



The Apple

**Sustainable
Schools
News**

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

October 2006

The Apple is the monthly newsletter from the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI). This and past newsletters are available in PDF form at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/newsletters.htm>

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GET INVOLVED! Participation and Project Support Opportunities

- The next topic teams to meet will be Purchasing and Material Conservation. The group looking at management of sustainability in schools will also start to meet on an infrequent basis. If you are interested in participating on these or other topic teams, contact Lori Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org or 503-307-4067. All stakeholders are welcome!
- Help with one of the Regional Kick-off Events.
- Become an individual donor or organizational sponsor. See details at: <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>. More donor information is below.

Preliminary SOSI Topic Team Meetings

In September we held preliminary meetings via conference call for most SOSI topic areas. These were a great first step toward identifying both the issues to consider within each area, and whom else to invite for participation. Based on the input received, we'll plan for many of the actual topic team meetings to take place by conference call. The various topic teams will convene on a staggered schedule over approximately 18 months. A tentative schedule has been drafted for this process, and is now posted at http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm. Thanks to the many who participated in these calls!

What is Sustainability: Green vs. Sustainable

The concept of “Green” considers primarily ecological impacts. It looks at specific activities and strives to make them less harmful. This is a great start, and certainly an important part of being sustainable. To go even further it's helpful to consider the larger concept of Sustainability, which is more than “Green”. “Sustainability” includes the intertwined elements of economy and society along with the environment, sometimes referred to as the triple bottom line. It requires assessing entire systems, and recognizing how

they must operate in order to preserve the natural systems that support our life on Earth. Frameworks have been developed to help define what is required for success, such that earth's resources are not systematically degraded.

Free HealthySEAT Training Opportunity

The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool, created by the EPA, is fully customizable software to help districts track the status of all of their environmental, health and safety issues school by school, and includes information and links on a wide array of environmental and safety issues. SOSI has organized a training session for HealthySEAT, in Salem on October 31, 9 AM – 3 PM. This is a great opportunity to learn about the program from the guy who created it, Bob Axelrad. There will also be a discussion about possibly customizing the program for Oregon, and a school walk-through exercise led by Vonnie Good from the Salem-Keizer School District. To learn more about HealthySEAT:

<http://www.epa.gov/schools>. For details about the training see the flyer and agenda at: <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>. To register for this free training contact Lori Stole, lstole@zerowaste.org.

SOSI Kick-off Event in Salem

Our Salem Kick-off Event took place on October 16 at West Salem High School. Attendees learned about sustainability, the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative and related local activities. Craig Volz from the Willamette ESD welcomed all. Speakers included David Furr and Laurie Aguirre from the Salem-Keizer SD, Barbara Welander, principal of Ash Creek Middle School in Central SD, Jim Green from Kettle Foods, Dr. Sandy Husk, new superintendent of the Salem-Keizer SD, and concluded with a great summary by Louise Solliday, Director of the Department of State Lands, who urged us to look forward to what we can leave for our children.

Thanks to food sponsors Starbucks, LifeSource, Kettle Foods and Cascade Bakery. Thanks to the students from the West Salem High School Rotary Club, who helped the event run smoothly. Thanks also to West Salem High School for hosting and to the many, who helped with planning, especially David Furr and Laurie Aguirre!

The next Kick-off event is tentatively scheduled in Newport on November 28.

SOSI Donor Program

The success of the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative depends on your financial contributions. We have recently introduced an individual donor program. If you want to see this initiative help make a difference then please show your support. The brochure can be downloaded from http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/documents/SOSI_Donor_Brochure_061016a.pdf. This joins the already-established organizational sponsor program, detailed at:

<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>. Become a contributor today!

Oregon Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Listserv

There is a free new listserv for indoor air quality issues in Oregon schools, established by the Oregon Indoor Air Quality in Schools Partnership. To join, go to:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/oregontfsiaqclt/>. For more information contact Beverly Stewart, American Lung Association of Oregon. This is a great opportunity to post questions about indoor air quality concerns with your peers, elicit expert advice, celebrate successes, and learn about new resources and grants that pertain to IAQ in schools.

