



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 2

Spring 2003

Welcome!

The Oregon Green Schools Association has created this newsletter to keep you informed about Green School happenings around the state.

Your contributions are needed! Let us know about your events and activities, so we can include them in a future newsletter.

What's inside?

Notes from the Board

View Acres goes Tubular Over Compost

Coordinator focus:
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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 community.

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Food for Thought

Many of us see left-over food and think "that's a lot of garbage!" Students from the Social Responsibilities class at Westland Middle School in Corvallis took their thoughts in a different direction and figured out how that left-over food could be used to help the hungry.

Kudos to these students for noticing a problem, coming up with a plan and following through with a great idea! The following story was written by Tyra Beeson, Katie Gregory, Carmen Holladay and Alison Germaneri.



We were discussing the fact that Oregon is number one in hunger in our nation and we wanted to help with this problem. We decided one way to get food to hungry people is to collect "planned over" cafeteria food and donate it to the Linn-Benton Food Share.

This project wasn't very hard to get started but hopefully will help a lot of people. To start the Food for Thought project at Westland Middle school we called the district office and talked to Joanne Keesee. She told us it was a great project. She also told us what we needed to do and who we needed to contact.

Mrs. Keesee also came to our Social Responsibilities class to help us. She told us that we needed to ask our cafeteria workers if they would help us save the "planned over" food from our lunch periods. They agreed to help with our project. She also told us that there are safety codes that need to be followed, for instance the food needs to be refrigerated after two hours. From there we contacted the Linn-Benton Food Share and got ahold of the Gleaners. The Gleaners is a nonprofit organization built to help provide food for people with disabilities or people who don't have enough money for food. The Gleaners came to our class and told us they would be happy to

help. We set up a time that they would pick up the food from our cafeteria almost every day. The Gleaners also told us that no matter how big or small the amount of food, they will pick it up.

Thankfully, our wonderful cafeteria workers agreed to box up the food and leave it on the counter for the Gleaners to pick up. Now we check in with the cafeteria and the Gleaners periodically to see how the project is going. This project doesn't take much but the outcome is great.

Westland has proposed this project to other schools in the area including Cheldelin Middle School, Adams Elementary and Corvallis High School. We are hoping that this project will go state-wide to help solve the problem of hunger in Oregon. None of us likes the feeling of going to bed hungry and we hope we can reduce the number of people feeling hungry in our area. ■

Note: Pam Wald, Recycling Educator for Corvallis Disposal, estimates that Westland MS diverts about 10 gallons of food a week from the landfill with this project. Also, five schools in Corvallis now participate in the project.

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What's new on the web?

Check out the website for upcoming events, premier profiles, who's who in Green Schools and more.

We'd like to read about your school too! Send your school profiles and corrections to Freda Sherburne at sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us.



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View Acres goes tubular over compost!

Oops... maybe that should be TUB-ular! View Acres Elementary in the North Clackamas School District is the proud recipient of the first in-vessel composter for the Portland metro area. The composter is a self-contained, fully enclosed system, equipped with an electrical mixing motor, an aerating system and a biofilter to control odors. Standing four feet tall and eight feet wide, the tub is busily breaking down the school's food waste.



Now fondly called the Grub Tub, it was named during a "dub the tub" contest as part of the schools Earth Day celebrations. The composting project is enthusiastically supported by the whole school, especially head custodian Tony Medina, who lobbied to have the pilot project at View Acres. Fourth and fifth graders monitor lunch lines to remind other students about what can be composted and student helpers estimate the amount of food waste added to the Earth Tub each day and track the temperature of the compost. As part of the project, View Acres staff and students have also learned how to reduce food and packaging waste.

This pilot project was made possible by a Metro grant written by Clackamas County Recycling Partnership staff. Green School Coordinator Eileen Stapp and AmeriCorps member Brittany Futterman oversee the project. A big thank you goes to View Acres new business-school partner McFarlane's Bark. The company is generously donating carbon-rich materials on an ongoing basis to balance the compost mix.

Two other tubs are being installed at the Center for Research in Environmental Science Technology (CREST) Center in Wilsonville, which will serve Boones Ferry Primary and Wood Middle School of the West Linn/Wilsonville SD. They were funded by a waste reduction grant from Oregon DEQ.

Notes from the Board:

2004 Oregon Green Schools Summit!

What – no 2003 Summit? No worries! Even though we won't be having a Summit in *calendar* year 2003, we'll still have one for the 2003-04 *school* year. We finally came to the conclusion that it's just too darn hard to get everyone up and ready at schools and plan a conference in the fall too. No date is set yet, but we are looking towards February or March 2004. We'll choose a date as soon as school calendars are set for next year. Watch for more information in the fall!

