



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter Fall 2006

Welcome!

The Oregon Green Schools Association has created this newsletter to keep you informed about Green School happenings around the state. We hope this new issue will inspire schools to jumpstart or improve their programs. New schools are always welcome!

Your contributions are welcome, too! Please let us know about your events and activities so that we can include them in a future newsletter.

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The mission of the Oregon Green Schools Association is to assist Oregon schools in setting up, maintaining and recognizing effective, permanent waste reduction and resource efficiency programs that improve the school environment and the community.

Salem-Keizer Schools Mixed Recycling Program Begins

By Kelley Cooley

Students throughout the Salem-Keizer School District have started the year off right by implementing a streamlined recycling system. In cooperation with their local garbage haulers, schools have begun a mixed recycling program. Now, schools can combine paper, plastics, aluminum and tin when they recycle! The one exception is cardboard, which is still separated and delivered to the Garten Foundation. This program closely resembles that which is available to students at home.



Gladis Mendoza, a student at Claggett Creek Middle School recycles at lunch

By making recycling easier and more convenient, the hope is to dramatically increase recycling at schools and decrease garbage costs. School Green Team Leaders are busy educating staff, students and their school community about this new program. Claggett Creek (pictured above) currently has a lower garbage cost per student than any other middle or high school in the Salem-Keizer School District.

Kitzhaber Joins Forest Ridge Elementary Students for Kids Carbon Credits

By Laurie Aguirre



Former Governor John Kitzhaber and Forest Ridge students

Former Governor John Kitzhaber recently visited third grade students at Forest Ridge Elementary School in the Salem area as they presented a Power Point slide show to the school about global warming and their "Kids Carbon Credits" program. Dr. Kitzhaber talked with kids and their teacher, Laurie Aguirre, about how the program works and then purchased \$20.00 in Carbon Credits from them. The students have earned about \$725.00 to date. The money is transferred to Climate Trust of Oregon where it is used to fund renewable energy resources and carbon offset projects. We hope that **other students across Oregon will join us** in this program. Contact Laurie Aguirre for information on how you can participate in this planet saving program!
aguirre_laurie@salkeiz.k12.or.us

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Notes from the Board

Staff Changes

We're sad to announce that our Administrative Assistant Lin Harmon-Walker has moved on to other adventures in life. She was a great resource to our organization and we thank her for all her time and energy. We are happy, though, to introduce you to our new Administrative Assistant Cathy McGuire.



Cathy McGuire

Cathy has a wide range of experience in technical and grant writing and is currently the part-time office manager for a local magazine. She lives in a cohousing community where members have made a commitment to live more simply on the earth. Cathy makes art from recycled materials and teaches others to do so, too!

We look forward to taking advantage of all her writing skills and her artistic talents. Welcome to OGSA, Cathy!

New GS applications

Be advised – the Green Schools applications have all been revised. Some of the criteria for becoming a Green School has changed; be sure to download a new application from the OGSA web site before getting started on your plans for this year. If you have been working on filling out one of the old applications, you may still turn it in, but only until December 31. Starting in January 2007, only the new applications will be accepted.

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative

Looking for ways to make your school even more sustainable? Watch for a SOSI kick-off event coming to your area in the future. Events are being planned for Portland, Eugene, Newport, Bend, Medford and Pendleton. Find out more about SOSI by going to their web site at www.zerowaste.org/schools. Oregon Green Schools supports SOSI by having a representative on the steering committee.

Save the Date!

Please Save the Date of the next Oregon Green Schools Summit: Friday, **March 2nd, 2007!** As always, we will have a fun-packed, educational experience for Green School student representatives and their teachers!

Once again, we will be in **Eugene**, this time hosted at the Eugene Faith Center. **Look for more information in the next newsletter -- but for now, mark the date and plan to be there!**

As you know, the Oregon Green Schools Summit is held annually, with workshops on recycling and creative uses of materials. It is an opportunity for schools to bring displays that show off their school programs and a chance to eat lunch and share recycling ideas with other schools. Last year, we had nearly 400 students from 68 schools. Local haulers sponsor their schools, so students pay nothing to go. You won't want to miss this!

Welcome New Green Schools!

