



# The Apple

Sustainable  
Schools  
News

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

December 2009

## Sustainability Education Week

This past November 9-13 was the first national Sustainability Education Week. The U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development invited students, teachers, schools, colleges of education, and community members to join in recognizing this week, and encouraged participation in sustainability education learning opportunities throughout the school year.

At SOSI's request Oregon Governor Kulongoski issued a proclamation recognizing November 9-13, 2009 as Sustainability Education Week in Oregon and encouraged all Oregonians to join in this observance. Read the full proclamation on our website:

<http://www.sustainableschools.org/documents/SustainabilityEducationProclamation.pdf>

Oregon's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Susan Castillo, supported this week with her own statement which can also be viewed on our website:

*"Please join me in supporting Sustainability Education Week (November 9-13, 2009) here in Oregon and the U.S., a time for all of us to reflect on the challenges we face as citizens of the Earth -- and to re-commit ourselves to making our world a better place.*

*The unprecedented problems our planet faces are the result of years of neglect and short-sightedness. We know that our young people will have their work cut out for them when they grow up, and we want them to be up to the challenge.*

*Our schools play a critical role in our society as we work toward creating a greener, more sustainable future. That's why I want our schools to do everything they can to prepare students for the challenges they will face and to nurture their commitment and creativity as they grow up to become the stewards of our planet.*

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*For a good place to learn more about what schools can do, visit the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative at [www.sustainableschools.org](http://www.sustainableschools.org) for more information."*

*-Susan Castillo*

For more about Education for Sustainability see more in this newsletter and on the SOSI website, and the US Partnership site:

[http://www.uspartnership.org/main/show\\_passage/33](http://www.uspartnership.org/main/show_passage/33).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation for Oregon Board of Education

Together with Art Paz, a member of the Oregon Board of Education, we were asked to invite a Sustainability Education panel for the Board's August planning retreat that could help address how to move forward within K-12 and the community colleges. The panel, consisting of Lori Stole, SOSI; Bill Stewart, Gladstone SD.; John Weekes, DOWA; Jennifer Hayward, Lane CC.; Susan Wolff, Columbia Gorge CC.; and Chet Bowers, retired

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

Education professor, presented a broad picture of all that sustainability education is, and good discussion followed. See this [brief summary](#) of the presentation and links to the files.

### **Info-Pages on Education for Sustainability (EFS)**

SOSI has created an info page that introduces EFS, which can be accessed here: <http://www.sustainableschools.org/documents/Efs%20091106.pdf>. Everybody in a school district can support EFS, but just how you do it depends on what your role in the school / district is; whether you can impact the curriculum at a fundamental district level, use it as a context for what you're teaching already or perhaps helping to create a sustainable facility for students to learn from. Sections of the info-page include the following:

- Why Educate for Sustainability?
- What is Education for Sustainability?
- United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)
- Sustainability Education Is, and may include but is not only-
- Core Content Areas: Education for Sustainability
- How is Sustainability Education Delivered?
- How Do We Enable Schools to Provide Education for Sustainability?

There is also a white paper on EDUCATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY offered by the K-12 and Teacher Education Sector of the U.S. Partnership, and available here: [http://www.uspartnership.org/resources/0000/0082/USP\\_White\\_Paper\\_on\\_Efs\\_5\\_09\\_Final.pdf](http://www.uspartnership.org/resources/0000/0082/USP_White_Paper_on_Efs_5_09_Final.pdf)

### **Sustainability Education moving forward in Washington State**

At Washington State's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Education for Environment and Sustainability Program has been a leader with their Sustainability Education work. Recently content standards were adopted that define what K-12 students should know and be able to do in the area of environmental and sustainability education. The three standards address: 1) ecological, social, and economic systems; 2) learning in, about, and for the environment; and 3) sustainability and civic responsibility. The document includes an alignment of the three standards with core content grade level standards in science and social studies as well as a general alignment chart with other content areas. OSPI and its

partners will be conducting workshops and training on how to use the standards to support integrated teaching and learning. The standards document is available at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/curriculumInstruct/EnvironmentSustainability/default.aspx>

