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Ideas for School Green Teams:

Waste Reduction (part 1)

Collect paper that has been used on one side and reuse as a draft drawer in your copy machines and to use as note pads.

Get software to convert faxes to pdf's rather than print them.

Automatically set up documents to have 0.5" margins.

Get rid of disposable lunch trays and plastic silverware and replace with durables.

Have staff memos and daily announcements sent via email or posted instead of individually printed.

Replace paper towels with air dryers in bathrooms.

Replace milk cartons with milk dispensers.

Green School News November 2012

Dear Cathy,

After much effort, we are happy to announce the new OGSA website! Same address, but a whole new look! www.oregongreenschools.org. Check out the interactive map for finding Green Schools near you, and the long list of school resources. There are hotlinks to our OGSA YouTube videos, and bios of our board members. We will also be updating it with information about our 2013 Summit (March 1) and we hope you will enjoy what you see.

As always, we invite feedback at mail@oregongreenschools.org.

School Spotlight: Kelly Creek Elementary

In 1995 Kelly Creek Elementary School was recognized as the first Premier Oregon Green School in the state. It was certified "Premier" in 1997, and has recertified at that level five times to date. It has sustained its commitment to waste reduction under the leadership of head custodian Christa Garman and her Aardvark Recycling Teams (pictured above) consisting of six 5th grade students who are assisted by cafeteria recycling monitors as well as a student "Light Patrol Team." Impressively, their garbage volume has held at 4 cubic yards/week for several years due to their outstanding efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The school's goal to "Continue Strong Efforts in Support of Conservation" is publicly displayed on its webpage (link below). It has sent representatives to every Oregon Green Schools

Teach students and parents about waste-free lunches.

Create a donation station where people can drop off or pick up used clothing, games, sporting equipment, etc. Donate any undesirable items to a thrift store or homeless shelter.

Email school newsletters instead of print them.

Teach staff, students and parents how to get off junk-mail lists.

Summit, presented at three of those summits, and hosted the event in 1999. It has also sponsored a district-wide custodians' training workshop, received the AOR/DEQ Elementary School WRAP award, and utilized several City of Gresham and Metro grants which have enabled it to continually expand and refine its resource conservation program.

In 2009 Christa received AOR's Ray Ford Golden Torch Award for initiative, ingenuity, tenacity and longevity of purpose as well as commitment to implementing sustainable practices. The school won a \$250,000 "green makeover" from the Ford Company in 2008 which enabled it to install recycled tire matting on its playground, new water saving devices, Marmoleum flooring, and new white boards made of 90% recycled products, and supported its certification as a LEED-EB SILVER school.

Along with its school district (Gresham-Barlow), their energy conservation efforts have earned the EPA's 2012 ENERGY STAR Sustained Excellence Award for the 4th year in a row.

Congrats, team - you're a shining example!

[Kelly Creek Elementary website](#)

Eco-Schools and OGSA Team Up

Oregon Green Schools Association and the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program are partnering to recognize and enhance the work that you are doing as an Oregon Green School. The partnership provides new resources and opportunities, and increases visibility for your school and students. The partnership provides national and international networking opportunities to support your school and curricula greening efforts in Oregon.

Eco-Schools USA is a free national program with its own award recognition process. By signing-on, you and your students will have access to: new recognition through Eco-Schools USA including the opportunity to receive the internationally recognized Green Flag award, new academic resources to enhance your programming, national partnership opportunities (including potential funding), networking opportunities with over 2,000 schools nationally and thousands internationally, opportunities to participate in professional development trainings and webinars for students and teachers, and much more.

Partnership Benefits to Oregon Green Schools:

- Environmental and sustainability educational tools, tips, and resources www.eco-schoolusa.org
- Ability to collaborate with Eco-Schools in over 50 other countries
- Access to other NWF educational programs, such as Schoolyard Habitat™; Trees for Wildlife; Community Wildlife Habitats; Cool School Challenge; National Wildlife Week; Nature Find; and many more resources at www.nwf.org
- Additional Pathways or environmental focus areas to make your school more green

- Monthly e-News with events, fundraising opportunities, news, tools, case studies, and resources

Unless you select to opt out of participating, your school will automatically be registered in the Eco-Schools USA program. The work and accomplishments you have done through the Oregon Green Schools program will be recognized and you may be IMMEDIATELY eligible for national and potential international award recognition. Oregon Green Schools will provide NWF with information about your school, and the work you have done. You may have to complete a few additional tasks to qualify for awards, such as developing an Eco-Code (mission statement) for your school, and performing specific environmental audits, but there is an easy checklist for you to download for each award level.

