



Nov 27, 2006

State and local leaders featured in Sustainable Oregon Schools event

Businesses, universities and governments in Oregon have been adopting sustainability as a guiding principal. Now K-12 schools around Oregon are starting to learn about why it's important for them to do the same.

The Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI) is providing a focal point for information, resources and activities in the state. As part of a series of regional presentations, they are coming to Newport on Tuesday. Those interested are invited to attend from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Boone Center, Newport High School, 322 NE Eads Street. RSVPs are appreciated, to Shaunna at ssutcliffe@zerowaste.org, or (503) 279-9383.

The evening begins with food provided by Oceana Natural Foods Cooperative, Café Mundo, Panini Bakery and the Green Salmon Coffee Shop; and networking. Following a welcome from Pat Cowan, a local retired school administrator, attendees will learn about the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative from the Zero Waste Alliance, the organization managing the program. Next, attendees will hear about efforts already going on in local schools by Matt Love, a teacher at Taft High School, Jack Nickerson, principal at Oceanlake Elementary, and Jim Grano, a teacher at Siuslaw Middle School.

Jeff Feldner, a local fisherman, will present the business case for sustainability and why it's the right direction for schools. Lincoln County School District Superintendent Tom Rinearson, will introduce the featured speaker, Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, who will provide the state vision.

There will be an opportunity for input from those attending before closing statements from Wayne Hoffman, MidCoast Watershed Council. Event co-sponsors include Oregon Coast Sustain, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Education Association and Oregon School Employees Association.

As schools house and prepare children for the future, they need to integrate sustainability. It will allow them to balance environmental, economic and social issues over time, providing cost savings, healthier indoor and outdoor environments, a stronger community and a workforce better prepared for tomorrow, all while supporting academic success.

About the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative

The Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative is a unique and comprehensive approach to supporting sustainability in Oregon's K-12 schools, within both operations and education. This statewide, voluntary program for schools and school districts is being created with a stakeholder process. It will provide a focal point in the state for school sustainability, including such diverse areas as resource conservation, facilities design and operation, indoor and outdoor environmental quality, food, transportation, purchasing, community involvement, cultural proficiency, and education about sustainability for students and staff. It is guided by a Steering Committee which includes representatives from schools, state government, businesses and nonprofits. It's managed by the Zero Waste Alliance, an Oregon-based, non-profit organization. To learn more about SOSI or subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter see: www.zerowaste.org/schools or contact Lori Stole: lstole@zerowaste.org, (503) 307-4067.

About the Zero Waste Alliance

The Zero Waste Alliance was formed in 1999 to support organizations in the creation of a more sustainable future. It helps organizations improve profitability, competitiveness and environmental performance through the development and implementation of practices that lead to the reduction and elimination of waste and toxics. The Zero Waste Alliance is a program of the International Sustainable Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.