Farm to School - School Gardens

There is currently a tremendous amount of activity around school food; making it healthier, connecting it to the land via school gardens, and integrating these things into the curriculum. There are many challenges, starting with the small amount of funding that comes from the Federal school lunch program and the fast rate at which students have to be served during the short lunch period.

The national farm to school program is working to establish a network around the country. A map on their website shows many states have adopted farm to school programs. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>. While Oregon is not listed, there are some exciting projects underway around the state.

Oregon: Last year chef Linda Colwell and Portland Public Schools Nutrition Services (PPSNS) transformed a classic heat-and-serve facility into a model scratch kitchen at Abernethy Elementary School. Abernethy's "Farm to School" program boasts three primary components:

- The Scratch Kitchen model, a pilot project of PPSNS where made-from-scratch meals are cooked on site using fresh ingredients
- The Garden of Wonders, an outdoor garden where students participate in growing plants and which serves as a living laboratory
- The Garden of Wonders Classroom, a physical classroom space where the Garden of Wonders and the Scratch Kitchen are used as the centerpiece for practical, hands-on classroom science, math, language, history and art lessons.

For details and a first year assessment of this program see <http://www.ecotrust.org/farmtoschool/>.

Other programs are being developed around the state. Eugene has the Food on Farm to Cafeteria Project from Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, <http://www.lanefood.org/content/cp-1-foodon.htm>. Bend-LaPine school district has a farm to school program. Many schools have now created school food gardens.

California: Berkeley is home to several leading programs.

- The Center for Ecoliteracy has developed "Rethinking School Lunch": <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/programs/rsl.html>. This program uses a systems approach to address childhood obesity, provide nutrition education, and teach ecological knowledge. It creates a framework for a comprehensive curriculum that integrates campus gardens, kitchen classrooms, school lunch, and a wide range of academic subjects.
- The Edible Schoolyard is on the campus of Martin Luther King Junior Middle School. This cooking and gardening program grew out of a 1994 conversation between chef and author Alice Waters, and former Principal Neil Smith. Today it is integrated into the middle school's daily life. The organic garden is flourishing, the kitchen is filled with enthusiastic young chefs and garden classes teach the Principles of Ecology, the origins of food, and respect for all living systems. <http://edibleschoolyard.org/homepage.html>

Additionally, California has just passed a school garden bill promoting healthy eating among California's children. AB 1535 continues the school instructional gardens program through grants and staff support to develop and maintain instructional gardens at California schools. This bill authorizes schools to apply to the Department of Education for a 3-year grant to develop and maintain an instructional garden program. The bill permits the Superintendent to award grants during the 2006-07 fiscal year through the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Washington State: Some details of farm-to-school activity in Washington State are at <http://www.farmtoschool.org/wa/>, although this site has not been updated recently. Some specific efforts include:

- The Olympia School District has been a leader and some details of their program are at: <http://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/SaladBarOrganicChoices.pdf>.
- WSU King County extension has a farm to school connections team. Learn more or sign up for their listserv at: <http://www.king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/farmtoschool.htm>.
- Puget Sound School Gardens Collective: <http://www.pugetsoundschoolgardens.org/>
- The Lopez Island school board recently approved the Lopez Island Farm Education (LIFE) Garden Program, <http://www.lopezclt.org/sard/LIFEBrochureforWeb.pdf>. The goal of the project

is to provide K-12 students with the opportunity to grow their own food, which will be integrated into the cafeteria menu. LIFE's hope is that the cafeteria menu will contain as many locally grown foods as possible.

2006 International Young Eco Heroes Announced

Action For Nature announced its 2006 International Young Eco Hero Awards. Fourteen winners, aged 10 to 16, were selected for their outstanding environmental achievements. Read about these inspiring young people. The next application deadline is February 28, 2007. <http://www.actionfornature.org>.

