



The Apple

Sustainable
Schools
News

Preparing our students and schools for tomorrow, today.

January 2006

The Apple is the monthly newsletter from the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative, and is prepared by the project staff at the Zero Waste Alliance (ZWA).

This newsletter is available in pdf form at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/newsletters/>.

PROJECT UPDATE – January 2006

The first steering committee meeting was held in December 2005. A monthly newsletter, “*The Apple*”, has been created. Stakeholders are being engaged for project involvement. The first topic teams (energy and high performance buildings) are being organized and will be a pilot for the topic teams to follow. A Kick-off Summit is being planned which will most likely occur in April.

GET INVOLVED! Participation and Project Support Opportunities

To participate, contact Lori Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org or 503-591-1454. All stakeholders are welcome!

1. Join the Kick-off Summit planning team.
2. Join one or more topic teams. We are actively forming teams for energy and high performance buildings at this time. Other teams will follow; see the list on the Sustainable Oregon Schools website.
3. Pass this newsletter on to others you think might be interested.
4. Send us information about upcoming events and success stories related to school sustainability, so we can share them with others via the website and *The Apple*.
5. Website design and grant writing skills would be welcome too.

Steering Committee

The first Steering Committee meeting took place on December 12. For meeting details and a list of the steering committee members go to: http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/steering_c.htm

Topic Teams to Get Underway

The 15 topic teams focusing on various aspects of sustainability are an important piece of this effort. Participants will learn from each other as they agree, over the course of several meetings, on what practices are needed to strive for sustainability in that area. Project staff will work with several teams at a time, starting new teams every month or so. The first teams, piloting the process, will be those focusing on energy and high performance buildings. These teams are being formed now and will begin work soon. If you are interested in participating please let us know. A list of the various topic team areas is available on the website: <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/participate.htm>.

Case Studies: Energy Conservation

The first Sustainable Oregon Schools case studies are now on the website.

- The Gresham-Barlow school district has avoided costs of over \$3 million over the last 3 years with equipment and behavioral changes that earned them an EPA Energy Star Leader Award, the first U.S. organization to receive one.
- Salem-Keizer schools have achieved considerable success with an energy conservation program called Watt Watchers. They not only saved over \$1 million since 2002, but also kept 28 million pounds of pollutants out of the atmosphere while teaching students how to do it. See the case studies at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/resources/>.

Looking For Student Leaders

We are looking for student leaders from around the state with an interest in sustainability. They will meet within the next month to learn about this project and discuss how students can add their voice and ideas. If you know a student who might be a good candidate, let us know!

Business and School Sustainability

When business leaders and elected leaders from around the state came together on January 9 at the Oregon Business Council's 4th Annual Leadership Summit they made it clear that a great education system was key to their own success. Education was identified as a critical focus area for the 2006 Oregon Business Plan (www.oregonbusinessplan.org), while environmental technology and sustainable industries were identified as an Oregon business cluster. Education/Workforce is also one of 4 areas for immediate focus in the new Metro Regional Business Plan, unveiled that same morning (www.regionalbusinessplan.com).

Business leaders will have an opportunity to learn about the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative on February 8 at a reception and presentation of the Initiative hosted by PGE. The program will feature school success stories, a look at how businesses and the Initiative will mutually benefit and short presentations from Superintendent of Public Instruction, Susan Castillo and SOLV's Jack McGowan.

EPA HealthySEAT Software Now Available!

A new tool from EPA, The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT V.1.0), is now available for download. HealthySEAT unites all of EPA's regulatory and voluntary programs for schools into a single, free software tool that public, private, and tribal school systems can choose to use to establish and manage comprehensive school facility assessment programs.

HealthySEAT is designed to be customized by states and school systems to reflect their own priorities and needs. The software will make it easier for school systems to access and implement EPA programs as well as track the status of facility conditions across all of their schools. EPA has scheduled three webcasts (Jan. 26, Feb. 15, Mar. 2) to help acquaint states, school systems, and others with the capabilities and features of HealthySEAT. To download the software or sign up for one of the free webcasts, visit the HealthySEAT web site, <http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/>.

Sustainability and Higher Education: EFS West Transitions into AASHE

The Education for Sustainability Western Network has just announced its transition to a higher education association serving colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and Canada with a new name, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Like the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative this organization is based in Portland, and is promoting sustainability in both operations and curriculum. The expansion in scope comes in response to growing demand from campuses throughout the US and Canada for these resources and services. AASHE plans to be 1) a catalyst for moving higher education in a more sustainable direction, 2) an umbrella organization for campus sustainability efforts in North America, and 3) a professional home for sustainability coordinators. Their motto is "uniting the campus sustainability community." See: <http://www.aashe.org>.