Oregon Green Schools Association congratulates the following new and renewing Green Schools and their OGS coordinators:

Green Schools:

Adams Elementary – Anne Donahue
Claggett Creek Elementary – Kelley Cooley
Clarendon Elementary – Nancy Bond
Crescent Valley High – Julie Jackson
East Gresham Grade – Jan Rankin
Fir Grove Elementary – Sue Shade
Four Corners Elementary – Kelley Cooley
Gilham Elementary – Anne Donahue
Highland Park Middle – Sue Shade
Hillside Elementary – Anne Donahue
Kinnaman Elementary – Sue Shade
Lake Labish Elementary – Kelley Cooley
Leslie Middle – Kelley Cooley
Marion Miller Elementary – Kelley Cooley
Mosier Elementary – Jared Pruch
Nellie Muir Elementary – Bailey Paine
Raleigh Park Elementary – Sue Shade

Stafford Primary – Eileen Stapp
Stephens Middle – Kelley Cooley
St. Joseph Elementary -- Bailey Paine
Sojourner – Eileen Stapp
Swegle Elementary School – Kelley Cooley
The International School – Freda Sherburne
The Northwest Academy – Freda Sherburne
Vose Elementary – Sue Shade
West Gresham Grade – Jan Rankin

Merit Schools:

Centennial High – Jan Rankin
Sumpter Elementary – Kelley Cooley

Premier Schools:

Chapman Hill Elementary – Kelley Cooley
Gordon Russell Middle – Jan Rankin
Kelly Creek Elementary – Jan Rankin
Lynch View Elementary – Jan Rankin
Pleasant Valley Elementary – Jan Rankin

Stafford Primary School's Fifth Graders Lead Effort to Be Recertified

By Eileen Stapp

What does it take to become an Oregon Green School? Just ask Donna Kenny's 5th grade class at Stafford Primary in the West Linn/Wilsonville School District. Stafford's prior certification as an OGS had expired. In the fall of 2005, Ms. Kenny's students, who oversee the school's recycling program, took on the challenge of getting Stafford recertified. The class contacted their regional coordinator, Eileen Stapp, to see what that would entail. They downloaded an application from the OGS web site. They met with her and set goals. They arranged for waste reduction presentations to all 5th graders and a number of other classes. After assessing Stafford's waste, they examined water and energy usage and conservation measures either in place or that could be adopted. Stafford sits in a rural meadow on the banks of the Tualatin River, so

(Continued page 6)



Eugene Green Schools “SCORE” with Composting!

By Anne Donahue

Students at Eugene schools “SCORE” big with their composting efforts as they **Sort, Compost, Organic, Rot, and Educate** students about the importance of composting cafeteria food waste. Using worm bins, backyard compost bins, and commercial sized in-vessel Earth Tubs, Eugene Green Schools are leading the way when it comes to composting cafeteria food waste.



Adams Elementary students check out their bins

Using Squirms of Worms!

Corridor Elementary School uses six worm bins and 30,000 worms to compost 350 pounds of vegetative food waste each month at their school. Food volumes are recorded and graphed, and worm castings are applied to the school garden. Students monitor the worm bins, and families “adopt” the worm bins over the summer when school is out.

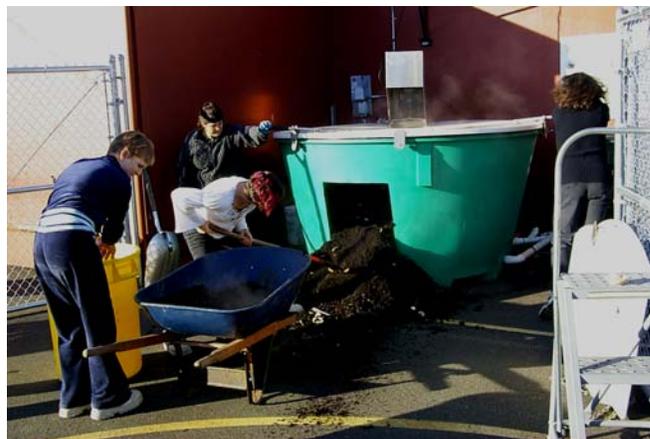
Dump and Cover with Backyard Compost Bins

Adams Elementary School is successfully composting 350 pounds of food waste a month using a set of plastic backyard compost bins and a simple dump and cover composting technique. Using five-gallon buckets to carry vegetative food waste to the compost site, students dump the food waste into the compost bin and cover it with leaves to deter fruit flies. Parent volunteers monitor the site and mix the layers of food waste, leaves, and wood chips weekly.

