



The Apple

Sustainable
Schools
News

Preparing our students and schools for tomorrow, today

June/July 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– July 2006

The first topic team, a combination of the high performance facilities and energy topics, is in progress. The Sustainable Oregon Schools website is being prepared. Fall kick-off events are being planned.

GET INVOLVED! Participation and Project Support Opportunities

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

- We are now identifying members for topic teams, and will hold preliminary meetings for each in the next several months. If you would like to be on a team, let us know. The topics are:
 - Material Waste
 - Water
 - Landscaping
 - Toxics
 - Food and Wellness
 - Transportation
 - Purchasing
 - Community Involvement
 - Cultural Proficiency
 - Sustainability Education for Students
 - Sustainability Education for Staff
 - Model Systems for Implementation
 - Others may be added. Suggestions?

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.

New Website Coming!

Work continues on the new SOSI website. Portland State University's Multimedia Professional Program began creating it this spring. We're thrilled to have a volunteer from that class helping us to complete the site. We hope to go online by September.

Planning Continues for Fall Kick-off Events

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, Newport, Bend, Pendleton and Medford. If you would like to join a local planning team or help to sponsor one of these events, please contact us.

Ecological Footprint

Sustainability can be considered in many ways, including footprints. The ecological footprint of an individual or group is a measure of the "load" they impose on nature. This can be viewed in terms of the land necessary to sustain their resource consumption and waste discharge. If everyone on Earth lived like the average American we'd need at least 4 more Earths to provide the material and energy to sustain that level of consumption. This is obviously not an option. As China and other countries begin to develop we need to consider how to model a more sustainable footprint.

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative - <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools>

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More information, including a program to determine your own personal footprint, can be found at the following websites. www.rprogress.org, www.footprintnetwork.org, and www.myfootprint.org, Kids and teachers should check out: www.kidsfootprint.org/index.html

School Facilities Impact Academic Performance

An optimal learning environment requires more than just excellent teachers. Studies have shown that student academic performance is also impacted by the facility itself. Information about this can be found at the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities website:

http://www.edfacilities.org/rl/impact_learning.cfm.

One such design aspect of a school facility is the amount of windows and daylighting. The following study demonstrates a link to student academic performance.

<http://www.h-m-g.com/projects/daylighting/summaries%20on%20daylighting.htm>.

Facility Maintenance and Indoor Air Quality

The latest EPA Indoor Air Quality E-Bulletin, "Effective Facility Maintenance for Healthy, High Performance Schools," provides timely tips on how to prepare your school facility for the summer break, how to manage mold and moisture in your school and the latest information on portable classrooms. To access it go to: <http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/children/IAQe-Newsletter.pdf>.

Better for the Bottom Line and the Environment

A new report from the Oregon Environmental Council, "Toxics Reduction through Energy Efficiency for Boilers," confirms that keeping boilers properly tuned up will save money AND reduce mercury and other emissions to the environment, a win-win. The study found that in all facilities studied, including schools, there were improvements to be made. http://www.oeconline.org/press_releases/boilerpage

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative Events and Meetings:

July 12, 9 AM – Noon

Topic Team Meeting: Energy and High Performance Buildings
Host: Portland General Electric

Summer-Fall: Preliminary meetings for each topic team

Watch the website and next newsletter, or add your name to a topic team list to receive details.

Fall 2006: Events to introduce the initiative

Locations are expected to include Portland, Salem, Eugene, Medford, Bend, Newport, and Pendleton. Planning teams meeting soon for all areas. All stakeholders are welcome! Event dates 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.

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

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

July 26-30 National Energy Education Development (NEED) Conference for Educators

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

July 28 – 30 The SolWest Renewable Energy Fair

An educational event with workshops, exhibitors and many more opportunities.

Where/Details: Grant County Fair Grounds, John Day, OR, <http://www.solwest.org/>

August 7-11 Innovative Models of Forest Stewardship: The Science Behind the Management

A forestry workshop for middle and high school educators. Co-sponsored by many organizations.

Where: Philomath High School

Details: http://www.seps.org/innovative_models_of_forest_stew_2006.htm

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://www.naaee.org/conference>

BE A SUPPORTER

Contributions from you and your organizations make this Initiative happen. Please 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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