"Green School Project" vs. Oregon Green Schools

Over the past few months, several Oregon schools and school district offices have been contacted by an organization called the "Green School Project." In spite of the obvious name similarity, Oregon Green Schools is NOT affiliated with this company in any way. The "Green School Project" is one of many companies offering schools a chance to participate in printer and copy machine cartridge recycling programs. While schools have found these programs to be quite profitable, Oregon Green Schools does not promote any one program over the others.

Green School news from around the state

– Earth Day celebrations, new Green Schools, award winners, and more!



Marysville Elementary in Portland planned a large parade that wound through their surrounding neighborhood. As students marched, they chanted such slogans as “reduce, reuse, recycle.” Most notably, in service to the neighborhood and the environment, students collected all the trash that they encountered during their march.

Pleasant Valley Elementary in the Centennial School District celebrated Earth Day with all of its students participating in hands-on environmental activities on the school grounds. Assisted by parent volunteers, students examined water samples from Kelley Creek, which runs through the campus, and from the school’s on-site pond. They also planted fifteen trees on school property.

The Triple R’s Environmental Club at **Lynch View Elementary** joined the City of Gresham’s Earth Day Fair. Students and their advisors staffed their informational recycling and waste reduction display and informed the public about the opportunity to recycle ink cartridges through their school. Lynch View is also Oregon Green Schools’ newest Premier Green School and is the winner of the 2003 DEQ-AOR WRAP (waste reduction & recycling) award for elementary schools. Way to go Lynch View!

Alameda Elementary in Portland attained Green School status last September with the help of Recycling Coordinator and Vice Principal Jay Spassov and parent volunteer Tracy Corey. At an awards assembly in December, GS Coordinator and AmeriCorps volunteer Kevin Kennedy was pleased to find out that students were already determined to attain Merit status and a committee consisting of five students and their parents, was formed to help them attain their goal. As of February, they were still hard at work!

Beach Elementary in Portland received Green School status this April and was awarded their Green School certificate at the school’s “Celebrate Success” assembly on April 18. The school’s effort to attain Green status was spearheaded by the school’s Recycling Committee: teachers Tara West, and Amy

Robbins and teaching assistant Chris Martin. Not being content with simply attaining Green status, the Recycling Committee is now determined to divert food waste created by the district’s breakfast program out of the waste stream and is exploring ways to compost other classroom food waste.

Congratulations to **Environmental Middle School** in Portland for achieving Premier Green School status and also for receiving the 2003 DEQ-AOR WRAP (waste reduction awareness program) award for secondary schools. Both of these awards recognize EMS for years of wonderful achievements in the field of waste reduction. Through innovative program ideas and constant student interaction, EMS sets an example for the whole PPS district to follow.

The most successful process used by EMS to encourage students and teachers to embrace waste reduction is through their use of the Recycling Rangers. The Recycling Rangers are 5 individuals dressed up as compostable and recyclable items who travel from class to class to examine the contents of the trash can. If the trash is free of recyclables, the class wins a treat. This is performed weekly and results of this mini waste audit are posted in the hall for all students and teachers to see.

David Douglas High School, Portland, a Green School, recertified this spring. They used their field trip award to transport all of the 4th graders in the district to their annual Earth Day event on May 8th. At the event, students in the Natural Resources CAM program conducted activities with the students on conservation, waste reduction and ecology. Also present were a wide range of community members and agency representatives that work in environmental conservation, research and education.



Bridger Elementary in Portland organized a No Waste Lunch day for Earth Day. With the help of Val Johnston, the Bridger RC and the valiant Bridger Elementary Green Team, lunch waste was reduced by over 60%. Great job Bridger students and staff!

Brad Hinman and his 3rd-5th grade students received grant money to begin a worm-bin composting project at **R.E. Jewell Elementary** in Bend. The students now sort vegetable and fruit waste during lunch, and divert nearly 40 pounds of garbage a day from the waste stream! Worms alone definitely couldn't handle that volume, so Jewell has partnered with Fields Farm, a local CSA farm, to use a portion of their compostables. In addition, Kirsten McGarigal and the Recycling Team staff members make special trips to the county recycling center to drop off materials that are not included with the school's regular recycling service, like butcher paper and paperboard. Now that's dedication!



Billboard design by Nanni Richardson, grade 2, German American School, Metro's Earth Day art contest winner for grades K-2.

