



# The Apple

**Sustainable  
Schools  
News**

Preparing our students and schools for tomorrow, today

September 2006

*The Apple* is the monthly newsletter from the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI), and is prepared by the project staff at the Zero Waste Alliance.

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

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## **Project Status– September 2006**

The Sustainable Oregon Schools website should be ready to go public by October. Planning is underway for Kick-off events around the state. With the first topic team nearly finished, preliminary groups for the other topic areas will have planning meetings in September.

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

All stakeholders are welcome! Contact Lori Stole, [lstole@zerowaste.org](mailto:lstole@zerowaste.org) or 503-307-4067.

- If you are interested in participating on a particular topic team let us know. There will be preliminary meetings for each this month. Details below, and at [www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic\\_teams.htm](http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm).
- Help with one of the local kick-off events. See details below.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to:

- Create a display for tabling opportunities for the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative. Need by early October.
- Identify pertinent school and sustainability related events, and staff a SOSI table. (Requires learning enough about SOSI to explain it to others.)
- Experienced grantwriter to prepare grant proposals.
- Provide data entry into an excel spreadsheet and possibly help create data management system, small amount per week.
- Provide Topic Team support: May include taking meeting notes, research as needed.

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

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- Help create and compile newsletter. A few hours once per month.

Please contact Shaunna Sutcliffe at [ssutcliffe@zerowaste.org](mailto:ssutcliffe@zerowaste.org) if you are interested in joining our volunteer team.

### **SOSI Fall Kick-off Events**

*What:* Events to introduce the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative are being planned for Portland, Salem, Eugene, Newport, Bend, Medford and Pendleton. These will take place between October and February, in a local school. Each event will include a summary of SOSI, presentations from local schools folks about sustainability efforts already happening, a look at how the initiative supports schools, the business community and state-level efforts, and what it has for you. There will also be time to collect attendee input, and of course food.

*Status:* We've met with initial planning teams in 6 of the locations, and probably won't start planning in Pendleton until the others are farther along. We welcome event and food sponsors for each location, as well as folks who would like to join the planning teams. Thanks to all involved so far for the great input!

One date is finalized so far: Salem, October 16, 5:30 – 7:30 at West Salem High School. Confirmed speakers include Sandy Husk, Superintendent of Salem-Keizer School District, and Bill Bradbury, Secretary of State.

### **Preliminary SOSI Topic Team Meetings**

Over the next year we'll be convening stakeholder topic teams. Depending on the topic, each team will meet about 5-8 times to define the sustainable vision, identify key sustainability indicators with performance levels, identify existing resources and create new ones for schools. More details are at: [http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic\\_teams.htm](http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/topic_teams.htm).

To plan for each of these groups we've scheduled preliminary conference calls. These will last no more than 1.5 hours each, and have the following objectives:

1. Briefly introduce SOSI and the topic team process, and answer questions.
2. Collect names of key players who should be included in this topic team.
3. Collect input on when to schedule this topic team to meet.

The preliminary calls are set as follows. If you would like to join a call, please contact us to get the call number ([lstole@zerowaste.org](mailto:lstole@zerowaste.org)). Times can be adjusted if multiple folks have conflicts so please let us know ASAP if a date seems problematic.

<b>Community Involvement</b>	9/18, 2:00	(service learning, parent/community, internships, etc.)
<b>Sustainability Education for Students</b>	9/18, 3:30	(formal, non-formal, informal, service learning, etc.)
<b>Water</b>	9/19, 11:00	(domestic water, storm water, landscaping uses, etc.)
<b>Landscaping</b>	9/19, 12:30	(plant materials, outdoor pest management, student gardens, habitats, etc.)
<b>Sustainability Education for Staff</b>	9/19, 3:30	(opportunities and needs, etc.)
<b>Material waste</b>	9/20, 11:00	(waste prevention recycling, etc)
<b>Cultural proficiency</b>	9/20, 2:30	(honoring student/staff diversity, understanding global cultures, etc.)

<b>Toxics</b>	9/21, 8:30	(indoor pest management, indoor air quality, chemical management, etc.)
<b>Transportation</b>	9/21, 10:30	(school buses, vehicle shop, alternative transportation)
<b>Model System for Managing Sustainability</b>	9/21, 12:30	(framework within a school or district that guides progress toward sustainability)
<b>Food</b>	9/21, 2:30	(choices and sources of foods in schools, wellness, etc.)
<b>Purchasing</b>	9/22, 8:30	(Environmentally preferable purchasing, product stewardship, etc.)

The pilot team (**high performance facilities and energy**) is finishing up now.

### **School Supplies**

Children are more vulnerable to air pollutants than adults, since they breathe more rapidly and inhale more pollutants per pound of body weight. Therefore non-toxic school supplies are especially important, but not always the norm. Steer away from rubber cement, paint thinners and other toxic products. For a database listing certified non-toxic alternatives to markers and other school supplies, see <http://www.acminet.org/asp/CPSearchFrames.ASP>. Some of these can be found online via [Budget Art Materials](http://www.budgetartmaterials.com/index.html) (<http://www.budgetartmaterials.com/index.html>).

