



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1

Spring 2004

Welcome!

It was an amazingly busy spring and the regular newsletter never made it to print. This newsletter has been created especially for the Association of Oregon Recyclers annual conference and trade show so that we can catch you up on what's been happening and to thank our Summit sponsors for their support.

What's inside?

Summit Report

Notes from the Board

Portland Schools Energize their programs

Thanks to Sponsors

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.

Oregon Green Schools team up for the environment

On Friday, February 27th, 450 representatives from 70 schools from across the state gathered for the 8th annual Oregon Green Schools Summit to learn, share and celebrate their waste reduction and resource conservation successes. This year's event, with the theme of "Teaming up for the Environment," was hosted by NIKE at its World Headquarters in Beaverton.

Students, teachers, custodians, parent volunteers, school administrators and Green School coordinators spent the fun-filled and educational day participating in school displays, teacher resources, performing arts and hands-on activities. Workshops included Green School Showcase, Green Teen Roundtable, Papermaking, Garbage to Gold,



Participants warm up with recycle-aerobics led by Nike fitness staff members.

Naturescaping, Event Recycling, Recycling Family Feud, Advertising, Air-to-Earth training, Games from SCRAP, "The Wartville Wizard Goes to School," Watts Up With Waste, A Weigh Out of Waste, and Electronic Trash Talk. Attendees also took part in a ReUse-A-Shoe collection and were treated to a tour of the beautiful NIKE campus with an emphasis on ways in which sustainability can be put into practice in the corporate world.

Each year the Oregon Green Schools Association (OGSA) organizes the Summit for schools that have met the criteria to be certified "green." Jan Rankin, Summit Chair explains, "The students attending the Summit work hard to demonstrate their commitment (continued on back page)



Each school brought a display that featured their school program or a recycling topic.

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Notes from the Board:

New brochure

If you didn't make it to the Summit, you missed the unveiling of our new OGS brochure. Full of color, photos of kids and helpful information, this brochure will help you promote the GS program to schools in your area. Coordinators, contact Eileen Stapp to request brochures: 503-353-4454 or eileens@co.clackamas.or.us.

Board retreat

The GS Board of Directors will take it's annual one-day retreat at the Oregon Gardens on July 23rd. We will be discussing plans for the upcoming year, including dates for the Summit, recruiting new board members and the possibility of hiring a part-time staff person. Watch for updates in future newsletters.

Seeking committee members

Do you want to be more involved in Oregon Green Schools? We could use your help! Join a committee to help plan the Summit, review premier applications, write the newsletter, create promotional materials or help raise funds. For more information contact Freda Sherburne, sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us or 503-797-1522.

Green School Grants

OGSA is in the process of developing a grant program to help schools start or improve their waste reduction programs. The plan is to offer these grants primarily to schools in areas where there are no grants available from regional coordinators. When the program is up and running, applications and information will be available on the GS web site. Check back in September for an update!

Web changes coming soon

This summer the GS web pages will take on a whole new look! We're working to make our web site more user-friendly and to include more resources for teachers and coordinators. Watch for the changes and let us know what you think!

See your school in print!

We would like to read about your school in the newsletter and on the web and are always in search of good photos for brochures, the web site, the newsletter and the GS display. Send your school profiles, stories about what you are doing and photos to Freda Sherburne at sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us.

Portland schools energize their programs

Lent, EMS, and Bridger are three Green schools that have gone to the next level in resource conservation. In addition to waste reduction, and recycling, these schools realize that energy conservation plays a very important role. All three of these schools have recently implement a new energy program called Watt Watchers.

The Watt Watcher program has several aims; to first cut down on energy usage which will ultimately save money, and secondly and equally important is to increase the knowledge students gain related to the future of energy resources in the world. Students involved in the program act as energy police and patrol the school looking for places where energy is being wasted. Tickets are given to those unoccupied rooms with the lights on to encourage energy consciousness. Thank-you notes are given to those rooms that consistently show good energy practices.

Lent Elementary

After playing the “Let’s Get Energized” game with Alli and Kris, PPS AmeriCorps volunteers, the Lent Earthwatchers Club realized how their day to day habits are connected with how much energy they use and how much money they spend. This inspired them to spread what they learned to other classes. After signing their Watt Watchers agreements, they began citing classes that were “energy wasters” and left them reminders about conserving energy. The Lent Earth Watchers club is coordinated by Aurelia Wight.



Environmental Middle

A group of 6 students at EMS are acting as Watt Watchers for their school and are organized with the help of Matt Feitelberg, an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at EMS. A couple of times a week, the group walks around the school and watches for classes that have the potential to save energy. If no one is in a classroom, but the lights are on, the Watt Watchers leave friendly reminders. They also watch for watts being waste by computers, printers and copiers being left on at the end of the day.

Bridger Elementary

This school’s team focus is on energy – playing close attention to all aspects of energy consumption. Since January of 2004, the team has done and home and school energy audits. In addition, the students put together a PowerPoint presentation which was presented at the Green Schools Summit. The presentation is a wonderful illustration of all the ways we waste energy and how we can be active in changing attitudes and behaviors to save energy instead.



For more information about Watt Watchers in Portland schools contact Kris McMillen, or Alli Barra at 503-916-2000, ext. 4267. The web site for Watt Watchers is <http://p2.utep.edu/watts/index.cfm>.

Summit is a big success!

(continued from front page)

to environmental stewardship. This event gives them an opportunity to share what they've accomplished, exchange ideas, and go home with new ways to improve their Green School programs.”

In addition to NIKE, other major sponsors included Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, Weyerhaeuser, Far West Fibers, DEQ, Waste Connections, Inc., Metro Regional Services, the American Plastics Council and Marion County.

THANKS to our sponsors, all the great folks that led sessions and to the members of the Summit planning committee for making this the best summit ever!



Terri Peterson tests the kids on their recycling knowledge.

Summit planning committee:

Jan Rankin, Freda Sherburne, Amy Wilson, Bailey Payne, Eileen Stapp, Joe Cawley, Jenna Link, John Jackson, Pam Wald, Lonny Knabe, Megan Stein, Cheryl Hagseth, and Dan Prince.

Many thanks to our Summit sponsors and supporters!!!

- Nike • Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality • Weyerhaeuser
 - Far West Fibers • American Plastics Council
- Waste Connections • Metro • Marion County Public Works
 - City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development
 - City of Eugene Solid Waste & Recycling
- Lane County Solid Waste • Metro Metals Northwest, Inc.
 - WESSCO • American Steel Institute • KBI Insurance
- DeWald Northwest, Co. • Tetra Pak, Inc. • ReDirect, Inc.
 - City of Gresham Recycling & Solid Waste Program
 - Robert and Kathryn Bunn • Douglas County
 - EcoLights Northwest • AMG Resources
- Blue Heron Paper Co. • Cloudburst Recycling, Inc.

School Sponsorships

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| Keller Drop Box | Waste Management |
| Loren's Sanitation Service | Western Oregon Waste |
| Molalla Sanitary Service | |

Door prizes and in-kind donations

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Starbucks Coffee | Patagonia | Norm Thompson |
| Resource Revival | Sustain Ability International | |