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### Three Green Schools win National Award



Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI) reported that the U.S. Department of Education announced its new Green Ribbon program last September. State education agencies electing to participate were able to submit applications from up to four schools. ALL of Oregon's four Green Ribbon nominees were winners.

Congratulations to Catlin Gabel School, Gladstone High School, Sunnyside

## Green School News June 2012

Dear Cathy,

As the school year winds to a close, we are grateful for the dedication and achievements of our Oregon Green Schools. Forty five schools joined or renewed this year; 13 were Merit and 3 were Premier.

### School Spotlight

Our newest Premier schools are Vose Elementary in Beaverton, and Kelso Elementary in Kelso. Congratulations!

Kelso Elementary has 316 students, became a Green School in April, 2008, achieved Merit status in May, 2009, and their Green team have been very active with recycling, composting and educating the school on energy reduction. Recently they invited staff from Oregon Trail Primary Academy to tour the school and offered suggestions and assistance with the OGS process.

Vose Elementary has been a Green School since 2006, and has demonstrated steadfast, forward progress in their resource conservation program, according to Sue Shade, their regional coordinator. They have created One Towel Tuesday, Weather Watch Wednesday and a weekly "Green Tips" email to staff. The students are involved with composting activities, skits in green assemblies and an annual Reuse It Challenge.

Look for their Premier pages at [www.oregongreenschools.org/premier](http://www.oregongreenschools.org/premier).

Environmental School and Willamina Elementary School. Gladstone and Willamina are OGS Merit Schools and Sunnyside is Premier.

Award details, press releases, the list of winning schools and a summary of their applications are all available from SOSI's website.

## School Resources

### Workplace Toxicology Symposium

An upcoming symposium, "Green Chemistry, Safer Alternatives and Work," sponsored by Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology at Oregon Health Sciences University and Oregon Health Authority on Friday, June 15 in Portland. is open to all. Symposium Objectives: To share the economic and health case for reducing toxic materials in the workplace.

View the program [here](#). Keynote speakers include: Dr. Michael Wilson of UC Berkeley and Portland State University's Jennifer Allen. Dede Montgomery, MS, CIH, 503-494-4090 for more information

### PCC Presents Summer Sustainability Institute

Mon, July 9 - Fri, July 13 and Fri, Aug 24 FREE

[Learn more and apply here](#)

Are you a high school or college instructor interested in adding and integrating sustainability into your curricula? Are you teaching in the Pacific Northwest in fields related to green building design, construction, and maintenance?

Portland Community College (PCC), with funding from the National Science Foundation, presents the 2012 Summer Sustainability Institute (SSI). High school, community college, and university instructors from Oregon, Idaho, and Washington teaching in fields related to green building are invited to apply for this professional development opportunity. **Those accepted attend the SSI at no cost.** Applications are accepted until full. For best consideration, apply by June 8.

### Composting Webinar

Keep America Beautiful and the US Composting Council are partnering to bring you a series of webinars. The first webinar will be about the beneficial use of compost. The second session will be about how to compost and the third webinar will be for those wanting to learn about vermicomposting.

**2pm - 3pm EDT Wednesday, June 20 2012**

Register [here](#).

## Meet the Oregon Green School Board

Each month we will feature a new board member and eventually we will also begin featuring regional coordinators.

My name is Bailey Payne and I'm a co-president (with Heath Keirstead) of the Oregon Green Schools Association. I've been working for Marion County as a Waste Reduction Specialist for the last ten years and one of my favorite parts of my job is getting out to the schools that I work with and helping OGSA as an organization. Before coming to Marion County I was a teacher for three years and a Peace Corps Volunteer before that.

There has been a tremendous amount of change within OGSA since I joined the board three years ago and we are excited that we are almost ready to launch a few new projects that we've been working on, including an updated website and two new videos about what OGS does and how schools can get involved. Look for more on these updates in the next couple months. The board has been busy doing a lot of "behind the scenes" work, including the creation of this monthly newsletter you are reading, working to support schools that do not have a regional



coordinator to help them, recruiting new regional coordinators and board members, fundraising projects, partnerships with like-minded organizations, and more! We've also worked to create a very comprehensive list of activities, curriculum, tools, and recycling art/photos for the regional coordinators to share with their schools. There is still a lot to do!

As a former teacher, I truly appreciate how busy all of the school coordinators are and the entire board would like to again thank you and all of the regional coordinators that do so much for the students in Oregon Green Schools. Keep up the good work!

## Regional Coordinators' Corner

Coordinators - Don't forget our coordinators' training at the AOR conference on at the Inn at 7th Mountain in Bend on Thur., 6/7 from 10:00am - 12:00pm

*Oregon Green Schools is a nonprofit organization that was formed in 1997. Oregon Green Schools is dedicated to helping Oregon Schools set up and maintain effective, permanent waste reduction and resource efficiency programs that improve school environments and communities, and recognizing schools for their efforts and achievements.*

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Oregon Green Schools Association | PO Box 2186 Salem | Salem | OR | 97308