Contact NWF staff with questions or for support: Jen Murck, NWF Eco-Schools USA Manager, murckj@nwf.org, (206) 577-7816.

School Resources

The Great America Can Roundup

The Can Manufacturers Institute is continuing the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the aluminum beverage can with the third annual Great America Can Roundup School Recycling Challenge. Schools compete to recycle the most aluminum beverage cans per capita between America Recycles Day and Earth Day!

The School Recycling Challenge is open to all K-12 public and private schools located in the United States and the District of Columbia who have registered by January 16, 2013. Go to www.cancentral.com/roundup to register and for more information.

Oregon Grant for Schools

House Bill 2800 directs the Department of Education to award grants to Oregon school districts for reimbursement of costs incurred in purchasing Oregon grown and processed food products that meet certain criteria and for funding food-based, agriculture-based and garden-based educational activities. The 2011 Oregon Legislature provided \$200,000 in funding to pilot the program, which was reduced to \$193,000 as part of widespread budget cuts during the 2012 legislative session. ODE is looking to select two to six school districts for this pilot grant program.

The application process will be done via a simple SurveyMonkey survey. All information, and a link to apply can be found on the ODE Farm to School/School Garden website: www.ode.state.or.us/go/f2sgardens

The Oregon Department of Energy has extended registration for Cool Schools Phase III

Districts must express interest by **November 16, 2012** to apply for a limited number of grants covering free targeted audits administered by the Oregon Department of Energy or to gain priority to receive technical and business assistance from ODOE engineering and financial analyst staff.

For questions about registration for Phase III of Cool Schools or for assistance in applying for Phase II Energy Incentives (tax credits), please feel free to contact the Cool Schools Team at:

Phone: (503) 378-4040

www.oregon.gov/energy/schools

Whole Kids Foundation: School Garden Grants

The mission of the Whole Kids Foundation is to improve children's nutrition and wellness with the goal of ending the childhood obesity epidemic. The Foundation's School Garden Grants are provided to K-12 schools and nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and Canada that are developing or currently maintaining a school garden project that will help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables. Grants of \$2,000 are provided for garden projects at any stage of development - planning, construction, or operation. The application deadline is November 15, 2012. Visit the Foundation's website to complete the online application:

<http://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/gardengrants.php>

Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb Seeks Applications for Community Garden Grants and Makeovers

To help communities achieve their neighborhood beautification goals and support healthy, sustainable food sources, nonprofit organizations in the United States and Canada are invited to apply for ten grants of \$5,000 and a complete garden makeover.... Deadline: December 15,

[2012.http://www2.fiskars.com/Activities/Project-Orange-Thumb/Grant-and-Garden-Makeover-Application](http://www2.fiskars.com/Activities/Project-Orange-Thumb/Grant-and-Garden-Makeover-Application)

Nike Grants

Applications are now open for the next round of the Nike Employee Grant Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation. Nominations for the Winter 2012/2013 funding cycle are due by December 1, 2012. To be eligible, grants must be for projects that: Use sport or physical activity to leverage other community benefits, or Have long-term impact on our environment, health and/or the well-being of children and families. The full set of guidelines and the application are available online at www.oregoncf.org/nike.

Meet the Oregon Green School Board

This month we feature our administrative assistant.



Cathy McGuire

I have been administrative assistant, part time, for Oregon Green Schools since 2006 - which makes me one of the old timers! I ensure that the database of schools and the website are updated, and I produce this newsletter. I create the certificates and I have been helping Metro area schools while we look for a new regional coordinator in that area. This year, I am also the Summit Chair, after spending 7 years as the assistant to the Chair. You have likely seen me at the registration desk at each Summit. If you call OGSA, I will answer - and endeavor to assist you.

I am also a writer with four poetry books and two children's books published, and an artist who has taught at Portland Community College. This year, as a volunteer Master Food Preserver, I have taught food preserving workshops at Linn Benton Community College, Sweet Home, where I live with my chickens and rabbits and large garden.

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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