



Oregon Green Schools newsletter

Oregon Green Schools Newsletter Volume 4, Number 1 Spring 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 spring 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.

What's inside?

Summit.....	1
Notes from the Board.....	2
New Premier and Merit Green Schools.....	2
Save the date!.....	3
Earth Day Celebrations.....	4
Green Schools Updates	6
Spotlight: Emma Pletz	7
Summit Sponsors.....	8

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.

Sustainable Schools: “Learning Today ... Acting for Tomorrow” at Summit 2005

Students and teachers from Oregon Green Schools across the state enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the ninth annual Oregon Green Schools Summit March 11 at Reynolds High School in Troutdale. Dubbed the “Sustainability Summit,” this year’s event explored ways that today’s decisions and actions will impact tomorrow’s world.



Students learn to pack a sustainable lunch.

The day’s activities were kicked off by David Van’t Hof, Governor Kulongoski’s Sustainability Advisor, who delivered words of support from the Governor to more than 400 representatives from 62 schools. Mr. Van’t Hof and Danny Santos, the Governor’s Policy Advisor, then viewed school exhibits, visited with students and peeked in on some of the many hands-on sessions that were offered throughout the day.

A large selection of sessions enticed attendees. They ranged from the “standards” – papermaking, composting, waste audits and Recycle Jeopardy – to activities centered around water conservation, ancient forests, community restoration, energy, school gardens, habitat sustainability, healthy school lunches, natural building materials, sustainable agriculture, and GIANT bugs!!! (Please see descriptions of breakout sessions below).



Student learns to Love a Bug!

Things ran smoothly due to the efforts of a large number of incredible student volunteers who worked before, during and after the event. Among them were Reynolds “Students Helping Our Earth” (SHOE) club members, National Honor Society students and David Douglas High School students. One of the highlights of the day was a delicious and healthy waste-free lunch provided by the Reynolds Nutrition Services staff and Reynolds High School Hospitality, Travel and Tourism students.

continued on p. 2

Oregon Green Schools Board of Directors

2004-2005

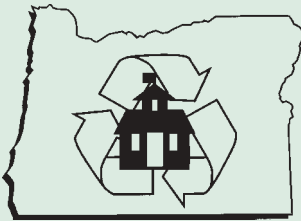
President
Freda Sherburne, Metro

Secretary
Anne Donahue, City of Eugene

Treasurer
Pam Wald, Green Schools consultant

Summit Chair
Jan Rankin, City of Gresham

Coordinator Chair
Eileen Stapp, Clackamas County
Recycling Partnership



Oregon Green Schools Association
8906 SW 8th Ave.
Portland, OR 97219
Phone: (503) 381-7344
Fax: (503) 399-7784
www.oregongreenschools.org

Note from the Board:

Web site gets makeover

Check out the new Oregon Green School web pages! Learn how to become a Green School. Find nearly 200 Oregon Green Schools and their coordinators by region on the map of Oregon. Take advantage of great links and resources! The web address is www.oregongreenschools.org.

Save the Date

Conferences

June 23-25, 2005
Environmental Education
Associations of Oregon and
Washington Joint Conference
“Sound to Steens, Connecting
Deserts to Oceans”

*Washington State University,
Vancouver*

Pre-conference workshop on
cultural diversity and environ-
mental education (limited to 18
participants)

Details at www.eeao.org

June 23-25, 2005
AOR 27th Annual Conference
“Recycle - Brand Oregon”

*Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond,
Oregon*

Details at www.aorr.org

Workshops

June 27-July 1, 2005

Oregon Building Congress offers a
free, week-long program

“Green Building Workshop for
Teachers”

Various locations, Portland metro

Details: katie@obcweb.com or
(503) 597-1715

August 7-12, 2005

Free program for middle school and
high school teachers funded by
National Endowment for the
Humanities

“Rivers and the American Experi-
ence: From Lewis & Clark to the
Bonneville Dam”

Lewis & Clark College, Portland

Details at www.oregonhum.org

Due date for application is June 10!