**Focusing on Pens and Markers:** There are three kinds of markers:

- Water-based (generally considered safest, but some water-based dyes may contribute to allergic and asthmatic reactions). Highlighters are typically water-based.
- Alcohol-based
- Solvent-based (contain the most toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs)).

Choose either water-based markers, "low odor" dry erase pens or pens with the AP seal\*. Unfortunately, even those labeled "non-toxic" can give off VOCs. Avoid permanent markers—these are usually petrochemical solvent-based and release VOCs.

\**Art & Creative Materials Institute (ACMI) Approved Product (AP) seal*

(Info taken in part from <http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc.mhtml?i=104&s=markers>)

**School Craft Supplies:**

- In the Portland area, check out S.C.R.A.P., <http://www.scrapaction.org/> for very good prices on some great items, and project ideas.
- You can get endrolls of newsprint from the Oregonian for free. Call 503-221-4301, pick up 7AM-2PM from 1621 SW Taylor (across from PGE park); 24", 36" or 50"-wide. Outside the Portland area, ask your local newspaper if you can get endrolls, and let us know what you find!

### **Finding Local and Seasonal Foods for your School Cafeteria**

The 2006 Guide to Local and Seasonal Products is ready for consumption. This annual directory matches farmers, ranchers, and fishermen with chefs, retailers, institutions, caterers, and other food buyers who are looking to purchase locally grown food products. It can be purchased for \$15 from Ecotrust, 503-467-0784, or online at <http://www.ecotrust.org/publications/foodguide.html>. The guide is also fully available and searchable online at <http://www.farmarchefconnection.org/>.

### **Oregon Walk + Bike to School**

On Wednesday, October 4 join schools across Oregon and the globe to celebrate Walk + Bike to School Day. The Bicycle Transportation Alliance and the Willamette Pedestrian Coalition lead this event, with assistance from many others. A "Walk + Bike School Bus" works like the yellow school bus, but without the bus! Parents and/or other adult volunteer 'drivers' lead a group of students to and from school on foot or bike. The "Bus" travels along a predetermined route, picking up participants along the way at

designated "bus stops". To learn more or register your school, go to: <http://www.walknbike.org>, or contact Robert Ping, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, 503-226-0676 x 18, [robert@bta4bikes.org](mailto:robert@bta4bikes.org).

Also, the new Walk + Bike School Bus guidebook is available and can be downloaded from the website. The full-color, 25-page, spiral-bound guide includes "Seven Steps to Organizing a Walk + Bike School Bus", a Toolkit loaded with sample documents and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section.

### **Community / School Partnerships offer Models**

Families and communities should be viewed as educational resources, and community/school partnerships provide an opportunity. The Oregon Department of Education and the League of Oregon Cities have recognized five 2006 Outstanding Community/School Partnership Award Recipients: The City of Forest Grove and the Forest Grove School District, for the Youth Matters! Program, the City of Molalla and the Molalla School District for the Communities that Care Program, the City of Salem and the Salem/Keizer School District for their Multiple Programs, the City of Springfield, Springfield Public Schools, the Utility Board, and the Willamalane Park and Recreation District for the TEAM Springfield Program and the South Tillamook County and the Nestucca Valley School District for the Nestucca Valley Development Council. To access a "How To" guide on creating a successful partnership, and for narratives on each award-winning partnership visit <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=349>.

### **Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Awards Program**

Do you feel you have a stellar IAQ management program in your school district? Are you just beginning an IAQ management program and want to recognize the initial strides you are taking? If so, please apply for one of EPA's prestigious Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS) awards. The 2006 IAQ TFS Awards Program will recognize schools and school districts demonstrating a strong commitment to improving children's health and indoor air quality. With four tiers of awards, EPA recognizes schools and districts at various stages of implementing proactive IAQ management programs. Visit EPA's IAQ TFS Awards Program Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/iaqtfsawards.html>) to download application forms, review application deadlines, and learn more about the IAQ TFS Awards Program.

### **World Peace Day, September 21**

The United Nations has established September 21 as an International Day of Peace. At the website: <http://www.worldpeace.org/peaceday.html> you can learn more about this day, the Peace Pals Program, the Peace Pole Project and more.

### **Take Action against Global Poverty: NetAid**

NetAid's programs provide the resources; guidance and tools that young people need to learn about global poverty, and take actions that improve the lives of the world's poor. Their innovative programs include:

1. NetAid World Schoolhouse, which connects groups and individuals to projects that help the world's poorest children go to school and build brighter futures.
2. NetAid Global Citizen Corps, which empowers high school students to educate and rally their peers in poverty-fighting efforts. Apply now to become a GCC leader for the 2006-7 school year.
3. NetAid Global Action Awards honor high school students who have taken outstanding actions to fight global poverty. In 2005 a Beaverton, Oregon student was honored with this award.