Once a month the compost is turned into a second bin, which frees up the first bin for fresh cafeteria food waste. Compost temperature is maintained between 130 and 160 degrees. After several months, the mature compost is available for the teachers’ flowerbeds.

Composting It All in Cesar Chavez Earth Tubs

Cesar Chavez Elementary School composts all its food waste, soiled napkins, and food boats in an in-vessel electric Earth Tub composter. The Earth Tub composter can take up to 10% meat, so leftover hamburgers, chicken nuggets, hot dogs and pizza, as well as salad bar offerings, are mixed with sawdust and quickly turn into dark crumbly compost for the new school garden. The school garden parent group oversees the daily turning of the compost, and twice a year they empty the compost, screen it, and apply it to the school garden. The school is composting over 500 pounds per month in their Earth Tub.



River Road El Camino Elementary Earth Tub

River Road El Camino Elementary School operates one of the most successful Earth Tub composters in the Eugene area. Their dedicated school staff, School Garden Project program support, student enthusiasm, and Earth Tub compost helps to keep their garden in peak condition.

(continued next page)

SCORE, continued

Which Method Works Best?

While each composting method creates great compost, here are some issues to consider:

Cost: Worm bins and backyard bins are inexpensive to install, and sites can be fully functional with bins, buckets, a compost thermometer and pitchfork for less than \$500. An In-Vessel Earth Tub will cost \$8,500 and that doesn't include installation.

Time: 10 minutes to collect food waste and add it to worm bins and compost bins (don't forget to cover that food!) Add an extra ten minutes each day for an adult to mix the content of an Earth Tub. Add ten minutes a week for an adult to mix the contents of a compost bin. Harvesting worm castings and compost from a backyard bin can be a monthly activity, while the larger capacity of an Earth Tub makes harvesting once or twice a school year all that is needed.

Maintenance: Worm bins take a little extra care to make sure the worms stay happy and healthy, and they need a caregiver over the summer when school is out to keep the worm populations thriving. A backyard compost bin can be turned once, forgotten all summer, and then picked back up when school begins the following year. It costs little to expand or maintain a worm bin or compost bin program. Earth Tubes are mechanical devices that need annual maintenance and require more expensive repairs.

In a nutshell, if your school only wants to compost fruits and vegetables, and you've got less than 400 pounds each month to compost, consider using a couple backyard compost bins to get your program started, and add worm bins for fun and variety.



Corridor Elementary students shredding newspaper for their worm bins.



Adams Elementary School students checking temperatures in the worm bins.

Portland Public Schools and Waste Management Test B20-Fueled Truck

In a new test project launched this fall, a 20 percent biodiesel-fueled truck is hauling Portland Public Schools' trash. The fuel, called "B20" is 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent conventional diesel. If the pilot project proves successful in decreasing emissions, it may be expanded to other trucks in the fleet. "We believe this is the first time nationally that a hauler has been approached by a school district about using biodiesel," says Nancy Bond, our Portland area Oregon Green Schools coordinator.

The school district contracts with Waste Management, Inc. to dispose of trash from 113 locations at a cost of \$460, 000. The district creates over 5,000 pounds of trash each year.

Did You Know?

Since Portland Public Schools began participating in the area's Fork It Over food recycling project, the district has contributed more than 12 tons of food to ten non-profit organizations that feed the poor and hungry.

Stafford, continued from page 3

it uses techniques to reduce its impact on the riparian zone and waterway. Native plants have been planted on site and student gardeners use natural gardening methods. Stafford composts its yard debris.

The 5th graders revitalized efforts to educate staff and students on the ways to reduce waste and conserve resources. They made sure that all areas had recycling containers with clear signage. When they were sure that all these pieces were in place, they sat down to fill out their OGS application. Then, the group made an appointment with Principal Ardith Pierce. They showed her the completed application and shared their goals and accomplishments with her. Finally, with the entire class and Ms. Kenny watching, Ms. Pierce approved and signed the application. Stafford was recertified as an Oregon Green School on June 6th.