Upcoming Events

(Details listed on the website at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>.)

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative Events:

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| February 8 | Reception and Presentation for Business Leaders. |
| March 2006 | Steering Committee meeting (date not yet finalized) |
| April 2006 | Kick-off Summit All stakeholders are welcome! Details to come. |

Related Events:

Many events that help support sustainable schools occur throughout the year. This information is provided as a service. Listing on this page does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Zero Waste Alliance or the Oregon Sustainable Schools Initiative.

January 25 Sustainability Using The Natural Step Framework

What: Oregon Natural Step workshop

When/Where: 8:00 - 5:00, Stoel Rives, Portland

Details: Contact Barbara at 503-241-1140 or events@ortns.org.

This one-day program is designed to introduce business, government, and community leaders to sustainability and The Natural Step framework. In the morning, a presentation will define sustainability and present the basic principles of The Natural Step framework including the science behind the framework model and case studies. In the afternoon, two local business leaders will share their organizations' experience in using The Natural Step framework to implement sustainable concepts.

January 26 EPA Webcast to share capabilities and features of the new HealthySEAT software.

What: The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool

When: 10:30 – 12:00 PM, PST

Details: <http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/>.

HealthySEAT unites all of EPA's regulatory and voluntary programs for schools into a single, free software tool. EPA has scheduled three introductory webcasts (Jan. 26, Feb. 15, Mar. 2).

January 26-7 Sustainability Change Management Workshop

What: University of Oregon Sustainability Leadership Workshop

When/Where: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. UO Portland Center, Portland, \$350

Details: <http://sustain.uoregon.edu> or call (800) 824-2714 or (541) 346-4231.

A workshop in the principles & practices of launching/growing a sustainability initiative.
Presenters: Marsha Willard and Darcy Hitchcock.

January 29 School Wellness Policy Training

When, Where: 5:30 – 8 PM, Bend

Details: Kelly McDonald, 541-322-7619 or kelly_mcdonald@co.deschutes.or.us.

A community workshop to learn more about local school district wellness policy development, to discuss your concerns about children's health and physical activity in schools, and to meet others who share your concerns.

January 31 School Wellness Policy Training

When, Where: 6-8 PM, Lake Oswego

Details: Sara Chatfield, 503-557-5885, sara.chatfield@oregonstate.edu.

Same as January 29.

February 14 Engaging Immigrant Families

What: Free training focusing on working with and engaging immigrant families.

When/Where: 8:30 – 4 PM, Newport

Details: For information, contact Maricela Urzua, 503-947-5389 or maricela.g.urzua@state.or.us

Oregon's demographics are changing, as can be seen in our classrooms and communities. The need for changes in how to effectively communicate and connect with all families is critical if our children are to be academically and socially successful.

February 24-5 The Physics of Building Science

What: Teacher workshop presented by the Oregon Building Congress

Where: Oregon City on Friday, Gresham on Saturday

Details: www.obcweb.com/2006_events/Physics_Workshop_Registration_Flyer.pdf

This day and a half of training for physics teachers explains how the construction industry applies basic principles of mathematics, chemistry and physics in buildings. Teachers will participate in hands-on exploration of the physics of air, heat transfer, fluid flow, and air flow measurements.

March 17 Oregon Green Schools Summit – “Follow the Rainbow to a Greener World”

What: Annual Summit of the Oregon Green Schools Association.

When/Where: All day in Eugene. Deadline for registration is February 17th.

Details: Contact Anne Donahue, at (541) 682-5542, anne.c.donahue@ci.eugene.or.us.

Green Schools from across the state will be gathering in Eugene at the 10th annual Oregon Green Schools Summit for a full day of sharing, learning and celebrating the wise use of natural resources. Participating Green Schools will receive registration materials from their local GS coordinator in early January. Each school is invited to send a team of one adult and four students.

Other Related Events:

- Salem: (1/26, 2/23) 2005-6 Straub Environmental Lecture Series, <http://www.open.org/~selc/>
- Portland: (1/15, 1/17, 2/14) Workshops about LEED buildings, presented by U.S. Green Building Council, Cascadia Chapter, <http://www.usgbc.org/chapters/cascadia/news.asp>.
- Portland: Illahee lecture series: <http://www.illahee.org/lectures>

BE A SUPPORTER

It's the contributions of you and your organization that make this Initiative happen. Consider contributing. Details at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>.

**** Thank You to the Members of the Sustainable Oregon Schools 2005 Founders Circle! ****

They have provided funding critical to getting the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative started.

Gold Level:

Dolphin Software
Ecoworks Foundation
Oregon Department of Energy
Portland General Electric

Silver Level:

Coastwide Laboratories
Oregon Department of Education
Metro Regional Government
Siltronic Corporation