Learn more at <http://www.netaid.org/about/programs.html>

### **In other parts of the U.S.—**

**North Carolina Bans Toxics from Schools:** North Carolina's new "School Children's Health Act" provides for the elimination in public schools of health threats such as pesticides, mercury, diesel fumes, arsenic in wood, and mold. Beginning this fall, schools will be required to crack down on idling buses, eliminate or coat arsenic treated wood in playgrounds, and maintain mercury-free science classrooms. Schools will have five years to fully implement the components of the program, such as Integrated Pest Management -- a strategy that ensures pests are eliminated without risking students' health. Numerous

North Carolina school districts have already adopted these policies voluntarily and many report cost savings as a result. <http://www.pested.org/involved/actionalerts/schoolhealthact.html>

**New York requires environmentally friendly cleaning supplies:** A new state law requiring schools to use 'environmentally friendly' cleaning supplies was prompted by concerns about potential harmful health effects of chemicals, especially on children, and a realization that less toxic cleaners are increasingly available. The new law applies to buildings and grounds at all public and private elementary and secondary schools. School districts that had already converted, found that prices of the environmentally friendly cleaners are comparable to others on the market, and that the green products were comparable in performance.

The U.S. EPA estimates human exposure to air pollutants indoors can be 2-5 times higher than outdoor levels. Reducing or eliminating potentially harmful ingredients from such culprits as cleaners, waxes and deodorizers, helps protect the environment as well as the workers who apply them. along with the entire school population. "It's well documented that when you clean up the quality of the air we breathe indoors, students' attendance rates go up, attention spans in the classroom improve and students perform better," says Laurie Rich, president of the Rhinebeck school board.

The state's list of products notes which ones have added fragrances, and the guidelines recommend reducing the use of those to the extent possible because they in particular tend to be asthma triggers. The final guidelines and an approved products list can be found on the New York State Education Dept website: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/facplan/greenclean.htm>. Also see Grassroots Environmental Education: <http://www.grassrootsinfo.org/safeschools.html>  
*Poughkeepsie Journal*

#### **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, by conference call**

See date and time details above. Let us know if you would like to join one!

##### **September 18: SOSI Steering Committee meets, 9 – noon**

Hosted by Metro and sponsored by Marsee Foods and Starbucks.

##### **October 2006 –February 2007: Events to introduce the initiative**

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

- Salem, October 16, 5:30 – 7:30 at West Salem High School.
- 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.*

**Sept. 23-24 2006 Global Climate Change Workshops**

*What:* Global Climate Change workshop 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](mailto:vjosis@peak.org) for more information and registration.

**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/Where* 5:30-7:30 PM, Portland State Office Building, Room 140

*Details:* See flyer, [http://www.zerowaste.org/schools/events\\_files/Save the Date 2.1.pdf](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

*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/Where:* Friday, 12:15 PM, 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/Where:* 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis, Oregon

*Details* <http://calendar.oregonstate.edu/event/5534/>

**Sept. 22 Foundations of Sustainability: Concepts and Communication**

*What:* U of O Sustainability Leadership Program

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

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

**October 4 Oregon Walk and Bike to School Day**

*What:* Join up to 80 schools across Oregon in celebrating Walk + Bike to School Day.

*Details:* <http://www.walknbike.org/>

**October 5 SALMONPEOPLE**

*What:* One-man theatrical presentation for students and educators

*Where:* Portland, PSU, Lincoln Hall, 8 PM

*Tickets, Details* <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6442>, <http://www.peterdonaldson.net>

**October 6 Sustainability Change Management**

*What:* U of O Sustainability Leadership Program

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

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

### **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.

Oct. 6 Lane County ESD, Eugene (closed)  
Oct. 17 Portland State Univ., Native American Student and Community Center  
Oct. 25 Central Oregon Community College, Bend  
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](mailto:brad.victor@state.or.us), 503-947-5655

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

*When/Where:* 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Natural Capital Center, Portland  
*Details:* <http://www.readwriterad.org/alunch.html>

### **Oct. 10-14 North American Assoc. 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/Details:* Abernathy Elem. School, Portland, <http://www.readwriterad.org/lunchlearn.html>

### **October 20 Collaborative Approaches to Achieving Zero Waste**

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

### **October 24 The Power of Resource Conservation Management**

*What:* One-day conference  
*Where:* Eugene, Oregon  
*Details:* <http://www.nweei.org/news/rcm.html>

### **October 26 EPA Healthy SEAT Webcast**

*What:* To help acquaint states, school districts, and others with 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**

*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/>
- Eugene: October 20-22, Oregon Bioneers Conference, <http://www.bridgingworldsnw.org/>
- Portland: Oregon Natural Step Network events: <http://www.ortns.org/events.htm>

## **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.

#### Platinum Level:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

#### Gold Level:

Dolphin Software  
Ecoworks Foundation  
Oregon Department of Energy  
Oregon School Employees Association  
Portland General Electric

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\* Honor Roll Contributors have contributed for more than one year.