



The Apple

**Sustainable
Schools
News**

Preparing our students and schools for tomorrow, today

April 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.htm>

PROJECT STATUS – April 2006

The first topic team, a combination of the high performance buildings and energy topics, is now underway. We continue outreach to engage stakeholders. Design of the final Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative website is beginning. Details are below.

GET INVOLVED! Participation and Project Support Opportunities

Contact Lori Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org or 503-307-4067. All stakeholders are welcome!

- Sign up to join a topic team. More details below.

As always, we'd appreciate that you:

- Pass this newsletter on to others you think might be interested.
- 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*.
- Let us know about conferences or events that provide good opportunities to share this Initiative.

Topic Teams: The Process and the Pilot

As part of the initiative we will be convening about 15 stakeholder Topic Teams, each focused on one of the many school activities relating to sustainability. Guided by the Natural Step, each team will define sustainability for that topic and how to measure it. It will then identify existing resources, and create new resources to help schools progress toward sustainability in that area. A process has been laid out for all teams to follow over the course of about 5 meetings. Stakeholders can choose to be active team members, joining the meetings in person or by phone, or supporting team members, who receive e-mail communications and comment by e-mail as desired. More details can be found on the website: http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm.

The first team is now meeting. It is a combination of high performance buildings and energy topics and is co-led by the Oregon Department of Energy.

The Natural Step

Numerous systems have been developed to help understand sustainability. The Natural Step is a framework that can help guide us toward a sustainable endpoint. It was developed in 1989 by Swedish oncologist Karl-Henrik Robert. He realized that humans are destroying the natural environment and lack fundamental principles for deciding what kinds of changes are needed. He and some others created fundamental guidelines to define sustainability, based on first principles of science, and circulated them among other scientists. Agreement was reached on four principles, called the Four System Conditions, which lie at the heart of The Natural Step. They are:

1. Don't subject Nature's functions and diversity to increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust.
2. Don't subject Nature's functions and diversity to increasing concentrations of substances produced by society.
3. Don't impoverish nature's functions and diversity by physical displacement, over-harvesting, or other forms of ecosystem manipulation.
4. Use resources fairly and efficiently in order to meet basic human needs globally.

For more information see the Oregon Natural Step Network's website, <http://www.ortns.org/> or the summary sheet on our website, <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/resources.htm>.

Sustainable Oregon Schools Website Coming

While we currently have a basic project description website to get the initiative launched, it is not the final Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative site. We are happy to announce that PSU's [Multimedia Professional Program](#) has taken the ultimate site on as a class capstone project and design will begin this month!

New on the Website:

- Details from the March Steering Committee meeting are posted.
- There is now a Topic team page: http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm.
- A summary of the Natural Step and links to other systems for sustainability are at: <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/resources.htm>

Staffing Additions:

We were sorry to say good bye to Anna Sommo, who returned to her job at Outdoor School. There were MANY applicants to fill her position and we are excited to announce that we selected not one, but two! Please welcome Aura Beatty and Shaunna Sutcliffe! You can read about the great experience they bring to our team on the website: <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/team.htm>.

School Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Newsletter

Rich Prill, Building Science & IAQ Specialist for WSU Cooperative Extension Energy Program, puts out a quarterly electronic newsletter about IAQ issues in schools around the Northwest. <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/building/iaq.cfm>. To view the winter edition: http://www.energy.wsu.edu/ftp-ep/pubs/building/iaq/nl/06_wtr_iaq_nl.pdf.

Upcoming Events

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

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative Events and Meetings:

While some of these meetings are in Portland, out-of-area folks can participate via phone.

April 17, 10 – 11:30 AM, Salem

Meeting of Planning Team for Fall "kick-off" events

April 19, May 3, 17, 31, 9 AM - Noon

Meetings of Topic Team: Energy and High Performance Buildings

Fall 2006: Events at locations around the state to introduce the initiative

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.

April 21 Systems Thinking for High Performance Organizations

What: University of Oregon, Sustainability Leadership Workshop
When/Where: Portland, 8:30 – 4:30
Details: <http://center.uoregon.edu/sustainability/seminars/courses/sustain.php>

April 25 2006 Walk + Bike to School Coordinator Training

When/Where: 5-9 PM live in Portland, and at videoconference locations throughout Oregon
Details: <http://www.walknbike.org/>

April 28 Closing the Achievement Gap Conference

What: Annual conference from Oregon Department of Education
When/Where: 8 AM-4 PM, Oregon Convention Center, Portland
Details: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=187>

May 4 EPA Healthy SEAT Webcast

What: Webcast to share capabilities and features of the new HealthySEAT assessment tool software.
When: 10:30 – 12:00 PM, PST
Details: <http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/>

May 11 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Oregon Training.

When/Where: Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm, Lane Community College, Eugene
Who: School administrators, facility managers, teachers, nurses, principals, community leaders, others
Details: RSVP to Beverly Stewart, American Lung Association of Oregon, at beverly@lungoregon.org
Pre-register at: https://surveys.bus.oregonstate.edu/BsgSurvey2_0/main.aspx?SurveyID=1300

May 12 Sustainable Foodservice Operations Seminar

When/Where: Friday, 8:30 – 4:30 PM, Portland, OR
Details: <http://www.center.uoregon.edu/sustainability/seminars/courses/food.php>

May 23 The Power of a Resource Conservation Management Program

What: Explored through Strategies, Techniques and Case Studies
What: One-day conference for senior level education personnel
When/Where: Eugene
Details: Call 1-800-769-9687 or e-mail NEEI@lanecc.edu. Register at <http://www.nweei.org>.

May 31 – June 2 Sustainable Development: Educated Choices for the Future

What: National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS) Western Region Conference,
When/Where: Portland
Details: <http://www.nacas.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=West&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&Content.ID=1409>

July 9-14 It's All Connected: Integrating Global Issues & Sustainability Across the Curriculum

What: Facing the Future: Summer Institute at the E.E.Just Environmental Leadership Institute
Where: Meriden, New Hampshire
Details: <http://www.eejust.org/educators/connected.html>

July 26-39 National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project Conferences for Educators

Where: Seattle
Details: <http://www.need.org/>
Who: Educators

October 10-14 North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference

When/Where: St. Paul, MN
Details: http://naaee.org/pages/conferences/stpaul/cfp_06.html
"Gathering at the Headwaters: Building Environmental Education in Society." Sustainability is one of 5 conference strands.

Other Related Events:

- Portland: Illahee lecture series: <http://www.illahee.org/lectures>
- Portland: The Oregon Natural Step Network presentations: <http://www.ortns.org/events.htm>.
- Salem 2005-2006 Straub Environmental Lecture Series:
<http://www.open.org/%7Eselc/calendar.htm>

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 our supporters ****

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

Gold Level:

Dolphin Software
Ecoworks Foundation
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Silver Level:

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