"Focus the Nation" Global Warming Educational Initiative Launched

Focus the Nation is a major educational initiative that is coordinating teams of faculty, students and staff at U.S. colleges, universities, middle schools and high schools, to collaboratively engage in a nationwide, interdisciplinary discussion centered around the theme of "Stabilizing the Climate in the 21st Century." The project will culminate January 31, 2008, with one-day, national symposia held simultaneously on campuses across the country. Sign your school up to participate at <http://www.focusthenation.org/> There's a Northwest launch meeting for this initiative on December 2, 2006 at Lewis and Clark College; <http://www.lclark.edu/cgi-bin/viewevent.cgi?EVFILE=eban1165082400.1>

Links of Interest

- Environmental Law Institute summary of state policies about high performance school facilities: <http://www2.eli.org/research/healthyschool/healthyschools.htm>
- Quarterly newsletter from Facing the Future, providers of resources for sustainability education http://www.teacherscorner.org/Newsletters/2006_09.htm
- Indoor Air Quality in Northwest Schools, Fall 2006 edition: http://www.energy.wsu.edu/documents/building/iaq/nl/06_fall_iaq_nl.pdf
- One more website about kids and gardening: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/>

New book: Safe and Healthy School Environments

Millions of children and adults across the nation spend their days in school buildings, and they need safe, healthy environments to thrive, learn, and succeed. This book explores the school environment using the methods and perspectives of environmental health science. Chapters include the physical environment of the school, air quality issues, pest control, cleaning methods, food safety, safe designs of playgrounds and sports fields, crime and violence prevention, and transportation. Edited by Howard Frumkin, Robert J. Geller, I. Leslie Rubin and Janice Nodvin.

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:

October 31: HealthySEAT Training (Salem)

HealthySEAT is a new software program from the US EPA for environmental assessment in schools. This training opportunity for District level school health, safety, environmental and facility staff; school administrators and business officials; state and local education, health, and environmental quality staff will be held in Salem at the Willamette ESD, 2611 Pringle Rd. SE, Marion Room 9 AM – 3 PM. Details and RSVP information can be found at <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>

November 2006 –March 2007: Events to introduce the initiative

Locations include Portland, Eugene, Medford, Bend, Newport and Pendleton. All stakeholders are welcome!

- November 28 (tentative) , Newport
- Other 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.

Oct 25, 27, 31 High Performance Classroom Tour

What/Who Oregon Dept. of Energy hosts this tour of the new academic building at Mt Angel Abbey.

When/Where Mt. Angel Abbey, See Flyer for times.

<http://www.osba.org/hotopics/imprvmnt/neighborhoodschools/invitation.pdf>

Dates below “Indians in Oregon Today”

What: Middle and High School Curriculum Implementation Workshops

This curriculum aligns with Oregon Social Sciences Standards, and provides current, accurate information to teachers and students about the Indian Tribes living in the state.

Nov. 1 Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla

Nov. 8 Seven Feathers Convention Center, Canyonville

Nov. 14 Education Center, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Grand Ronde

Details: Brad Victor, Indian Education Programs, ODE, brad.victor@state.or.us, 503-947-5655

November 16 Power of Purchasing: Sustainable Procurement

What: U of O Sustainability Leadership Program

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

Details: <http://sustain.uoregon.edu>

Dec 2 Northwest meeting for “Focus the Nation” Global Warming Educational Initiative

What: Northwest launch meeting for this initiative, for faculty, students and staff at U.S. colleges, universities, middle schools and high schools

Where: Lewis and Clark College, Portland

Details: <http://www.lclark.edu/cgi-bin/viewevent.cgi?EVFILE=eban1165082400.1>

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

Where: Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC

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

Other Related Events:

- Salem: 2006-2007 Straub Environmental Lecture Series: <http://www.open.org/~selc/>
- Portland: Oregon Natural Step Network events: <http://www.ortns.org/events.htm>
- Bend reSource: <http://www.resourceoregon.org>
- Northwest Cascadia Green Building Council: <http://www.cascadiagbc.org/>

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>.

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