New Fundraising Idea from Energy Trust: Lights for Learning

The Energy Trust of Oregon is introducing a new way to raise funds while providing education. Through the Lights for Learning fundraising program, students 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. Schools receive free educational

presentations and leave-behind materials and assistance from start to finish, including public relations support. For more information, check out the downloadable order form and brochure at www.energytrust.org. For questions, call 1.877.283.0698 (option #2) or email Marisa O'Brien at mobrien@peci.org.

Summit, continued....

The lively breakout sessions and presenters included

- A Weigh Out of Waste** (*John Jackson, Metro*)
- Community Restoration – Salish Ponds Wetlands Park** (*Connie Hansen, City of Fairview*)
- Creating a School Garden that Lasts** (*Sharon Blick, School Garden Project of Lane County*)
- Green and Natural Building Materials of Today** (*Sukita Crimmel, From These Hands*)
- Habitat Sustainability & Bug Sucker 101** (*Maggie Livesay & Susan Weiske, Wildlife Stewards*)
- Love a Bug!** (*Sharon Blick, “The Bug Lady”*)
- The Magic of Composting** (*Anne Donahue, City of Eugene*)
- Papermaking** (*Eileen Stapp, Clackamas County*)
- Pocket SCRAP Books** (*Teri Thomas Petersen & Carol Mollet, S.C.R.A.P.*)
- Recycle Jeopardy** (*Terri Peterson, Douglas County*)
- Sustainability in the Ancient Forest** (*Steve Wise, Friends of Opal Creek*)
- Sustainable Agriculture** (*Andy Parker, Oregon Tilth*)
- Water Conservation at Home and at School** (*Matt Peterson, Portland Water Bureau*)
- Watt Watchers: Keep the Current Flowing...** (*Kat Hill, Salem-Keizer Schools*)

- Adult Roundtable** (*Paul Seitz, Washington County*)
- Green Teen Roundtable** (*Amy Wilson, Metro*)
- Oregon Green Schools Showcase** (*Dan Prince, Multnomah ESD*)

The festivities concluded at the District’s new Hudson F. Lasher Arts & Communications Center with improvisational comedy with a waste reduction theme and door prizes provided by various sponsors.

Some comments from this year’s Summit attendees:

Thank you for organizing an inspiring event. I’m ready to head back to my school and take action! (adult)

This green summit is the best field trip ever. I loved the stations, prizes and a lot more! This is a great opportunity for kids to understand green! I learned much more than I knew. Thanks! (student)



Anne Donahue (OGSA board member and City of Eugene GS coordinator) helps students add worms to their new bin.

A BIG THANKS TO THE 2005 SUMMIT SPONSORS!!!

With special thanks to REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL for being the Summit Host and to volunteers from Reynolds HS SHOE (students helping our environment) CLUB and Reynolds National Honor Society!

School Sponsors

- 12 Mile Disposal
- American Sanitary/WCI
- Arrow Sanitary/WCI
- B & B Leasing
- B & J Garbage
- Capital Recycling & Disposal
- City Sanitary
- Garbarino’s
- County Transfer/WCI
- Gladstone Disposal
- Gresham Sanitary
- Keller Drop Box

- Newberg Garbage
- Oregon City Garbage
- Oregon Green Schools Association
- Rockwood Solid Waste
- Roseburg Disposal
- Rossmann Garbage
- Sanipac
- United Disposal
- Valley Recycling
- Walker Garbage
- Waste Management
- Western Oregon Waste
- Oregon DEQ

Summit Activities Sponsors

- Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
- Arrow Sanitary
- City of Eugene
- City of Gresham
- City of Portland
- Clackamas County
- Cloudburst Recycling
- Container Recovery
- Douglas County
- De Wald Northwest
- Far West Fibers
- KBI Insurance

- Marion County
- Metro
- Lane Forest Products
- Nike
- Oregon DEQ
- SP Recycling
- Tetra Pak
- Toyota Logistics

In-Kind Donations

- McCarty Middle School
- Fairlight Bakery
- SCRAP

And thanks to the 2004-05 Friends of Oregon Green Schools

- | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Metro | Tonerinx | City of Eugene | Freda Sherburne | Joe Cawley |
| Marion County | Energy Trust | Eileen Stapp | Nancy Bond | Anne Donahue |

How Oregon's Green Schools Celebrated Earth Day 2005

The year 2005 marked the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. Oregon Green Schools celebrated in style!

