



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter Volume 4, Number 2 Fall 2005

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.

School Custodians Learn How to Make Their Schools Clean *and* Green

Two school districts recently held workshops for school custodians. Here are reports from the field.

Gresham-Barlow School District Holds Earth-Friendly Custodians' Workshop

by Jan Rankin

Fifty custodians from all nineteen schools in the Gresham-Barlow School District recently gathered together to think "green" at an innovative best practices workshop. The event focused on earth-friendly products and procedures that result in a safe working environment, resource conservation, and monetary savings. It was sponsored in part by the City of Gresham, Metro, and the Portland Recycling Team.



According to Jan Rankin, the area's Oregon Green Schools Coordinator and one of the organizers, "Our intent was to provide up-to-date information and new ideas regarding effective waste reduction and resource conservation strategies and to instill a renewed interest in these activities." She points out that the Gresham-Barlow School District has set a goal of having all of their schools certified as Oregon Green Schools, and the district recognizes the important part that custodians play in reaching that goal. Emphasizing a "by custodians, for custodians" approach at the workshop, among the day's activities were presentations by three custodians who spoke from experience about resource conservation techniques that work for them. Time in the morning and during lunch was also set aside for active networking and sharing

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Notes from the Board

Plea for photos!

Freda Sherburne, OGSA Board Chair, has been invited to make a presentation about Oregon Green Schools at the North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE) conference in Albuquerque, NM in October. She has a slide show almost ready to go, but needs photos of your Green Team or students participating in recycling, composting, energy/water conservation, or waste prevention activities. We saw so many good photos in your displays at the Summit and would like to share them with other folks who are interested in learning about the Green School Program. Please send jpgs to sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us or original printed photos to Freda Sherburne, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232. Questions? Call 503-797-1522. Include a short description of what the students are doing, school name and city. Please send them by October 7. THANKS!!!

Grants for Green Schools

The OGSA board is pleased to announce that we will be continuing our Incentive Grants program for the 2005-06 school year. Most of the funds for this program are from a DEQ grant. Thanks DEQ! There are a few changes: \$300 incentive grants will be given to five new schools from our target area and \$300 grants will be given to five schools (in any region) that move up to or renew at the Merit or Premier status. Watch for application materials on our website at www.oreongreenschools.org, or contact your regional coordinator for more information.

Spreading the word about Green Schools

OGSA board members are working to increase visibility of and support for the Green Schools program by attending various conferences. In June, board members staffed a display at the annual Association of Oregon Recyclers conference at the Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond and hosted a get-together for Local Coordinators.

In August, board members coordinated a session at the Confederation of School Administrators (COSA) conference in Eugene and placed an ad in the conference brochure. Special thanks go to the panelists that did a great job of sharing their Green Schools successes with other school administrators: Carlynn Capps and Dave Cone from Gresham SD, Cheryl Bland from David Douglas SD and Jerry Green from Beaverton SD.

Save the Date

October 5, 2005 (for 8 Tuesdays)

Master Recycler Program

Master Recycler Fall Course

Catlin Gabel School, Portland

503.823.7530 or www.masterrecycler.org

(See article on p. 6 of this newsletter)

October 8-9, 2005

Metro Annual Salmon Festival

Oxbow Regional Park

(503) 797-1850 or <http://www.metro-region.org/>

October 14, 2005

Oregon Science Teachers Association

Annual Conference for Science Teachers

“Extreme Science”

Newport Middle School, Newport

<http://www.oregonscience.org/conference.htm>

October 25-29, 2005

North American Association of Environmental Educators
Conference

“Sustainability & EE: Focus on the Future”

Albuquerque, New Mexico

<http://naaee.org/>

October 21, 2005

Northwest Earth Institute

Annual Earth Club Conference

Location TBD

www.nwei.org

November 12-19, 2005

Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality

“Recycling Awareness Week”

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/solwaste/education/raw.html>



March 17, 2006

is the date for the next Oregon Green Schools Annual Summit, when students and staff from participating Green Schools as well as Green Schools coordinators around the state will gather for a full day of celebration, learning and networking. Willamette High School in Eugene will host the 2006 Summit.

For more information about the Summit, see www.oreongreenschools.org/summits.cfm or call 503-381-7344.

Raise Some *Green* for Your Program

With school back in session, let the fundraising begin! Here are some creative “green” ways to raise money for your environmental education programs.

Cool Stuff to Sell

Lights for Learning - through the Energy Trust, students can sell energy efficient, ENERGY STAR qualified Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs. Schools earn a 50% profit on every bulb sold and can now earn a bonus of up to \$1,000, based on sales. Contact: 1.877.283.0698 (option #2) or mobrien@peci.org.