Other accomplishments include teacher education standards, and curriculum projects that focus on integrating sustainability into particular areas of instruction. Their "Sustainable Design Project", is a statewide interdisciplinary project bringing industry, business, community, and higher education partners together with K-12 students to design sustainable solutions to real world challenges. <http://www.k12.wa.us/curriculumInstruct/EnvironmentSustainability/SustainableDesign.aspx>

### **National Sustainability Education Standards, Version 3**

Version 3 of the Education for Sustainability (EFS) student learning standards developed by the K-12 and Teacher Education Sector Team of the US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development are now available. Download here: [http://www.uspartnership.org/resources/0000/0081/USP\\_EFS\\_standards\\_V3\\_10\\_09.pdf](http://www.uspartnership.org/resources/0000/0081/USP_EFS_standards_V3_10_09.pdf)

### **EFS Webinar**

If you missed the recent EDUCATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN K-12 SCHOOLS WEBINAR from the US Partnership, don't worry! Below is the link to watch it for the first time or again! <https://cisco.webex.com/ciscosales/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=EC&rID=40910402&rKey=6ac966f4db035e17>

### **Sustainability Education Summer Institute (SESI)**

The Sustainability Education Summer Institute (SESI) was launched this past July at Islandwood in Washington State. The 3-day event was so popular that it sold out. It provided an excellent opportunity to learn and to network with leaders in the field. SOSI was pleased to present a session, and there were a number of other Oregon presenters and attendees. Conference presentations are online at this NING site:

<http://wasustainabledesignproject.ning.com/>

The dates for this upcoming year have now been set: pre-concert workshop: July 25, conference July 26-8. Bainbridge Island, Washington. Don't miss this! Visit the website and consider attending. <http://www.islandwood.org/events/sustainability-education-summer-institute>

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

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.sustainableschools.org/about/support.htm>.

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!***

## Education for Sustainable Development in the USA

A report submitted to the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes describes the status of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the USA. It focuses on formal (school-based) education at the primary and secondary levels, addressing theoretical concerns as well as research results and the practical realities of American ESD. (*Note: ESD and EfS are both used in the US, and refer to the same thing.*)

[http://www.sustainableschools.org/documents/ESD\\_in\\_the\\_USA\\_8-19-09.pdf](http://www.sustainableschools.org/documents/ESD_in_the_USA_8-19-09.pdf)

## Sustainable Sites

The Sustainable Sites Initiative is an interdisciplinary effort by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden to create voluntary national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices. After four years of development and public feedback, the Initiative released the nation's first rating system for sustainable landscapes this past August. Applications will be accepted until 2/15/10 to be a Pilot Project.

<http://www.sustainablesites.org/>

## Oregon Green Schools Association

The mission of the Oregon Green Schools Association is to assist Oregon schools in setting up, maintaining and recognizing effective, permanent waste reduction and resource efficiency programs that improve the school environment and the community. They are a great resource, ready to help schools with these efforts. Visit their website to see who the local coordinator for your area is. Their recent newsletter includes stories from many schools, and can be accessed from their site under "School Tools". [www.oregongreenschools.org](http://www.oregongreenschools.org)

## Portland Public School's da Vinci Middle School completes net zero-energy classroom

The 1500 sq. ft. building is the home to da Vinci Arts Middle School's music program, housing a music room and 2 practice rooms. The innovative and ambitious design will result in the first LEED-platinum certified (anticipated) public school building, and in a year "net-zero energy" may be tacked onto the building's accomplishments.