In honor of Earth Day, the **Centennial School District Resource Conservation Team** took on the HUGE task of introducing bottle & can recycling at the 41st Annual Centennial Invitational Track & Field Meet. There, thousands of athletes and their families from across the Pacific Northwest gathered for a day of friendly competition. Centennial High School Earth Club members led the way and worked from 7:00 a.m. until midnight on a miserable, rainy day, collecting, sorting and bagging plastic bottles and aluminum cans for recycling.



Centennial High School Earth Club members and advisor Carolyn Smithee set out ClearStream Recycling Containers.

and bagging plastic bottles and aluminum cans for recycling. They managed to divert 25% of the garbage generated at the event through their recycling efforts!

Kelly Creek Elementary School (Premier Oregon Green School) and **Highland Elementary School** (Green School) in the Gresham-Barlow School District celebrated Earth Day together. Kelly Creek music teacher David Drom, head custodian Christa Garman and the 3rd grade choir took their show on the road and traveled across town to Highland. There, Ms.



Highland Elementary students audit waste at their Earth Day assembly.

Garman and Highland custodian Cornel Christorean assisted Highland students as they conducted a waste audit. Then the Kelly Creek choir performed musical selections including "Every Day is Earth Day," "Recycle Rap," "When a Tree Falls," "So We Can Live" and "It Starts With Me!"

Dan Wood, Principal of Highland Elementary, commented that the "kid-to-kid" approach was an extremely effective way of communicating the Earth Day message.



Music teacher David Drom, head custodian Christa Garman, and enthusiastic 3rd graders from Kelly Creek Elementary School proclaim, "RECYCLING IS THE THING TO DO!"

"Oh, it tickles!" said one little girl as the compost worm squirmed in the palm of her hand. Earth Day in Eugene was celebrated at the new **Cesar Chavez Elementary School**



Viewing worms up close

by bringing students closer to the earth in many ways.

A dozen environmental community groups brought their education programs and turned the library into an enriched learning laboratory. Students had the

Earth Day 2005, continued

opportunity to learn about composting and vermicomposting their cafeteria food waste. They sorted recyclable materials into their proper categories, and learned how creative reuse turns garbage into art.



Looking without touching, this magnifying box gives a top down view, and a belly view of worms.



Recycled art display was a big hit

Students poked and prodded at a rotting log, learning to identify the sow bugs, centipedes and fungal threads that were hard at work turning that log, and

many like it, into nutrients for future trees. They learned to use energy and water wisely, and how to protect wetland areas from overuse and toxic pollution.

Local historians taught students how indigenous populations baked and ate native camas roots, and how to identify native tree species. In all, students learned about the riches that

Oregon has to offer, and how they can help protect Oregon's natural resources by reducing, reusing, recycling and composting the many materials and resources they use every day.



Students took a spin of the worm wheel to answer questions about worms for a chance to win a gummy worm!

Churchill High School's Rachel Carson program students Emily Chong and David Lozar were tired of seeing garbage cans full of #6 plastic plates, clamshells, and eating utensils. Merit level Oregon Green School Churchill High School joined three other schools for a pilot recycling project that began on Earth Day. These schools are now recycling all #6 plastic (polystyrene) from the cafeterias at Churchill, Jefferson Middle School, Kennedy Middle School and Kelly Middle School. This new program reduces the waste at each school by nearly one yard a week.



