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## Tips For Green Schools: Waste Reduction (part 2)

Work with your suppliers to reduce how much packaging they use when sending your orders.

Encourage the use of rechargeable batteries in your school and to students.

Reuse large mailing envelopes.

Work with your school office to get all bills sent electronically.

Set your printer's default to double sided printing.

Eliminate the sale and use of bottled water in your school.

Donate excess food from the

## Green Schools News December 2012

Dear Jeanette,

The new OGSA website is sorting out the few last issues, thanks to your feedback and encouragement. Responses have been positive and we are happy to be able to offer expanded resources to schools. Please check it out, if you haven't yet:

<http://oregongreenschools.org>

**The OGSA 2013 Summit School Registration will begin on Monday, January 7th, and close when we have reached capacity.** That sometimes happens within a week - so please, put this on your calendar and be ready to register online at our website! Your school must be current to register.

As always, we welcome any feedback you have that will help the board achieve the Oregon Green Schools mission and provide support to our member schools. Email us at:

[mail@oregongreenschools.org](mailto:mail@oregongreenschools.org)

### School Spotlight: Chapman Hill

Chapman Hill (their Green Team is pictured above) recently renewed its Premier Green School status, which they have had since 2004. Their efforts in resource conservation and outreach are exemplary.

kitchen to food banks.

Post signs in the bathrooms to remind students not to use too many paper towels.

Set up a "No Thank You" table in the cafeteria to minimize food waste.

Sell reusable water bottles as part of a campaign to reduce plastic water bottles.

Purchase reusable gloves & aprons for kitchen staff.

Replace disposable cups, plates and utensils with durables.

Thanks to a Yes to Seeds program grant, they've started a community garden. Students use vermi-composting practices to reduce solid waste. They work with two organic gardens to handle the overload of food waste, and compost to create fertile soil for their summer vegetables.

Their building is actively involved in the Watt Watcher program and data is collected daily by students, results posted monthly and the students recognized for their effort in conserving resources. Chapman Hill partners with Salem Electric, which places energy saving tips each month on the Chapman Hill website.

They recycle several types of paper, cardboard, batteries, glass, milk cartons, cans, plastic bags, printer cartridges, and much more. In 2012, along with Harritt Elementary School, they collected and donated 189 pounds of pull tabs and merge their collection. The pull tabs are donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

Each week an earth tip (recycling reminder) is announced to remind the staff and students to make positive environmental choices within their community.

Their Premier school status expands into that community. Chapman Hill school monitors the local creek for water quality and submits data to the City of Salem through the Adopt-A-Stream Program. They are involved with the neighborhood Data Walk program, where students gather information and inform the surrounding neighborhoods of any potential hazards that may contaminate their stream. And they remove invasive English Ivy in the riparian zone at Glenn Creek during Make a Difference Day in the fall.

In April Chapman Hill students presented their expeditionary unit on sustainable salmon at the Salem-Keizer science exposition. Multiple projects inform their community about water conservation and preservation. The students attended the Oregon School Summit and provided information on the Yes to Seeds Program.

Chapman Hill and the Westside community benefit from the extraordinary efforts of students, staff and community members as they work to be environmental stewards of the earth. Their site <http://chapmanhill.salkeiz.k12.or.us/> contains multiple activities that take place at Chapman Hill to support their environmental goals.

## School Resources

## Social Media Webinar Series Part 3: Going Mobile, Saving Time and Exploring New Platforms

Join Keep America Beautiful and two special guests for a webinar that will introduce you to some not-so-basic social media platforms, and provide examples and ideas about social media and mobile options for your organization.

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2012 from 2:00-3:00pm eastern  
Register here -

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/460935545>

## APPLY NOW for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Awards and Oregon Sustainable School Awards

Get recognized for your school's efforts to 1) address environmental impacts, 2) provide healthy, safe school environments and services for students and staff, 3) educate for environmental and social literacy, and 4) contribute to social sustainability. The application period is open for the 2nd Oregon Sustainable School Awards, and for Oregon nomination to the U.S. Department of Education 2013 Green Ribbon School recognition program. These recognition opportunities were launched last year by the Oregon Department of Education, in partnership with the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI).