8th graders at **St. Francis of Assissi School** in Bend have been busy starting up a new waste reduction and recycling program for their entire school. At the beginning of the school year, the students created posters for each classroom with messages like, "Waste is not an option" and "To waste or not to waste, there is no question!" They also have a Recycling Bear that travels throughout the school and visits classrooms that have the least amount of recyclable materials in their trash cans. Captain Recycle, another furry friend, is awarded on a weekly basis to classrooms that have the least amount of overall garbage. Because of their year-long efforts, St. Francis has recently been officially awarded with an Oregon Green School Certificate of Merit. On the agenda for next year is a closer look at water and energy consumption at St. Francis, and a school-wide education effort about how to conserve these resources in the classroom.

As **Sisters Middle School** was recently awarded with an Oregon Green School Certificate of Merit, Sisters School District has become the first to go all-green in Central Oregon! Isolde Hedemark and her technology classes at the middle school have been working hard all year to create and display resource conservation materials throughout the school. All 6th graders measured their ecological footprint during special visits from Katy Bryce and Jessica Born, environmental educators from reSource, a local non-profit. The students then took what they learned and created brochures with information on how to reduce our individual impacts that were given to parents during winter conferences. Check out their two cool websites: www.outlawnet.com/outlaw/sisters_middleschool/eco/waste/engy_pol.html and www.outlawnet.com/outlaw/sisters_middleschool/eco/water/water.html.

Highland Elementary in Bend has a new energy around resource conservation, thanks to the volunteer students on The Recycling Team and champion staff members Gail, Terri and Bart. The Team has posted signs that read, "Wait! Can that be recycled?" above nearly every garbage can. They also handed out information cards to all teachers and staff about SWAP, a local, on-line materials exchange website. The Team is also taking a closer look at energy conservation opportunities that exist throughout the school, and educating other students through the Watt Watchers Energy Conservation Program (<http://wattwatchers.utep.edu/>).

At La Pine Middle School Jean Hillmer's students celebrated earth month with a few "refresher" classes about the importance of resource conservation and recycling. These 6-8th graders comprise La Pine Middle School's recycling team, and enjoyed having Jessica Born from reSource come to talk to them about worm composting, water conservation and household toxics. The students explored where water comes from, and made connections to caring for the Deschutes Basin watershed. And of course, all had a good laugh at the special guest appearance of the HazMat man!

Waste Reduction Awareness Program (WRAP) Awards

The Oregon DEQ and Association of Oregon Recyclers created the awards program in 1993. The purpose of the program is to recognize and reward schools and individuals whose efforts have addressed solid waste problems and resulted in reduced or more efficient use of materials. Awards of \$500.00 are presented to winners in each category to enhance their efforts.

Rising Star Award

Awarded to a public or private Oregon school, K-12, giving evidence of significant progress in the development of their school's waste reduction program. Programs must be less than 5 years old to apply. **2003 winner: Elkton Elementary***

Elementary School WRAP Award

Awarded to a public or private Oregon elementary school with an outstanding waste reduction program. **2003 winner: Lynch View Elementary***

Secondary School WRAP Award

Awarded to a public or private Oregon middle or high school with an outstanding waste reduction program. **2003 winner: Environmental Middle School***

Steele Gale Martin Achievement Award

Awarded to an individual or group of students who has/have made a significant contribution to waste reduction and recycling efforts in Oregon.

2003 winner: StRUT Club of the Winston-Dillard School District

* These schools are Oregon Green Schools
Congratulations to all!

OGSA Coordinator Feature

AmeriCorps Volunteers



From left, standing:

Kylie Nero
Rebecca Jones
Brittany Futterman
Jason Baker

Crouching:

Nic Callero
Kevin Kennedy

Not pictured:

Rebecca Reeder

For the past 5 years, many Oregon Green schools in the Portland metro-area have had the opportunity to work with AmeriCorps volunteers from the Northwest Service Academy. Each year we get a new group, and they tackle their assignments with amazing amounts of energy and creativity. Because of these dedicated volunteers (they each provide about 1400 hours of service during their placement) issues and projects related to recycling and resource efficiency are kept in the forefront in Oregon schools.

Kylie Nero is from Portland and graduated from University of Oregon in General Science. She helps to keep the recycling program flowing smoothly at Barlow High School. The most rewarding part of her placement is working with the Environmental Club.

You might not always see **Rebecca Jones** – she's the one pulling the puppet strings behind the scenes in Metro's Mother Nature's Garden show! Rebecca also gives presentations about composting with worms to schools and is compiling a comprehensive data-base of recycling facts for the web. She loves watching squeamish kids open up to touching worms, dirt and insects during her presentations. Rebecca hails from Virginia originally, attending college in Ohio (BA in Fine Arts), and volunteered for AmeriCorps in California last year.

