make small steps that lead to big changes for our planet.*

---

**Healthy School NEWS**

Subscribe to Healthy School NEWS, published by the U.S. EPA Region 10.

Healthy School NEWS serves Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Tribal Nations within those boundaries. The **quarterly newsletter provides a wealth of information** including webinars, funding opportunities, healthy school tips and resources, and much more. To be added to the distribution list, please email pollow.george@epa.gov with your request.

You can also contact Region 10’s Public Environmental Resource Center, the **education, publication and information gateway to EPA’s Region 10 Office**, for free publications and educational resources for your school. Call at (800) 424-4EPA or email epa-seattle@epa.gov.

EPA Environmental Education: [www.epa.gov/enviroed/](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/)
EPA Children's Environmental Health: [www.epa.gov/children](http://www.epa.gov/children)
U.S. EPA Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments BOOKLET

This easy-to-use booklet focuses on affordable, sensible ways to address some of the most common environmental health concerns found in schools—including asbestos, indoor air, laboratory chemicals, and radon.

Click here to download a free copy of Sensible Steps. Click here to download the Quick Assessment Checklist.

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 will feature school district personnel from across the country presenting their real-life examples and solutions.

Who should attend?

- Facility Managers
- Teachers
- Custodial Staff
- School Nurses
- District Administrators
- Support Staff
- Principals
- School Board members

Webinar #5 - September 25, 2013, 12:00pm
Cleaning and Maintenance: Creating Healthier School Environments
Get up to date on the most current developments in school cleaning; Learn about steps other schools have taken to assess and improve their cleaning and maintenance practices.

Webinar #6 - October 22, 2013, 12:00pm
Sensible Steps for Energy Efficiency and Waste Reduction in Schools
Discuss Energy Star Portfolio Manager and its use in evaluating school energy efficiency; Discover solutions schools have used to improve their energy efficiency, reduce waste and realize operational savings.

Educator Resources

The Career Toolbox: The Guide for Educators
View this online resource, developed for teachers, to help you build your skills in everything from new technologies to communications. The Career Toolbox hopes to supply educators with the resources you need to succeed in the changing world of education.

OSU's ECampus Offers Online Environmental Classes
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.

- Master Gardener (fall and winter courses)
- Oregon Master Naturalist (fall and winter courses)
- What's Wrong with my Plant? Diagnosing Plant Problems (Oct 7-Dec 16, 2013, online)
Growing Fruit Trees in the Pacific Northwest (dates TBA, in Portland and Oregon City)
Landscaping with Native Plants (available anytime, online, self-paced)
Permaculture Design Certificate Online (Sept 30-Dec 6, 2013, online)
Nature Writing Workshop (date TBD, one-day workshop at Silver Falls State Park in Silverton)
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

Education and Environment Initiative, by California EPA
Get CEU Credit for Teaching EEI - next Class starts Oct 28


These 6-week online-based courses are available to the first 20 paid registrants. You'll teach a class of students the EEI Curriculum unit you choose, engaging them with new and exciting standards-based and Common Core connected curriculum. Selecting the unit you want to teach ensures you can stay on your schedule – and of course, curriculum materials are included in the course cost. By completing this convenient and flexible online course, you will earn one university credit issued by the Department of Extended Learning at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM).

For the course syllabus, cost, how to register and future course dates, visit http://www.californiaeei.org/CEUProgram/default.htm

Meet the OGSA Board: Elizabeth Start, Member at Large and Green Schools Regional Coordinator

My name is Elizabeth Start, Recycling Coordinator for Republic Services for the metro area in and around Portland. As Recycling Coordinator, I provide community education and outreach to promote recycling, waste reduction and sustainability. I have over 10 years of experience working in the waste, recycling and reuse field. In addition to multiple industry trainings and certifications, I am currently pursuing a second degree in Sustainability Management.

I am excited to be part of the Oregon Green Schools Board and look forward to working with schools to promote their efforts to reduce waste, recycle and become more sustainable. Oregon Green Schools provides schools and teachers with such great resources and I am excited to be part of the team!

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.