Tips For Green Schools: Water Conservation (part 2)

Install timers on bathroom faucets and locker room showers.

Analyze your school’s seasonal water use.

Ensure that all toilets are low-flow (1.6 gallons or less).

Install rain barrels or another water capture system to use water that falls on the roof.

Post signs in bathrooms reminding students to conserve water.

Calculate stormwater runoff - measure area of roof and other impervious surfaces and the amount of rain you receive (use in Math classrooms). Think about ways to divert the storm water away from the storm water drains and put it back to use.

Research pervious surface alternatives for all impervious surfaces (concrete, asphalt, roofing) and calculate the amount of stormwater reduction if replaced.

Install a rain garden.

Green Schools News
February 2013

Dear Jeanette,

Spring feels like it’s around the corner, and all those garden plans closer to being put into practice. Send us news and photos of your school garden so that we can add it to this newsletter.

Please note, we have a new mailing address:

Oregon Green Schools Association
PO Box 323
Corvallis, OR 97339

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.

School Spotlight: Oak Creek Elementary School
Lake Oswego, OR

Oak Creek is proud to be a sustainability leader in the Lake Oswego School District. Since their school was certified as a Green School in 2008, all the schools have joined the certification process, so they are a Green School District. According to their school coordinator, they take pride at Oak Creek for involving all of their students and staff in the 3 R’s of sustainability - Reduce, Reuse and Recycling. They have developed systems that start in the classrooms with students being in charge of their own recycling. Each classroom has a sustainability student position that is in charge of energy reduction by turning off the lights/computers, water conservation by being sure the faucets are not dripping and recycling the paper and plastic. These same themes are used at their building level Green Team meetings where staff and parents plan for continued training and new green projects.

Since 2008, Oak Creek has reduced its lunch waste by almost 50 percent by changing to reusable trays and utensils, reducing pre-packaged fruits/vegetables, putting condiments at a pump station.
Determine how much water is used per year to water lawns/fields. Recommend replacing any non-field lawns with shrubs or native plants and calculate the water savings (in volume and $).

Determine water savings (in volume and $) for one year for one of the following: faucet fixtures (aerators and motion sensor), low-flow toilets and waterless urinals, low-flow shower heads, or irrigation systems.

Design a display for the foyer, commons, cafeteria or other public space to educate students and staff about your school's water quality and/or conservation actions.

Do a community litter pick-up.

Plant a tree.

Create a bioswale, naturescape, greenhouse, green roof or a school garden.

2013 Summit Takes Shape

We are excited about our 2013 Summit, to be held March 1st, at Portland Lutheran School near Gresham.

We have many of our usual hands-on sessions, like worm bins, paper making and recycled art, as well as sessions on watershed restoration, bugs and computer recycling. High schoolers will be taking a field trip, and Recycleman and the Dumpster Divers finishes off the day for elementary and middle schoolers. You'll have a chance to display what your school has been doing, and to see what others schools have done.

Schools that registered successfully will receive further information about the Summit in early February, including details of the schedule and what to bring. This will be a bring your own waste-free lunch event, except for high schools, who will get a gourmet fresh-food lunch as part of their field trip.

Remember, you must also be certified on March 1st, so check your expiration date. See you at the Summit!

School Resources

Young Reporters for the Environment USA Competition: Submissions Due March 15

The National Wildlife Federation is running the first-ever Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) competition in the United States in 2013. YRE is an international program with more than
25 participating countries. Students between the ages of 13-18 are invited to participate in YRE-USA by reporting on environmental issues in their communities in writing, photos, or video. National winners in each category will earn recognition, great prizes and the chance to advance to the international competition. All participants have a chance to make a real difference in their communities by shedding light on an important environmental issue, provoking discussion around it, and sparking progress toward a solution. Students may participate as individuals or as part of a class or group. Submissions due by March 15, 2013. Find all the details at www.yre-usa.org.

**WildWatch invites local residents to join national studies**

Citizens who enjoy nature can participate in WildWatch, a program that encourages people to get outside and see what is happening right outside their back door.

In doing so, they can make observations to contribute data for national scientific studies. Participants can choose what to watch: weather conditions, plants, birds or bees and other pollinators. Participating programs include Project FeederWatch, Skywarn Weather Spotters, The Great Sunflower Project, Project Budburst and the Lost Ladybug Project.

To learn more about WildWatch and to sign up for program updates, visit [www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org/discover/WildWatch](http://www.ClarkGreenNeighbors.org/discover/WildWatch) or call Environmental Services at (360) 397-2121 ext 4352.


**News Around the Country**

**Food Recovery Program**

Imagine the amount of wasted food in a huge cafeteria that serves thousands of meals each day, a place like the South Campus Dining Room at the University of Maryland. That's what three students did one day back in 2010. The quantities of soup, roast turkey, pasta and salads were so jaw-dropping, they decided to do something about it. They created the Food Recovery Network.

…Once a week, five volunteers would show up at the South
Campus dining hall to pick up leftovers and drive them to area shelters. Even that modest effort yielded huge hauls of food, an average of 150 to 200 pounds each night. By 2012 graduation, the network had donated about 30,000 meals to Washington shelters. Not content with that, the network began working with other universities to start their own recovery programs. Last year, students at 12 campuses "rescued" 120,000 pounds of food, mostly from dining halls but in some cases from off-campus restaurants and other venues.

[more at article]

Meet the Oregon Green School Regional Coordinators

We are introducing our regional coordinators.

Joshua Frankel

Eugene/Springfield Region

Joshua Frankel joined Partners for Sustainable Schools (PSS - partnersforsustainsableschools.org) in the position of OGS coordinator in December of 2009. Under contract with the City of Eugene and Lane County, PSS has led the Oregon Green Schools program in Lane County for approximately 3 1/2 years. During this time the OGS program has gained a strong presence working with over 35 schools including approximately 10 Merit and Premier-level green schools.

Joshua holds a degree in environmental studies and urban planning from Sonoma State University. He started his career in environmental education with Rainforest Action Network (RAN) as "Haiku Project Coordinator" in 1997. In this role he collaborated with environmental groups throughout the nation to educate K-12 students about the rainforest, and the Haiku Project allowed students to understand how to influence and encourage big business to make positive changes in decreasing rainforest deforestation. During his tenure, RAN's campaign to stop over-deforestation of the rainforests was highly successful in meeting many of its goals. Joshua has also worked for the United Farm Workers Union, Environmental Defense Fund, Global Exchange, and Moveon.org. Prior to his non-profit work, he served as a student leader responsible for managing campus recycling programs, organizing community Earth Day events, and promoting campus-wide environmental education. Joshua also has a Paralegal Certificate from the University of California, Irvine and has worked as a computer technician/consultant. In addition to his role as OGS Coordinator, Joshua has been Program Coordinator of PSS since July of 2010. When not educating youth, Joshua likes to hike, backpack, read and listen to live music.

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
News from Oregon Green Schools Association

recognizing schools for their efforts and achievements.

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