



The Apple

**Sustainable
Schools
News**

Preparing our students and schools for tomorrow, today

August 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 and past newsletters are available in PDF form at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/newsletters.htm>

Project Status– August 2006

The first topic team is progressing. The Sustainable Oregon Schools website is being prepared. Fall kick-off events around the state are being planned. Core groups for the other topic areas will have planning meetings in September.

GET INVOLVED! Participation and Project Support Opportunities

All stakeholders are welcome!

- We are now identifying members for topic teams, and will hold preliminary meetings for each in September. 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.

- Please consider helping 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.
- Contact Lori Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org or 503-307-4067.

SOSI Fall Kick-off Events

A series of early evening events to introduce the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative to all interested people is being planned for locations around the state, including Portland, Salem, Eugene, Newport, Bend, Medford and Pendleton. We've now held preliminary planning meetings in most of the locations. If you would like to join a local planning team, would like to suggest speakers for one of the areas, or help to sponsor one of these events, please contact us!

Entries Invited for Organic School Garden Awards – _Deadline: October 31, 2006

School gardens that use organic methods are eligible to enter the Organic School Garden Awards program, sponsored by the Rodale Institute (<http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/>). Teams of students and teachers (grades K-12) nationwide are asked to submit an essay and poster that express how they use their school garden as a learning tool, how they use the produce they grow, and what impact it has for the students and community. Any school within the fifty United States with an organic garden may enter the

contest. Three winning schools will receive cash prizes of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. Visit the Web site for entry forms, guidelines, and information on previous winners. Oregon has been under-represented here! <http://www.kidsregen.org/gardens/index.shtml>

Hybrid School buses: Becoming a reality in some states

Up to 19 hybrid school buses will be going to 11 states, but Oregon didn't have any participants this time. These buses can attain up to 40% increased fuel efficiency. States receiving hybrid school buses include NY, CA, TX, FL, PA, VA, NC, SC, AZ, IA and Washington State. In Washington the hybrid buses are going to Durham School Services in Everett, Lake Chelan SD and the City of Seattle. Through its Plug-In Hybrid Electric School Bus Project, Advanced Energy, a Raleigh, N.C.-based nonprofit corporation, initiated a buyer's consortium of school districts, state energy agencies and student transportation providers. School buses are ideal candidates for hybrid technology because of the frequent stops and starts they perform along their daily routes. More information about the program can be found at www.hybridschoolbus.org.

A Resource for Teenagers:

A unique program developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, supports teens (ages 14-17) and teen leaders/educators as they carry out environmental service-learning projects. The Web site provides a resource library, news articles, and a Take Action section. <http://www.teensforplanetearth.org/>

Sweepstakes for Green Cleaning Products

The Center for a New American Dream is again offering a "Green Schools Sweepstakes", <http://www.newdream.org/cleanschools>. In this contest, schools that use green cleaning products register for a drawing for a \$5,000 prize. The deadline for entering is Sept. 21, 2006.

Oregon Public Universities to Use 100% Renewable Energy by 2010

If it's possible for universities.... A directive from Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski's office has instructed all state agencies, including state universities, to switch to 100 percent renewable energy use by 2010, with the goal of making Oregon the first 100% sustainable-powered state government in the US. <http://www.dailyvanguard.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2006/07/12/44b548230f89f>
http://www.governor.state.or.us/Gov/p2006/press_031006.shtml

New Lesson Book on Global Sustainability:

Facing the Future has a new book entitled: "Engaging Students through Global Issues- Activity-Based Lessons and Action Opportunities". The new lesson book for middle and high school teachers is a companion to Facing the Future's student textbooks. These standards-aligned, inspiring lesson plans are designed to help students understand complex global issues and sustainable solutions. Each lesson offers creative tools for students to take action in their local and global communities. The lesson plans include everything you need from start to finish: materials, timing, step-by-step instructions, assessment for both intermediate and advanced students, action project ideas, resources for further information, and reproducible handouts. To purchase a copy of "Engaging Student Through Global Issues" or to download a selection of Facing the Future's activity-based lessons for FREE, visit: www.facingthefuture.org.