David Lozar and Emily Chong apply signs to cafeteria garbage and recycling containers.

Emily and David worked with the Food Services provider Sodexo, 4J Facilities, and a Portland recycling company, The Recycling Professionals Inc., to create promotional materials, install recycling containers in the cafeterias and the loading docks for the black plastic plates, bowls, silverware, and the clear plastic clamshell containers. Used materials are picked up weekly when



Used polystyrene is stored in this container for twice monthly collection.

new product is delivered to the area. If this pilot project proves successful, the district hopes to expand the program to all schools in the area.

School District Dietitian Nicole Lalor commented, "To my understanding, the process is going great. It takes student, staff, food service, facilities and custodial cooperation for the recycling program to work, and I think Kelly, Jefferson, Kennedy and Churchill schools have all of these components in their favor. It would be wonderful to tackle a couple more schools next year and bring them on board as well."

Ever Green:

Oregon Green School Updates

Corridor School Saves Resources with “Zero Waste” Lunch Kits

Students at **Corridor School** in Eugene noticed a big problem when their waste audit showed a large portion of the cafeteria trash contained plastic bags, disposable juice packs, single serve packaging and paper sacks brought from home each day. They acted quickly and applied for a

Waste Reduction Grant through the City of Eugene Solid Waste and Recycling program to purchase reusable snack containers, drink containers, and vinyl lunch sacks. Students created an educational skit and performed it for each class, teaching the whole student body about the new program. Teacher Janet Morrison had students and parents sign a “waste-free contract” before they were given their new waste-free lunch kit.



Lunch waste...

The new waste-free lunch program has reduced cafeteria garbage and has made an impact at home as well.



No waste lunch kit!

Makenzie Knotts, age 8, had this to say about her waste-free lunch kit which she uses every day: “The containers are easy to open and spill proof. At the store we look for stuff with not that much wrapping. I feel really good helping to save

the Earth and keeping it clean.” Makenzie’s mom, Sonja, is just as happy. “The kit has really changed how we do things at our house. I buy a lot more food in bulk and I am saving a lot of money. It is a really great way to think before you buy.”

Saving Watts = Saving Lot\$!

Portland Public Schools says “Hats Off!” to Premiere Oregon Green School **Lent Elementary** for saving kilowatt hours and money for the District. The Earthwatchers Club at Lent, under the guidance of Recycling Coordinator Aurelia Wight, has been participating in an electrical energy awareness and use reduction program. During the initial phase of their efforts from February through June of 2004, the school saved 46,012 kWh and almost \$3,000 compared to energy costs and use for the previous time period of 2003. They have implemented the Watt Watchers program from the University of Texas at El Paso, and are continuing their successful efforts in 2005 with a new Earthwatchers team.

New to the Oregon Green Schools Watt Watchers program at Portland Public Schools is Premiere School **Glencoe Elementary**. We’ll be “watt”ching along with them to see how energy they can save! Thanks to both schools for their awesome efforts.

Welcome to New Green Schools!

Oregon Green School Association congratulates the following new Green Schools and their haulers:

- Blanchet Catholic School** (*Suburban Garbage*)
- Chemawa Indian School** (*Pacific Sanitation*)
- Hayhurst Elementary** (*Gresham Sanitary Service*)
- Hucrest Elementary** (*Roseburg Disposal*)
- McCarty Middle** (*Gresham Sanitary Service*)
- M.I.T.C.H. Charter School** (*United Disposal Service*)
- Reike Elementary** (*Gresham Sanitary Service*)
- Rigler Elementary** (*Gresham Sanitary Service*)
- Southridge High** (*Waste Management*)
- Valor Middle** (*United Disposal*)
- Washington Elementary** (*United Disposal Service*)
- William Walker Elementary** (*Valley Garbage & Recycling*)
- Woodburn High** (*United Disposal*)

Recycling Coordinator Extraordinaire: Emma Pletz

By Victoria Cummings

Emma Pletz, Glencoe Elementary School Librarian and Recycling Coordinator, has taken Glencoe to Premiere status with many ongoing projects. For example:

- sorting organics for composting,
- worm bins,
- an Earth Day community outreach that has the kids decorating grocery bags which are then used by their local QFC market during Earth Week for their customers,
- a plastic grocery bag recycling program through QFC (the store then sends them to a manufacturer that makes recycled garbage bags sold in local stores).

