School Pest Management

This past summer, the state of Oregon helped green up schools! All schools are now required to use integrated pest management (IPM). With IPM, when a pesky weed, insect or rodent is found, schools will work to eliminate the cause of the pest instead of just using a chemical to get rid of it. This means figuring out why the pest was attracted to your school in the first place and helps avoid the use of chemicals.

If your school wants to do even more to be green here are a few ideas:

- Avoid chemical use around play areas. If weeds are a big issue, consider weed whacking or flame

Another fantastic Summit took place on March 1st. **THANK YOU** to all of our sponsors who made this day possible and to our Summit volunteers, workshop presenters, and OGSA supporting partners (listed on the OGSA webpage). And a special shout-out to the student volunteers and staff at Portland Lutheran School who exemplified the meaning of hospitality[HK1]! Thanks to those who attended the Summit, and we hope to see many others of you next year.

Spring is here, and schools are putting their green projects into full gear. We would love to see news and photos of your school garden or wetlands project!

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.

PS - We have a new mailing address:
Oregon Green Schools Association
PO Box 323
Corvallis, OR 97339
weeding.
- Do a pesticide round-up to collect items from classrooms.
- Clutter provides an ideal home for mice and other pests. Hold a de-clutter day. Create a clutter-free award for the cleanest classroom.
- Keep edible items in clear, sealed containers to prevent attracting pests.

Want to bring the idea of pest prevention into your classroom?
Check out the children's activities at Pest Private Eye.

Learn more about IPM in schools as well as Oregon's law here. And here.

2013 OGS Sponsors

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Waste Management

Others
Benton Soil & Water Conservation District
City of Eugene
City of Gresham
Clackamas County
Marion County

Summit 2013

The 17th annual meeting of certified Oregon Green Schools took place at Portland Lutheran School in Gresham on March 1st. This day of learning and networking was well attended and the weather even cooperated, which gave students and adults even more opportunities to connect in the sunny outdoors.

Elementary and middle school activities and presentations spanned across three sessions and included paper making, mock waste audits, and up-cycled jewelry making. Some students even took the Walk/Bike Challenge, learned how to make safe, chemical-free choices in our homes and gardens, and learned what happens to waste after it leaves the curb. Three schools provided inspiration and awe as they presented their school's achievements during the Summit Showcase.

High school students spent the morning learning about safe e-waste recycling and testing stream water quality. Their afternoon rounded out with a field trip to the Gresham Water Treatment Plant and Centennial Learning Center's Farm to Food Lunch Program, where they were treated to a box lunch full of delicious, local ingredients.

The National Eco-Schools presentation for adults highlighted the partnership between Oregon Green Schools and Eco-Schools and the benefits this partnership provides to member schools. Contact Courtney Sullivan if you have questions about Eco-Schools.

Attending students were entertained by "Recycle Man and the Dumpster Divers," a superhero band for the 21st century who use upbeat music to teach kids how they can save the planet. The Summit finale was an open mic session where students were invited to share what they learned at the Summit and what they are doing at their school. Approximately 50 students were brave enough to speak to the entire audience. Everyone left feeling engaged and energized!

The Summit participants brought waste-free lunches and observed a "Pack it in, Pack it out" policy. Only two small bags of compostable waste were generated during the entire event!

Chapman Hill Attends the 2013 Summit
A small team of students from Chapman Hill Elementary School met together in Portland, Oregon on March 1, 2013 with other Green Schools from around the state to participate in a summit to share information about conserving natural resources and making less waste. At the summit the students made "big discoveries" about trash and recyclables.

The Oregon Green Schools Summit was a day filled with fun and interactive sessions to teach the students important information about reducing, reusing, and recycling. Sessions included movie making, art, skits, discussions, music, and many others. During the movie-making session, which was Ryan F. and Brayden S.'s favorite session, students worked together to create a move on how to recycle and go green. Some students met in the library to talk about composting. Afterwards, the students used their knowledge to make skits about recycling, trash, and composting.

One session that was a favorite among the girls included making recyclable art. The art session was Madeline's favorite "because we made fun earrings." The fun continued in another session with the hilarious Bottle Bill who entertained students with information about how to recycle different types of bottles. Autumn Q. said, "He was so funny that everyone had to laugh."

For the final event of the day, all the attendees met in the gym for "the best entertainment." The entertainment included singing, dancing, and shaking with Recycle Man and his band. After the entertainment, the students gathered their belongings to prepare to leave. On the way out to the bus, the students were given cookies and sporks (a utensil with a fork, knife, and spoon all in one).