Brittany Futterman grew up in Chicago and attended college in Wisconsin, gaining a BS in Sociology with a minor in

Environmental Studies. As a waste reduction educator for Clackamas County Recycling Partnership, Brittany works with about 130 schools in the Green School program. Some of her favorite projects this year include coordinating/troubleshooting the installation of the first metro-area Earth Tub, providing gardening and cooking workshops with Transition Projects and becoming a Master Recycler.

Portland Public Schools is fortunate to have **Kevin Kennedy and Nic Callero** on their team. As Resource Conservation Coordinators for the schools, Kevin and Nic advise schools on ways to improve recycling, reduce waste and conserve energy and water. Kevin is from Wisconsin and has a BA in History. He appreciates the skills he has gained and has especially enjoyed some of the more unique parts of the job – working on courtyard and bioswale projects at schools. His plans for the future include teaching in elementary schools. Nic is another die-hard Oregonian, growing up in Salem and graduating from U of O in Political Science and Sociology. Nic loves every minute of the job, especially providing presentations to K-12th graders.

Originally from Boston, **Rebecca Reeder** took a year-long road trip around the country working on organic farms and fell in love with Oregon. She works with students and staff at Gresham High

(Continued on back page)

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Association of Oregon Recyclers
Annual Education Conference
June 19, 2003
Annual Conference & Trade Show
June 20-21, 2003

Valley River Inn, Eugene

Registration and scholarship information available at: www.aorr.org

Educating Towards Sustainability!
EEAO's annual Conference
October 17-19, 2003
McKenzie River Conference Center

The conference will focus on the role of environmental education in service learning and building a culture of sustainability in Oregon.

Educators will come together to share information, learn new skills, make professional contacts and explore collaborative opportunities through workshops, concurrent sessions and field trips.

Registration information will be available spring 2003 at www.eeao.org. Contact EEAO at 503-234-EEAO to learn more about volunteer, exhibitor, and sponsorship opportunities.

EEAO's 2003 Excellence in Environmental Education Awards

Do you know an educator, organization or school project that has demonstrated excellence in environmental education? If yes, help us recognize their good works by nominating them for one of EEAO's annual awards.

For nomination information, contact Freda Sherburne at sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us. Deadline for nominations is August 8, 2003. Recipients will be honored at the EEAO annual conference. (described above)

Thank You!

Oregon Green Schools supporters and sponsors!

The following individuals and organizations made contributions to Oregon Green Schools in 2002. Supporters and sponsors automatically become Friends of Oregon Green Schools with their contributions.

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Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
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Summit sponsors

Oregon Refuse and Recycling Assn., Far West Fibers, Waste Connections, Oregon DEQ, Metro, Marion Co. Solid Waste, Willamette Resources, Inc., City of Portland Solid Waste & Recycling Program, City of Gresham DES, Weyerhaeuser, Clackamas County, Robert and Kathryn Bunn.

Summit Scholarships

Albany-Lebanon Sanitation, B & J Garbage Co., Canby Disposal Co., Capitol Recycling and Disposal, Corvallis Disposal Co., Deines Brothers, Gresham Sanitary Service, High Country Disposal, Keller Drop Box, Loren's Sanitation Service, Mt. View Sanitary Service, Newberg Garbage Service, North Douglas Sanitary Service, Santiam Sanitary Service, Valley Recycling and Disposal.

AmeriCorps Volunteers, cont.

School as their Recycling and Environmental Coordinator. Favorite part of the job? Working with the Earth Club and in the greenhouse. A career in art therapy is on her list of future plans!

Jason Baker doesn't work in schools, but is a terrific asset to Metro's hazardous waste education program. You can see him providing educational materials at the haz-waste round-ups around the region most weekends. Coordinating research on using compost tea as a fertilizer at Blue Lake Park and providing education about greener cleaners to parents of pre-school children are his two favorite projects. Jason is originally from Florida and has a BA in English. This is his second year of volunteering for AmeriCorps.

Next time you see one of these folks, give them a hearty thanks and perhaps a hug or a big slice of pizza for all their efforts!



Recycling Rangers from Environmental Middle School in Portland quench their thirst for waste reduction in a big way.....

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 annual membership fee for:

- \$5 Student
- \$25 Basic
- \$50 Merit
- \$100 Premier
- \$250 Best Friend
- \$_____ Other

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Thank You!

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