



# The Apple

Sustainable  
Schools  
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

November/December 2006

## **The Apple is One Year Old!**

This marks the one-year anniversary of this newsletter and SOSI's launching. It's been a very busy year! The goal was to establish a presence, and we've done that. We've reached out to stakeholders, including those from school districts and school organizations around the state, providing awareness and starting to build a common understanding of sustainability. We've built a broad Steering Committee, launched the electronic newsletter, begun our topic team process and established a presence such that others come to us routinely.

Looking ahead to 2007, the actual SOSI website will go public by February, and we'll focus on creating resources through our topic teams.

For a complete progress report see:

[http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/documents/Progress\\_report\\_061215.pdf](http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/documents/Progress_report_061215.pdf)

## **Upcoming SOSI Kick-off Event to be in Bend**

The next Kick-off event, taking place January 22 in Bend, will feature Louise Solliday, Director of the Department of State Lands, and local school and business leaders. A flyer and agenda are posted on the SOSI Events webpage.

<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>.

## **GET INVOLVED! Participation and Support Opportunities**

- The Purchasing, Material Conservation and Sustainability Management topic teams are scheduled to begin next. To participate on these or other topic teams, contact Lori Stole, [lstole@zerowaste.org](mailto:lstole@zerowaste.org) or 503-307-4067. All stakeholders are welcome! For more on topic teams: [http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic\\_teams.htm](http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm).
- Help with a Regional Kick-off Event.
- Support the SOSI 2007 Fundraising effort. See below.

## **In this Issue:**

- *The Apple is One Year Old!*
- *Get Involved! Participation and support opportunities*
- *SOSI Kick-off Events; Newport and Bend*
- *SOSI seeks Interns*
- *Facing the Future*
- *Learn about HealthySEAT*
- *Support SOSI and The Apple for 2007*
- *Sustainability "How to Start" ideas*
- *What is a "Green School"*
- *Support SOSI; Get a Chinook Book*
- *Report shows Value of High Performance School Buildings*
- *"School Beverages: Time to Pop Open your Soda Contract"*
- *Green Cleaning Manual*
- *Green Modular Design Challenge*
- *PSU WISE Grants*
- *Farm to School Curriculum*
- *Defining Sustainability*

## **Newport SOSI Kick-off Event a Great Success**

In spite of icy conditions on November 28 eighty Central Coast school, business and community folks came to Newport High School to learn about and discuss

sustainable schools. Pat Cowan, retired school administrator, welcomed all with a look back at some earlier efforts that unfortunately no longer exist, but hopefully will return as part of an integrated move toward sustainability. Lori Stole presented SOSI. Jack Nickerson, principal at Oceanlake Elementary, Lincoln County School District, stressed the importance of making our schools sustainable, and his upcoming project to track energy use. Jim Grano, a teacher at Siuslaw Middle School, Siuslaw School District, inspired all with the long-term success of his Stream Team and the positive impact it has had on his students. Jeff Feldner, fisherman, shared his journey in which he became ever more aware of why the fishing industry must operate sustainably and the importance of sustainable schools to

**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>.

## The Apple

this effort. Featured speaker, Bill Bradbury, was introduced by Tom Rinearson, Superintendent of the Lincoln County School District. Bradbury, Chair of the Oregon Sustainability Board, reviewed ongoing sustainability efforts of state agencies, and his delight that the sustainable schools discussion begun by the Sustainability Board has blossomed into a successful program. Following an active session for audience input the evening was concluded by Wayne Hoffman, Midcoast Watersheds Council, with some visions of what could develop.

A huge thanks goes to food sponsors Café Mundo, Oceana Natural Foods Cooperative, Panini Bakery, Local Ocean Seafood and Green Salmon Coffee Shop. Thanks to Newport High School for hosting, to the student helpers from Newport High and to the many who helped with planning.

### **SOSI Seeks Interns**

Applications are being accepted for two part-time program assistants for the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative.

Find a detailed job description at

[http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/intern\\_descr\\_061213.htm](http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/intern_descr_061213.htm)

Please e-mail resume and cover letter to Lori Stole [lstole@zerowaste.org](mailto:lstole@zerowaste.org) by Dec. 27, 2006, in MS Word or PDF format.

### **Facing the Future Quarterly Newsletter**

Facing the Future provides global issues education and action opportunities to shape the future.

<http://www.teacherscorner.org/newsletter.html>

### **Learn about HealthySEAT**

The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool, created by the U.S. EPA, is fully customizable software to help districts track the status of all environmental, health and safety issues school by school, and includes information and links on a wide array of environmental and safety issues.