Organic chocolate and lots more! CrunchTime Environmental Conservation Fundraisers offers on-line fundraising with Newman’s Own Organics chocolate and a host of other environmentally-conscious products. <http://www.crunchtime.org/>

Chinook Book, the “coupon book for healthy living,” features hundreds of coupons for merchants in the Portland and the Eugene/Springfield areas. <http://www.chinookbook.net/>

“Smencils” are pencils made out of recycled newspaper featuring 10 “gourmet scents” with kid appeal. <http://www.smencils.com/fundraising.html/>

Cash for Recycling

TonerInx pays schools in the Portland metro area for recycling toner cartridges, inkjet cartridges and cell phones. <http://www.tonerinx.com/>

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Recycling Awareness Week is November 12-19

Oregon Green Schools promote recycling awareness all year long - but every once in a while our schools have a special opportunity to shine!

Oregon celebrates Recycling Awareness Week each year with activities around the state on the theme of solid waste reduction. DEQ also provides information about Recycling Awareness Week and suggested activities for schools, on its website at www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/solwaste/education/raw.html.

DEQ also lends out its Wheel of Waste Reduction (a 69-pound former casino wheel) to community groups for target audiences ages 12 and up.



To get you started on activities for Recycling Awareness week, read the following reports from Oregon Green Schools on their creative efforts.

Chapman Hill Strives Hard for Premier Status

By Kat Hill and Bailey Payne

What does it take to make a school a Premier Level Oregon Green School? Chapman Hill Elementary School in Salem, Oregon is a great example thanks to the efforts of Maureen Foelkl, the Green Team Teacher, and her students. Maureen's second graders have taken a leadership role in their school and in the community to promote recycling and waste reduction. Chapman Hill has a full time Green Team of students that are responsible for recycling, reducing energy costs, and educating others. The Green Team recycles cans, tin, glass, paper, cardboard, plastic, and batteries during their free time. They also maintain worm bins in the school's cafeteria. The Green Team performs regular waste audits and monitors paper towel usage in the building. They have reduced the number of paper towels used by 24 cases a year. This is almost a 50% reduction. The Green Team's efforts go beyond their school; the Team helped Harritt Elementary School in its successful quest to become an Oregon Green School.



At the flag presentation: Chapman Hill principal Nan Willis (left) and teacher Maureen Foelkl (right).

The Green Team is only one of Chapman Hill's student groups. The Watt Watcher teams record energy use data each day and send monthly reports to the district's Utility Conservation Specialist. On Earth Day, Chapman Hill's Roots and Shoots Organization was invited to the Oregon Garden to present information on the preservation of our watershed. The students taught the public how to manage worm bins and reduce food waste in the garbage. They gave out 100 native Red Columbine plants to interested people and shared with them about water consumption and reduction during the summer months. The students created a PowerPoint presentation on their recycling program which was shared with the Salem-Keizer School Board and the entire Chapman Hill staff and student body.

Maureen Foelkl and her students are always looking for ways to conserve and show they care about the environment. The students and community members of Salem are learning from their example and we all benefit from their efforts. Congratulations Chapman Hill Elementary School and all our Premier

Gordon Russell Students Educate the Community About Local Stream Water Quality

Students from Gordon Russell Middle School, a Merit Oregon Green School, are learning about water quality through hands-on activities and sharing their knowledge with the Gresham community. Bo Drews' eighth-grade science class recently put map reading and teamwork skills to the test as students ventured out into their neighborhood to educate residents about protecting water quality in local streams by marking storm drains.



on each house that was within sight distance of the stormdrain.

This project will help Gordon Russell to achieve Premier Oregon Green School status by meeting the requirement of educating and assisting the community on healthy environmental practices and waste reduction.

The storm drain markers bear the message, "Dump No Waste, Drains to Kelly Creek," reminding passers-by that any kind of lawn chemical washed away by rain, soapy water from car washing, or leaking motor oil that enters the stormdrain does not receive treatment before emptying into the local creek. The students also put door hangers

"The students learn that stormdrains are not large garbage cans," explains Bo Drews about their decision to tackle the stormdrain marking project, "and will bring awareness to other students and their families about stormdrains and the effects of putting waste into them."



Lynch View Students Teach Fellow Students the Three R's



As Recycling Awareness Week approaches, encourage your students to use their imaginations to get the word out. Members of the Triple R's Environmental Club at **Lynch View Elementary School** in Southeast Portland did just that for Earth Day when they wrote and performed a skit for other students based on Chris Van

Allsburg's book, *Just a Dream*. The skit shows students what life in the future might be like through the eyes of a student who doesn't care about the environment until he travels to the future and discovers how bad choices now could make for a bleak future. Each student in the school then made an Earth Day pledge to add to an Earth Day tree and received a bookmark which listed more ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. Teachers received notepads made from reused paper and TreeSmart pencils.

Green Custodians

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among the attendees.