Reading, Writing, and Radicchio

Ecotrust, Abernethy Elementary and Portland Public Schools Nutrition Services are planning an event this fall called Reading, Writing, and Radicchio. The three part series is designed to shine a spotlight on "Farm to School" activities – efforts to teach children about food – where it comes from, how it's grown and its place in society and on the table. Each event builds upon the other.

1. Friday, September 15th Frame the Farm to School issue in the context of larger societal conversations regarding food in general with a City Club of Portland Friday Forum.

2. Tuesday, October 10th- Host an A+ Lunch at Ecotrust's Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, go deeper into the issue of food in schools
3. Saturday, October 14th- Engage the senses with experiential learning and play at Abernethy Elementary School.

Learn more at <http://www.readwriterad.org>.

Factoid:

- Americans are said to throw away enough aluminum in three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet. (From Ask Umbra: July 12, 06)

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:

September: Preliminary meetings for each topic team

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

October and November 2006: Events to introduce the initiative

Locations include Portland, Salem, Eugene, Medford, Bend, Newport, Pendleton. All stakeholders are welcome! Event dates coming soon!

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.

August 11-12 and September 23-24, 2006 Global Climate Change Workshops

What: Two Global Climate Change workshops for Upper Middle and High School Teachers. Stipend of \$75 for attendance and participation in the workshop
Where: Oregon State University, Corvallis
Details: Vicki at vjosis@peak.org for more information and registration

August 14 – 21 Teachers Workshop on Green Building

What: From Oregon Building Congress, 6-day teacher workshop, Portland
Details: www.obcweb.com, select “teacher opportunities”

September 12 “Screen Time-Quality and Quantity Matter”

What: Special Lecture by Dr. Douglas Gentile, Ph.D. Director of Research for the National Institute on Media and Family
When: 5:30-7:30 PM
Where: Portland State Office Building, Room 140
Details: See the flyer, http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events_files/Save the Date 2.1.pdf

Sept. 13- 14 Rethinking School Lunch Seminar

What: 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>

Sept. 15 Part 1: Reading, Writing and Radicchio; City Club of Portland Forum,

What: Framing Farm to School Issue, Kick-off Reading, Writing and Radicchio
When: Friday, 12:15 PM
Where: The Governor Hotel, Portland
Details: <http://www.readwriterad.org/cityclub.html>

Sept. 16 Kids Day For Conservation

What: ~40 natural resource organizations including Allied Waste will sponsor hands-on activities. Food will be available.
When: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Where: Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis, Oregon
Details: <http://calendar.oregonstate.edu/event/5534/>

Sept. 22 Foundations of Sustainability: Concepts and Communication

Where: UO Sustainability Leadership Program, UO Portland Center
When: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Details: <http://sustain.uoregon.edu>

October 6 Sustainability Change Management

Where: UO Sustainability Leadership Program, UO Portland Center
When: 8:30 AM. - 4:30 PM
Details: <http://sustain.uoregon.edu>

October 10 Part 2: Reading Writing and Radicchio; A+ Lunch in the Cafeteria

When: Tuesday October 10th, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Where: Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center, Natural Capital Center, Portland
Details: <http://www.readwriterad.org/alunch.html>

October 10-14 N. American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference

Where/ Details: St. Paul, MN, <http://www.naaee.org/conference>

October 14 Part 3: Reading Writing and Radicchio: Lunch and Learn

When: Saturday, 11:30 am-1:00 PM Lunch, 1-4 PM Workshops
Where: Abernathy Elementary School, Portland
Details: <http://www.readwriterad.org/lunchlearn.html>

October 20 Collaborative Approaches to Achieving Zero Waste

What: UO Sustainability Leadership Program, UO Portland Center
When: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Details: <http://sustain.uoregon.edu>

October 26 EPA HealthySEAT Webcast

What: A series of webcasts to help acquaint states, school districts, and others with the capabilities and features of the new Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT).

When: 10:30-noon West Coast time
Details: <http://epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/webconferences.html>

Dec 7-9 7th Annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Symposium

What: The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program is a nationwide initiative to help school officials assess, resolve, and prevent IAQ problems, and to reduce exposure to asthma triggers in school facilities.

Where: Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC

Details: <http://www.iaqsymposium.com/>

Other Related Events:

- Salem: 2005-2006 Straub Environmental Lecture Series: <http://www.open.org/~selc/>

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.

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