SOSI recently coordinated a well-received training session by EPA's Bob Axelrad, and attended by 32 folks from school districts and supporting organizations. To learn more about HealthySEAT:

- The presentation ppt is posted on the SOSI website Resources page:  
<http://www.zerowaste.org/scho>

<ols/resources.htm> - **HealthySEAT**

- A one hour webcast introduction is on the EPA web site <http://www.epa.gov/schools>.

### **Sustainability "How to Start" ideas**

- Subscribe to The Apple, SOSI's monthly electronic newsletter, and learn.
- Start the conversation about sustainability in your own circles, especially in schools. This could include an invited speaker, giving a presentation, forming a book discussion group, Northwest Earth Institute discussion course or other.
- Assess current activities for sustainability. (Eventually we'll have a school sustainability tool to offer)
- Pick an operational area to start with and participate in an existing program. Examples include Oregon Green Schools Association, 4H Wildlife Stewards, Watt Watchers and there are many others.
- Contact a key resource for your topic of interest. We can help direct you. For instance, start all building or energy efforts by contacting the Oregon Department of Energy, Betty Merrill, 503-378-6510. Start indoor air quality efforts with EPA's Tools for Schools Program.
- Involve kids so they learn with you. Consider starting a Roots and Shoots Club.
- Let us know about needs we can help to address.
- Learn through participation on a SOSI topic team.
- Attend events about sustainability to learn more (such as listed in our newsletter or others provided by local organizations).

### **Support SOSI and The Apple for 2007!**

The success of the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative depends on your financial contributions!

#### **Help keep us going in 2007!**

If you find this newsletter helpful, please help support it with you tax deductible donation today. To learn about individual donation opportunities and corporate sponsorship visit <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>. Show your support by becoming an individual donor.

Use your credit card to make a secure on-line contribution or, send a check to:

*Zero Waste Alliance*  
One World Trade Center, Suite 210  
121 SW Salmon St, Portland, OR 97204

**Thank you!**

### **What is a Green School?**

In Oregon, "Green School" typically refers to a school that has achieved a recognition level within the successful, statewide Oregon Green Schools Association (OGSA) (<http://www.oregongreenschools.org/>). The OGSA is a great place to get your school started. It focuses primarily on resource conservation, which is a part of sustainability. The OGSA is represented on our Steering Committee.

### **Report Shows Value of High Performance School Buildings**

A new report by Greg Kats of Capital E, "Greening America's

## The Apple

Schools", details the benefits of building energy efficient "green buildings", including improved test scores, better student health and lower operating costs. It concludes that sustainable schools save an average of \$100,000/yr/school.

The report includes five high performance schools from Oregon designed by Boora Architects: Clackamas High School (Clackamas); Ash Creek Intermediate School (Monmouth); Baker Prairie Middle School (Canby); Mabel Rush Elementary (Newberg) and The Dalles Middle School, (The Dalles).

It provides a detailed analysis of 30 high performance schools from 10 states, and demonstrates that the total financial benefits are 20 times greater than the initial cost. These include energy and water savings, improved student health and test scores. They use an average of 33% less energy and 32% less water than conventional schools

- Green schools typically have better lighting, temperature control, improved ventilation and indoor air-quality which contribute to reduced asthma, colds, flu and absenteeism
- A study of Chicago and Washington, D.C. schools found that better facilities can add 3 to 4 percentage points to a school's standardized test scores
- Greening all school construction would create over 2000 additional new jobs each year from increased use of energy efficiency technologies."

For the full report see:

[http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/documents/Greening\\_America's\\_Schools\\_\(updated\).pdf](http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/documents/Greening_America's_Schools_(updated).pdf)

### **"School Beverages: Time to Pop Open your Soda Contract"**

Schools and Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and other beverage companies are discussing removal of soda and other sugary drinks from schools nationwide. Community Health Partnership (CHP) now has a guide to renegotiate school district contracts in order to ensure that healthier beverages are sold. Among key recommendations:

- Ensure parent, student and community involvement in the decision-making process to enter into or amend a contract.
- Understand the finances – money is coming from students' pockets, not the companies.
- Ensure that parents and schools – not the companies – choose the types of beverages sold.
- Evaluate the merit of granting companies exclusive advertising and marketing rights.

For a copy of the full report, visit

[www.communityhealthpartnership.org](http://www.communityhealthpartnership.org).

### **Green Cleaning Manual**

The Healthy Schools Campaign in Illinois has released the "The *Quick & Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools*". A CD-Rom contains comprehensive information, practical advice, tools and resources to help schools take action.