<http://facilities.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/11207>

## First there was the Carbon Footprint, and now... the Water Footprint?

What's your water footprint? Even as the greenest among us cut our showers short and let our toilets go yellow, we may be blissfully unaware that our household water use accounts for only 6 percent of the water that

we consume. The other 94 percent comes from the products we buy, everything from almonds and tomatoes to blue jeans and microchips. See the article from Mother Jones magazine;

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2009/07/whats-your-water-footprint>

## National Walk + Bike to School Day, 2009

Schools from around Oregon participated in National Walk+Bike to School day this fall. See who:

<http://walknbike.org/>

## EPA Names Top 20 Green Powered Schools

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership has announced the 20 primary and secondary schools nationwide using the most power from renewable energy sources. The top Green Power Partner schools are buying nearly 113 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually, equivalent to carbon dioxide emissions (CO2) that would be produced from the electricity use of 11,000 American homes for one year. EPA's Green Power Partnership works with more than 1,100 organizations to voluntarily purchase green power to reduce the environmental impacts of conventional electricity use. Green power is generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and low-impact hydropower. Green power electricity generates less pollution than conventional power and produces no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

The top five schools on their list are:

1. Austin Independent School District (Austin, Texas)
2. Round Rock Independent School District (Round Rock, Texas)
3. Rochester City School District (Rochester, N.Y.)
4. Bullis School (Potomac, Md.)
5. The Dalton School (New York, N.Y.)

For more information on the entire top 20 list of k-12 schools see:

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/toplists/top20k-12schools.htm>. For information on EPA's Green Power Partnership see: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>

## BC middle school bike powers its computer lab

Abbotsford middle school has become the first school in Canada to power a computer lab with three sources of renewable power. A wind turbine, solar panels, and a bicycle-powered generator combine to charge a photovoltaic cell and provide carbon-neutral energy for the innovative computer lab.

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/technology/Abbotsford+middle+school+runs+computer+green+energy/2121432/story.html>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Check the SOSI website for details and updates: <http://www.sustainableschools.org/about/events.htm>.

**Upcoming SOSI Events:**

Managing Sustainability Topic Team

January 25, 2010 9:30am to 12:00pm

February 22, 2010 9:30am to 12:00pm

SOSI Steering Committee

February 9, 2010 1:00pm to 4:00pm

**NON-SOSI Events:**

*Inclusion on this page does not imply endorsement by the Zero Waste Alliance or the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative.*

**December 17 Webinar: An Introduction to the National Farm to School Network**

The National Good Food Network presents a look at the key aspects of farm to school initiatives that are getting more good food to more students, all over the country. Information and registration available [here](#).  
12:30pm - 1:45pm PST, online.

**January 14-16, 2010 EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools National Symposium**

Network with school administrators, architects, school nurses, teachers, facility managers, school and health association members, parents, and other leaders. Hands-on sessions will

be led by world-class technical experts and peer faculty. Information and registration [here](#).  
Washington, D.C.

**January 27-28 Oregon School Boards Association Conference: Sustainable Schools: From Start to Finish**

The Bonds, Ballots and Buildings conference has been enhanced to encompass information on creating sustainable school facilities as well as community engagement tools. More information available [here](#).  
Salem, OR

**May 17-19 National Farm to School Conference**

For more information o the 5th annual Farm to School Conference visit <http://farmtocafeteriaconference.com/>.  
Michigan

**July 25-28 Sustainability Education Summer Institute (SESI)**

July 25th – preconference workshop, July 26 – 28 – SESI Conference, Bainbridge Island, Washington  
<http://www.islandwood.org/events/sustainability-education-summer-institute>

**Visit the SOSI Website Events List for more listings:**

<http://sustainableschools.org/about/events.htm>

**BE A SUPPORTER!!** Contributions from you and your organizations make this initiative happen.

Please consider contributing. Details at <http://www.sustainableschools.org/about/support.htm>.

**\*\* Thank You to our Supporters \*\***

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Bonneville Power Administration\*, Coastwide Laboratories\*, Dolphin Software\*, Ecoworks Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation – Schamp Family Fund\*, Oregon Department of Administrative Services, Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon School Employees Association\*, Portland General Electric\*

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

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