Stafford's motto is, "cultivating minds and hearts", but with the help of Ms. Kenny and her students, the 600 staff and students also continue to cultivate a school culture of environmental stewardship. Hats off to you all and we wish you success in your new goal of moving up to OGS Merit level!



Stafford fifth graders with principal Ardith Pierce (front left) and teacher Donna Kenney (back right).

\$300 Incentive Grants Are Still Available

Grants for NEW Green Schools

In an effort to increase school participation in regions of Oregon where there are currently no certified Green Schools, OGSA is offering a \$300 incentive award for schools that become a Green School during the 2006-07 school year. To receive this grant, schools must meet Green School criteria and must be located in one of the target areas:

Oregon Coast	Columbia Gorge	Lincoln County
Coos Bay	Brookings	Yamhill County
Douglas County	Medford	Ashland
La Grande	Nyssa	Crook County
Jefferson County	Umatilla County	

Grants for schools moving up to MERIT or PREMIER

To encourage schools to go beyond the basics, OGSA is offering an incentive award to schools that become certified as a Merit or Premier Green School or renew as a Premier Green School this school year. Schools from any region in Oregon are eligible to apply. Schools may receive this incentive once within a six-year time period.

Any questions, contact Kat Hill: phone: 503-591-4333, Email: hill_kathleen@salkeiz.k12.or.us

Tips to prevent stormwater problems

By Deborah Topp

In many places throughout Oregon, storm drain systems were designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater (stormwater) away from the streets to the nearest creek or the river. Many communities do not clean or filter their stormwater, and as a result, it carries urban pollution straight into local creeks and rivers. Examples of items that may enter streams and cause pollution are pesticides, herbicides, pet waste, oil, paint, and litter. Following the simple tips below, you will help keep your streams cleaner and reduce the chance of localized flooding.

- Keep leaves out of the storm drain. This will help prevent storm drains from clogging and flooding.
- Pick up after your pets and place the waste in the garbage. Pet waste can increase the amount of harmful bacteria and viruses that enters local streams. (continued next page)

Stormwater, continued

- Cover bare soil to prevent mud from entering storm drains.
- Soak up spills, such as oil or paint, with absorbent materials instead of hosing them down the drain. Place the used absorbent materials in the trash.
- Keep your vehicles maintained and free of leaks.
- Walk, bike, carpool, or ride the bus.
- Avoid washing or hosing anything off in the storm drain.
- If you use pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemical, be sure to avoid using them before it rains. Also, store them in a covered and dry location to prevent these chemicals from running into the streams.

Kelly Creek Students Help “Man’s Best Friend” To Be Gentler to the Environment

By Jan Rankin

Things are a lot nicer for the environment and students and neighbors of Kelly Creek Elementary School, a Premier Oregon Green School in Gresham, thanks to their “Doggie Don’t” stations project. Assisted by a grant from the City of Gresham, students designed and constructed large signs and brightly colored boxes containing plastic bags and placed them on posts around the schoolyard. A garbage container was also placed at each site. The stations clearly offer community dog owners the opportunity to properly dispose of their dog waste. Students also designed promotional materials and conducted a community outreach campaign to encourage use of the stations.

According to Christa Garman, head custodian at the school, the project addressed issues of both water quality and campus cleanliness. She indicates that since their installation the boxes have been used extensively, and as a result, “the school grounds are cleaner and safer for the children, and stormwater runoff is cleaner as well.”



Head Custodian Christa Garman and members of the student Aardvark Recycling Team proudly display one of Kelly Creek Elementary School's "Doggie Don't" Stations"

Links for Schools grants:

www.schoolgrants.org

www.technologygrantnews.com/grant-index-by-type/school-grants.html

www.k12grants.org/samples/

www.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/index.html

school.discovery.com/schrockguide/business/grants.html

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Return Service Requested

Be a friend to Oregon Green Schools!

The Oregon Green Schools Association is dedicated to improving the school environment and community through waste reduction assistance and recognition. Your contribution helps to provide educational displays and recognition materials for schools and supports the annual Green Schools Summit.

Yes! I want to become a Friend of Oregon Green Schools. Enclosed is my contribution for:
__ \$5 Student __ \$25 Basic __ \$50 Merit __ \$100 Premier __ \$250 Best Friend \$_____ Other

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