Luke L. summarized the events of the day by stating that, "We made big discoveries and found out that a lot of our trash is recyclable stuff." The most important thing that the students learned during the Oregon Green Schools Summit was to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Go Green!

School Resources

Oregon KidWind Events

The Crook County School District has been awarded a
community grant from Facebook and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to hold an Oregon-wide KidWind Challenge in Prineville. A KidWind Challenge brings students together to learn about renewable energy in a fun, interactive, way. Student teams design, build, and present their own wind turbines and compete in a "science fair" setting against other teams from around the state. There will be two divisions (grades 5-8 and grades 9-12) and prizes will be awarded to winning teams and coaches.

KidWind is offering several free workshops around Oregon to familiarize teachers, educators, and other coaches with the materials and plans needed to participate in this incredible opportunity. You can watch a 90-second video on teacher workshops here. KidWind's formal, standards-based curriculum, WindWise, is utilized by tens of thousands of teachers across the country.

In addition to 6 hours of training, all attending teachers will receive over $100 of classroom kits and curricular materials from KidWind. The workshop is free of charge to formal and informal K-12 educators and we will provide FREE LUNCH as well! Educators can learn more and sign up here.

Here is the schedule of Oregon workshops.

- Pendleton, Friday, March 15
- Prineville, Saturday, March 16
- Portland, Saturday, April 6
- Newport, Saturday, April 13
- Prineville, Saturday, May 18

SOSI Call for Presenters!

The Sustainable Schools - Sustainable Solutions Conference, Creating Resilient Schools and Communities, is seeking session proposals for the 3rd annual conference on Tuesday, June 25th, 2013, in West Linn, OR. The submittal deadline for proposals is Friday, March 22, 2013.

If you work in or with the K-12 school system this applies to you! Some of the session topics include: educating for sustainability, social sustainability and responsibility, and facility use as an educational tool.

For details about the conference, the Proposal Submittal Form or conference registration visit the conference webpage. Questions? Contact Lori Stole, lstole@sustainableschools.org, 503-307-4067.

H.E.A.R.T. Portland

H.E.A.R.T. Portland is a non-profit education organization that offers no-cost programming on environmental, social justice and
animal welfare topics as well as a service learning unit to K-12 schools and community organizations.

We work with K-12 children and teachers in settings ranging from afterschool to in-classroom to field trips and assemblies. Let us know if you have a need for programming at one of the schools you are supporting or know of a teacher who is looking for services like ours.

Home Work for Schools

Home Work for Schools is a fundraiser opportunity that helps homeowners make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient while also raising money for their local school. The companies behind Home Work for Schools will donate up to $300 to a homeowner's school of choice when the homeowner completes a home energy upgrade with a coalition member.

Homeowners also can request that their Home Work for Schools contribution be made to the Portland Schools Foundation Equity Fund. The program puts a new spin on an approach that Portland-area parent groups have already used to raise money for schools. "We like the idea of offering a more-sustained effort, which we hope will produce meaningful funding for schools," said Mitt Jones, co-owner of coalition-member Sensible Energy Solutions.

Home Work for Schools is available to homeowners now and will remain available through at least 2013. Homeowners can learn more about Home Work for Schools and sign up for the program at www.homeworkforschools.org.

News Around the World

Science Daily, Mar. 7, 2013 - "Grow it, try it, and you just might like it," is a motto many schools are embracing to encourage children to eat more fruits and vegetables. Through community-based kitchen garden programs, particularly those with dedicated cooking components, schools are successfully introducing students to healthier foods. In a new study released in the March/April 2013 issue of the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, researchers found that growing and then cooking the foods that kids grew increased their willingness to try new foods.
More here.

Meet the Oregon Green School Regional Coordinators

We are introducing our regional coordinators.
Michelle Metzler

Portland Metro Region

Michelle Metzler is the Recycling and Composting Coordinator for Waste Management of Oregon. In this position, Michelle works with municipal governments, community organizations and commercial customers in developing waste reduction strategies and implementing new recycling and composting programs. Michelle has extensive experience conducting waste audits, creating outreach materials and has assisted hundreds of businesses in finding creative ways to reduce waste. She serves as the Education Chair on the board of the Association of Oregon Recyclers and has been an Oregon Green Schools Regional Coordinator for two years.

Michelle is a Pacific Northwest native and holds a bachelor's degree in environmental economics from Western Washington University. She is a dedicated bike commuter, outdoor enthusiast and spends much of her free time volunteering with local environmental organizations.

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.