Glencoe students and teachers reuse many items including paper and art materials (for the creative center in the Library). They have hosted a bioswale and stormwater management education day for some students at Jefferson High School. The stormwater management installation at Glencoe addresses a neighborhood problem of flooding basements.



Glencoe's Rain Garden, Parking Lot Bioswale and Education Garden were built with assistance from other community partners, including Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, parents, and the school district. These natural areas include several large areas of native plantings.

Emma has also fostered outreach to other schools interested in the Green School program by helping create a "Showcase Tour of Oregon Green Schools." Glencoe is also planning on a broader program of conservation which includes an energy-saving program called Watt Watchers.

Even though Glencoe has achieved Premiere status, their sights are set high for other ways in which they can improve their conservation efforts! I highly recommend the efforts of Emma, students, parents, staff and Judith Scott, Principal as shining examples of Portland Public School's Sustainability Policy. We are duly proud of all that the Glencoe community has achieved.

Victoria Cummings is an AmeriCorps member working in Portland Public Schools as an Energy Conservation Coordinator. She also works to certify Portland Public Schools Oregon Green Schools. She can be contacted at BESC-Health and Safety , 916-2000 x4266 , or vcummin1@pps.k12.or.us





Oregon Green Schools

2004 Annual Report

The purpose of this Annual Report is to inform our member schools, businesses, local governments and friends of our accomplishments during the past fiscal year.

The Oregon Green Schools Association (OGSA) provides technical assistance, recognition and educational support to Oregon schools as they create or maintain their school waste reduction and recycling systems. The association is a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit organization supported by private businesses and associations, school districts and state and local governments.



Brief history

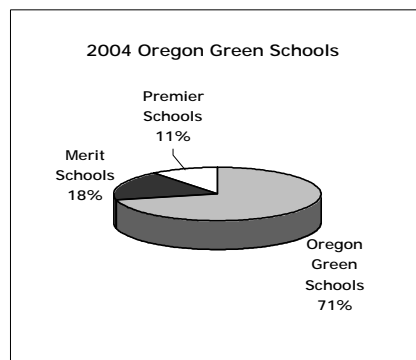
The Oregon Green Schools program began in 1995 as a pilot program in the Portland metro area with the goal of providing structure and incentives for improving waste reduction and recycling programs in schools. Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA) has been a “champion” of OGSA, providing financial and technical support since 1997, when ORRA sponsored the first Green School Summit. OGSA received its nonprofit status in 1999.



Current status

OGSA has grown to include 179 member schools. The chart below depicts the percentage of schools

certified at each level of recognition. Technical assistance and recognition are given to the schools by local coordinators. OGSA currently has 29 local coordinators.



Accomplishments

- Conducted coordinator trainings in conjunction with the ORRA conference at Kahneeta in March and the AOR conference at Seaside in June.

- Designed new OGS certificate

Oregon Green School board members and volunteers attended the following conferences or events with the OGSA display:

- Oregon Refuse and Recycling Assn.
- Environmental Education Assn. of Oregon
- Northwest Earth Institute Earth Club Challenge
- Assn. of Oregon Recyclers
- Nike “Market Day”

- OGSA is now listed as an educational program on the Sustainable Oregon website: www.sustainableoregon.net.

- Created incentive program for schools in areas that have few or no Green Schools. Schools that become certified receive a \$300 grant to spend on waste reduction projects.

- Developed a new “catch phrase” to use with promotional materials and on the web: “Oregon Green Schools – Saving resources, one school at a time.”