[http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/green\\_clean\\_guide/](http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/green_clean_guide/)

### **Green Modular Design Challenge**

Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland held a green modular design challenge last spring. To see the winners and learn more visit:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/facilities/greenschoolsfocus/dc.html>

### **PSU WISE Project**

Portland State University's WISE (Whole Systems Integrated Sustainable Design for Education) website project, in partnership with the US EPA, is offering funding for the 2006-7 school year for 4th-8th grade classrooms in the Columbia River Watershed.

Grants will range from \$1000-\$5000 and will be awarded on a competitive basis to 13 schools that demonstrate an understanding of the principles of whole systems design and develop a site-based sustainable design using the WISE website program.

For eligibility information and application criteria visit the WISE website, <http://www.ed.pdx.edu/wiseowl/>. e-mail [ecowl@gmail.com](mailto:ecowl@gmail.com) or contact Kristen Lans, 503-735-4684.

### **Farm to school curriculum, CHANGE:**

Garden-enhanced nutrition education for grades 1-5 in downloadable PDF format.

<http://king.wsu.edu/nutrition/WelcometotheCHANGEcurriculum.htm>

### **Defining Sustainability**

Many definitions of sustainability originate from a 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which defined sustainable development as development that "meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future

generations to meet their own needs." Since then, a huge number of other definitions have emerged, some of which are summarized in this list:

<http://www.sustainableliving.org/appen-a.htm>

### **Support SOSI; Get a Chinook Book**

Give a gift that supports sustainability and support SOSI at the same time. Buy a Chinook Coupon Book, directly from our office, or via the web. This supports SOSI as well as sustainable businesses.

<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/supporters.htm>

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Check the website for details and updates. <http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>.

**SOSI Events and Meetings:**

**January 16, SOSI Steering Committee Meeting**

Portland

**January 22, Kick-off Event in Bend**

High Dessert Middle School, See Flyer/Agenda:

<http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events.htm>

Additional Kick-off Events to introduce SOSI will be scheduled in Portland, Eugene, Medford and Pendleton. All stakeholders are welcome!

**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.*

**January 18 Sustainable Business Case Studies II**

Breakfast workshop presented by reSource

Bend, 7:30 - 10 AM

[http://resourceoregon.org/page\\_detail.php?page\\_id=23&category\\_id=3](http://resourceoregon.org/page_detail.php?page_id=23&category_id=3)

**January 23 Radon in Oregon Schools**

Conference call organized by the Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership, Presenter: Ray Jester

1-2 PM, Call: 866-299-3188, Code: 2023439221#

**January 26 Sustainable Fleet Management**

U of O Sustainability Leadership Program Workshop

Portland, 8:30 - 4:30, <http://sustain.uoregon.edu>

**February 8 Informational Sustainable Offices Fair**

Forest Grove, 10am to 1pm

Pacific University, Washburn Hall - Fireside Lounge.

Vendors showcase their lines of environmentally preferable office products for schools, including paper products with high post-consumer recycled content, non-toxic markers or cleaners, and other "eco-friendly" products, with FREE samples and refreshments. Contact: Elaine Jane Cole, 503-357-5960, [cole4105@pacificu.edu](mailto:cole4105@pacificu.edu)

**February 10 Sustainability Using the Natural Step Framework**

Oregon Natural Step Network workshop

Newport, 8:30 – 5 PM, <http://www.ortns.org/events.htm>

**February 15 Sustainable Facilities**

Breakfast workshop presented by reSource

Bend, 7:30 - 10 AM

[http://resourceoregon.org/page\\_detail.php?page\\_id=23&category\\_id=3](http://resourceoregon.org/page_detail.php?page_id=23&category_id=3)

**February 16 The Life Cycle of Electronic Products- Impacts and Responsibilities**

U of O Sustainability Leadership Program Workshop

Portland, 8:30 - 4:30, <http://sustain.uoregon.edu>

**March 30 Building the Business Case for Sustainability**

U of O Sustainability Leadership Program Workshop

Portland, 8:30 - 4:30, <http://sustain.uoregon.edu>

**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>.

**\*\* Thank You to our supporters \*\***

Platinum Level: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Gold Level: Dolphin Software, Ecoworks Foundation, Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon School Employees Association, Portland General Electric

Silver Level: Bonneville Power Administration, Coastwide Laboratories, Metro Regional Government\*, Oregon Department of Education, Siltronic Corporation, The Catlin Gabel School

Bronze Level: Bill Blosser, Boora Architects, Johnson Controls, Neil Kelly Remodelers\*

\* Honor Roll multi-year contributors.

To unsubscribe, please contact Lori Porter Stole, [lstole@zerowaste.org](mailto:lstole@zerowaste.org). Thank you!