Any public or private K-12 school in Oregon is invited to apply. The Oregon awards recognize a school with the highest overall achievement, as well as top achievers in each of the four "pillar" areas. Oregon's four U.S. Green Ribbon School nominees will be identified through this application process as well. Each nominee school must have high overall performance. One of the 4 must be a private school and one must have at least 40% of its students eligible for free and reduced lunch.

The application materials and more details are available at:

<http://www.sustainableschools.org/sosi/oregon-award-program>

**December 13th, 4 PM:** The Oregon Department of Education will host informational conference calls about the awards and application on. Call details will be posted at the award website.

**By December 7th:** Schools are encouraged to register their intent to apply

**January 14, 2013:** Application deadline.

Questions? Contact Lori Stole, [lstole@zerowaste.org](mailto:lstole@zerowaste.org).

## Annie's School Garden Grants

Annie's Grants for Gardens program offers funding for K-12 school garden projects nationwide. Grants can be used to purchase gardening tools, seeds, or other needed supplies. The program

offers smaller grants to begin projects and larger grants to deepen or expand established programs. Up to \$500 is available to develop and start a new garden project. Up to \$1,500 is available for to expand already established programs.

Applicants must apply through the online application process.  
<http://www.annies.com/school-gardens/grants-for-gardens/>  
Sponsor: Annie's Homegrown Deadline: December 15, 2012  
Contact Phone: 510.558.7500

## ReCommunity Launches Next-Generation Recycling Education Website

Have you ever wondered what happens to your recyclables after they are picked up from the curb? We have your answer. ReCommunity has created a compelling and engaging virtual tour for kids and adults of all ages. The Education Station includes a variety of animated videos, infographics, posters, lesson plans... and our brand-new Interactive Materials Recovery Facility, complete with illustrations, explanations and videos showing how recycling works from start to finish. Check it out!  
<http://www.recommunity.com/interactive-mrf>

## News of Our Green Schools

JUNCTION CITY - With the school district's two elementary schools already having earned green school status, it wasn't long before the middle and high schools followed their green lead.  
[To read the whole article, click here.](#)

## News Around the Country

### NY: Rooftop School Gardens

In the East Village, children planted garlic bulbs and harvested Swiss chard before Thanksgiving. On the other side of town, in Greenwich Village, they learned about storm water runoff, solar energy and wind turbines. And in Queens, students and teachers cultivated flowers that attract butterflies and pollinators.

Across New York City, gardens and miniature farms - whether on rooftops or at ground level - are joining smart boards and digital darkrooms as must-have teaching tools. They are being used in subjects as varied as science, art, mathematics and social studies. In the past two years, the number of school-based gardens registered with the city jumped to 232, from 40, according to GreenThumb, a division of the parks department that provides schools with technical support.

## Meet the Oregon Green School Board

*We are introducing our board members, then will feature regional coordinators.*



### Deborah Topp

Deborah works for the City of Salem Public Works Department on watershed issues, including organizing the Adopt-A-Stream program for local schools. Initially, Deborah worked directly with Salem-Keizer area schools, providing environmental education to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. She was asked to present at an annual OGSA summit and a few years later was invited to join the board, which she did in July 2011; she is currently the secretary.

Though Deborah works less directly with students in her current position as Natural Resources Outreach Specialist, Oregon Green Schools provides her the opportunity to contribute to schools. She is on the standards and curriculum committee with fellow board member Laurel Bates. The goal of this committee is to link Oregon Green School activities with Oregon State Standards. The board is starting with waste reduction activities, and will also look to bolster activities and information related to water and energy, for more robust programming.

*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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