Other offerings included “Biology of a Worm Bin,” a hands-on waste audit, and a presentation by Coastwide Laboratories on “High Performance Green and Healthy Cleaning.” The day concluded with a Custodians Rodeo and parting gifts. The custodians left with an enthusiastic commitment to return to their schools and share what they learned with students and staff.

Beaverton School District Training Makes Sustainability Fun

by Sue Shade

Beaverton School District celebrated the certification of six Oregon Green Schools and got the SUSTAINABILITY word out to custodial and maintenance staff as part of a training workshop in July of 2005. Natalie Sampson, an AmeriCorp volunteer provided through Northwest Service Academy as the Resource Conservation Outreach Coordinator for our school district and Sue Shade the District Resource Conservation Specialist kept the program lively and entertaining. They kept the audience involved with a team recycling challenge, a slide show with scenes and highlights from the individual schools, and tied it all together with a Powerpoint presentation on the STOP WASTE!! program.

All 200 staff members present participated in peer roundtable discussions to consider their role in recycling efforts. Awards were presented to the head custodians of the six new Oregon Green Schools in recognition of the importance of their role in making their schools green. 35 staff members signed pledges or offered written suggestions on how to make the District greener. Staff were informed of additional STOP WASTE!! resources now available on the district intranet web pages and encouraged to contact Beaverton’s STOP WASTE!! program staff with ideas and questions.

Door prizes of desk-side and classroom durable recycling containers, pastries, fruit, and STOP WASTE!! calendars helped along by the OGS grant had everyone smiling at the end of the training. With success like this, next year’s Northwest Service Academy Americorps Volunteer is going to have a hard act to follow!

Raising Green, continued from p. 3

Rapid Refill does the same in a number of areas of Oregon, including Marion County. Contact Daren Patera at 503-587-0465 or see <http://www.rapidrefillink.com/>.

Grants for Green Projects

“Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School” Grant Program

Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and *National Geographic Explorer!* classroom magazine are offering an outdoor classroom grant program to help schools improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. This grant program is for outdoor classroom proposals by K-12 public schools in the United States. Grants up to \$2,000 will be awarded to at least 100 schools and grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. Proposals are reviewed three times a year.

www.Lowes.com/outdoorclassroom

Oregon Green Schools Incentive Awards program
Awards are available for new Green Schools from a board-specified target area and for schools in any region that move up to or renew at the Merit or Premier level. Check out the Oregon Green Schools website for a listing of this and other environmental education grants and requirements.

www.oregongreenschools.org.

Ever Green: Oregon Green School Updates

Congratulations to New and Renewing Green Schools!

Premier Schools

Chapman Hill (Salem)
Forest Ridge (Salem Keizer)
Sellwood Middle (renewing) (Portland)

Merit Schools

Ventura (Portland)

Green Schools

German-American School (Beaverton)
Hazeldale (Beaverton)
Montclair (Beaverton)
Five Oaks (Beaverton)
David Douglas High (Portland)
Shaver Elementary (Portland)

Welcome to New Green School Coordinators!

Katherine “Kat” Hill (Salem-Keizer School District)
Julie Jackson (Corvallis Disposal and Albany-Lebanon Disposal)
Sue Shade (Beaverton School District)
Bethany Wright (Oregon Association of Water Utilities)

Master Recycler Program Announces Fall Session

by Steve Cohen



This fall, start making a difference in your community. Enroll in the the Master Recycler course that begins on Tuesday, October 5 at Catlin Gabel

School in Northwest Portland. The popular eight-week program will meet from 7-9:30 p.m. on eight Tuesdays in October and November and includes two half-day weekend field trips. Registration deadline is September 27 and applications can be submitted online at www.masterrecycler.org. Information and applications are also available by calling the Master Recycler program at 503.823.7530. A \$50 course fee includes all materials.

The Master Recycler training provides instruction in topics such as waste reduction, recycling processes, alternatives to hazardous household products, composting and green building. Classes

are taught by professionals from the public and private sector who are working on innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Over 500 people have completed the Master Recycler program since its inception twelve years ago. Participants have included residents with an interest in environmental stewardship as well as members of business green teams. Course graduates agree to donate 30 hours putting their skills to work to help others learn the three Rs: reduce the amount of solid waste generated, reuse material for the purpose for which it was intended and recycle material that cannot be salvaged. Master Recyclers volunteer to staff information booths at local events, make presentations to community groups and work on special projects such as recent plastic recycling roundups.



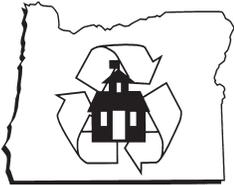
Oregon Green Schools Newsletter



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Return Service Requested

Be a friend to Oregon Green Schools!



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

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (w) _____ (h) _____ email _____

Mail checks payable to: Oregon Green Schools Association

Send to: Oregon Green Schools
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Questions? Call (503) 381-7344

Thank You!

Contributions to The Oregon Green Schools
Association are tax deductible