- Contracted with Lin Harmon-Walker to perform administrative tasks in support of the Green Schools program.



Summit

On Friday, February 27, 2004, more than 400 representatives from 70 schools across the State gathered for the 8th annual Oregon Green Schools Summit to learn, share, and celebrate waste reduction and resource conservation successes. This year’s event, “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 on the Nike

campus. School displays, teacher resources, performing arts and hands-on activities rounded out Summit offerings. Highlights included Recycle Aerobics, Green School Showcase, Green Teen Round-table, Papermaking, Garbage to Gold, Naturescaping, Recycling Family Feud, and Electronic Trash Talk.

The day concluded with a tour of the Nike campus with a focus on ways that sustainability can be put into practice in the corporate world.



Website • brochure

The OGSA website was completely redesigned this year, thanks to the generous donations of time and creativity of Michel Gregory Communications and graphic designer Kathleen Bauer. Visit the site at: www.oregongreenschools.org.

Kathleen and Michel also designed a new Green Schools brochure and were able to get donations or substantial discounts from PrintGraphics, xpedx and Fraser Papers.



Financial Report

Net Assets:

2003 year end: \$17,547
2004 increase: \$14,548
2004 year end: \$32,095

2004 income: \$32,367
(through contributions, sponsorships, grants, scholarships, Friends of Oregon Green Schools memberships, interest, and Summit income)

2004 expenses: \$17,819
(Summit, website, accounting filings, office expenses, workshops, board

meetings & retreat, flags/awards, printing, exhibit fees, memberships, grants)

Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association has been the primary sponsor for the Oregon Green Schools for many years, giving \$2,500 or more per year, and donating staff time to support OGSA functions and activities.

*Summit**

This year a total of \$7,475 was raised through sponsorships to help cover Summit expenses. An additional \$200 was raised through Summit exhibitors.

*Scholarships**

Scholarships for substitute teacher and travel expenses to the Summit are a critical part of making the Summit a success. \$7948 in scholarships were received for this year's Summit from ORRA and Oregon haulers.

*Friends of Oregon Green Schools**

\$650 was raised in membership contributions this year.

Other contributions included \$719 from Christmas tree recycling funds from Far West Fibers and ink cartridge recycling proceeds from Marion County.

Grants

OGSA received two grants this year, \$10,000 from Oregon DEQ and \$1500 from Portland Recycling Team. Grant funds from DEQ have been used for updating the website and creating a new brochure, as a sponsor for the 2004 and 2005 Summit, for coordinator workshops and will be used for creating a new display in 2005. The PRT grant will be used for

custodian "best practices" workshops in 2005.

*See Oregon Green Schools Newsletter for listing of sponsors and new members.



Work In Progress

- A new Green School display will be designed in summer 05.
- Board members are working with Governor Kulongoski's office to develop a sustainable schools award.
- Funds from the PRT grant will be used for "best practices" workshops for custodians in Clackamas Co. and Beaverton School District in summer 05.

Thanks to the 2004 OGSA Board members for their time, energy and expertise!

President:

Freda Sherburne, Metro

Secretary:

Anne Donahue, City of Eugene

Treasurer:

Pam Wald, Green School consultant

Summit Chair:

Jan Rankin, City of Gresham

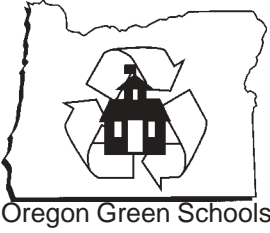
Coordinator Chair:

Eileen Stapp, Clackamas County Recycling Partnership

Member at Large

Joe Cawley, Far West Fibers

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

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (w) _____ (h) _____ email _____

Mail checks payable to: Oregon Green Schools Association

Send to: Oregon Green Schools
8906 SW 8th Ave.
Portland, OR 97219

Questions? Call (503) 381-7344

Thank You!

Contributions to The Oregon Green Schools
Association are tax deductible