



The Apple

**Sustainable
Schools
News**

Preparing our students and schools for tomorrow, today

May 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– May 2006

The first topic team, a combination of the high performance buildings and energy topics, is progressing. We continue outreach to engage stakeholders. A class from Portland State University's Multimedia Professional Program is creating the final Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative website.

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. For details, see http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm.
- Help with one of the local kick-off events. See 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.

New Website Coming!

Our new website should be launched in June, thanks to a class in Portland State University's Multimedia Professional Program. You're welcome to send us your photos depicting some aspect of sustainable schools if you have some that could be used for the purpose.

Kick-off Events Being Planned for this Fall

A series of events to introduce the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative is being planned for locations around the state, most likely including Portland, Salem, Eugene, Florence, Bend, La Grand and Medford. If you would like to join a local planning team or help to sponsor one of these events, contact us.

Wise Owl Website, A New Teaching Resource, Wins Award

A group from Portland State University's Leadership in Ecology, Culture and Learning program was recently recognized at EPA's P3 (planet, people, prosperity) national competition for their website project, called WISE OWL. The WISE website is an interactive, place-based, flexible, fun, factual, interdisciplinary and hands-on tool that educates teachers and students about how to implement the principles of whole systems sustainable design in a school setting. Grade 4-8 students can interact with Eco, the WISE OWL, to assess, calculate, design, plan and implement sustainability projects within 5 school systems: energy, plant and garden, built, pollution prevention and habitat. Visit the WISE website (<http://www.ed.pdx.edu/wiseowl>).

In the next phase of their grant the PSU group will give mini grants to about a dozen schools to use, further enhance and spread the use of this website.

Learn more about the PSU PIIIECL program at: <http://www.piecl.pdx.edu/>.

National Report Card on School Bus Pollution

The Union of Concerned Scientists just released a study grading states on their school bus fleets' hazardous emissions. Oregon's cleanup program is ranked as "Above Average", smog pollution was ranked "Average" and the state received a C for its soot pollution. They note that school buses are the safest form of transportation for children but the average bus is aging and high-polluting, releasing more soot per mile than a tractor-trailer. Breathing diesel exhaust can lead to increased asthma attacks, especially in children. Recent studies have found that the air inside the bus can be up to 4 times more polluted than outside. In Oregon school bus soot was reduced by 2.8% as of 2005, primarily through the use of 280 propane buses by Portland Public Schools and a limited number of pollution control retrofits. Today's technology could cut harmful soot by over 90%. Read the report at: http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_vehicles/big_rig_cleanup/clean-school-bus-pollution.html

Green School Sweepstakes

One out of every three cleaning chemicals used to clean schools in the United States is known to cause human health or environmental problems. Schools that use safe cleaners can have a significant impact on the student health and educational quality. The Center for a New American Dream is holding a 2nd Sweepstakes drawing for \$5000. The deadline is September 21. A teleconference on May 30 will provide additional guidance for Sweepstakes participants who are trying to switch their schools to green cleaners. (See events). To learn more about safe cleaners and the contest, go to: <http://www.newdream.org/cleanschools/>.

Schools and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

The spring issue of the WSU extension energy program's Indoor Air Quality in Northwest Schools is out: http://www.energy.wsu.edu/ftp-ep/pubs/building/iaq/nl/06_spr_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 many of these are in Portland, out-of-area folks can participate via phone.

May 31, 9 AM – Noon

Topic Team Meeting: Energy and High Performance Buildings
Host: Energy Trust of Oregon

June 1, 11 AM – 1 PM at ZWA office

Meeting of planning team for fall "kick-off" events
Food sponsor: Food Front

June 12, 9AM – Noon, Portland

SOSI Steering Committee meeting
Host: Metro

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.

May 30 Teleconference on Green Cleaning and Schools

Featuring nationally recognized green cleaning experts Scot Case and Steve Ashkin, Bill Thompson of Lockport Township High School, IL, and others.

When: 10:30pm-noon (Oregon time)

To register for the teleconference: e-mail xico@newdream.org.

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

What: National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS) Western Region Conference

Where: Portland

Details: <http://www.nacas.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=West&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&Content.ID=1409>

June 2 FEED/Learning Gardens spring celebration

Hosted by PSU's PIIIECL Program & Food-based Ecological Education Design (FEED)

When: 10 am - 12:30 pm; The Learning Gardens Laboratory Inauguration event
6:30 - 9 pm; Gala: An evening of food, music and festivities

Where: Portland, Learning Gardens Laboratory and Lane Middle school, see flyer

Details: <http://www.piecl.pdx.edu/>

June 5 Chalkboard Project hosts "Train the Trainers"

Learn how to train your school staff to help your school better connect with hard-to-reach parents

Who: Teachers, administrators, community and parent leaders

When/Where 8:30 - 12:30, Hillsboro SD Office: 3083 NE 49th Place, #100, Hillsboro

Details: http://www.chalkboardproject.org/running_start_trainer.php

June 8 Is LEED EB for You?

Learn about LEED for Existing Buildings.

When/Where 10 AM – Noon, Portland, Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center

Details: <https://connect.eusers.com/gm/document-1.9.39205/LEED%20EB%20June%208.pdf>

June 14 Measuring What Matters: Tools for Assessing Progress towards Sustainability.

What: Oregon Natural Step Network workshop, featuring Gil Friend and H. Thomas Johnson

When/Where 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Portland

Details: www.ortns.org/events.htm

June 20, 27 EPA Healthy SEAT Webcast

Webcast to share capabilities and features of the new HealthySEAT assessment tool software.

When: 10:30 – noon (Oregon time)

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

June 22-24 Association of Oregon Recyclers Education and Annual Conferences, Eugene

Learn more about recycling, waste, and sustainability

Details: http://www.aorr.org/2006_annual_conference.htm

June 30 Workshop: Accounting for Sustainability

U of O workshop on the principles and practices of reporting and decision making related to the environmental activities of organizations.

When/Where: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, UO Portland Center

Details: <http://center.uoregon.edu/sustainability/seminars/courses/accounting.php>

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 Conference for Educators

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

August 14 – 21 Teachers Workshop on Green Building

From Oregon Building Congress, 6-day teacher workshop, Portland

Details: www.obcweb.com, select “teacher opportunities”

Sept. 13- 14 Rethinking School Lunch Seminar

Center for Ecoliteracy Seminar, with Janet Brown, Ann M. Evans, and food service innovators

When/Where 8:30 – 4:30 each day, Berkeley, CA

Details: <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/seminars/rsl-seminar.html>

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

Where/ Details: St. Paul, MN, <http://naaee.org/pages/conferences/index.html>

Other Related Events:

Salem: May 25, last of 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
Oregon Department of Energy
Oregon School Employees Association
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