

Save It!

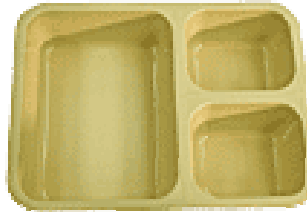
Portland Public Schools Environmental Periodical Newsletter December, 2007

Energy Challenge

It's that time of year again and the 2008 Energy Challenge is just about underway! This year's Challenge will put 15 schools to the test: can students and staff change their behavior and significantly reduce their school's energy consumption? That answer is of course yes, so the Challenge should be a big success! Participating schools will launch a school-wide energy conservation campaign spanning January 2008 through March 2008. These campaigns will utilize assemblies, classroom presentations, posters, slogans and more to keep everyone on their toes and thinking about where they can save energy! Missed out on this year's Challenge but still want to bring energy conservation to your school? Great! Contact [Katie Fairhead](#) to get started.

New Americorps Members, Katie Fairhead, Cassedy Sullivan and Brett Stigle, organize exciting new projects in the spirit of a sustainable school district.

A former Pilot's Pilot



I am confident that this Portland River Pilot is ready to take on the Styrofoam tray conundrum here at PPS. (Cassedy is a recent graduate from the University of Portland with a degree in Environmental Ethics and Policy with a minor in Biology.) We still use Styrofoam for every hot lunch every day. We have two schools, MLC and Sunnyside, that have permanent ware and this year will expand this program to as many as 8 more schools in the district. It will be a prideful waste reduction feat and will engage students and volunteers in the actual washing of the trays. Nutrition Services and the Environmental Health and Safety Department at PPS are excited for this project and the potential to expand the program in the future!



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Student Initiated Bioswale at MLC

Congratulations! Metropolitan Learning Center is the latest Portland Public School to install a bioswale. Just a few weeks ago asphalt filled the entire area of the parking lot on the West side of the MLC building. Now a long strip of vegetated ground runs the length of the parking spaces in between where cars park bumper to bumper. The bioswale is designed to hold, absorb and filter rainwater runoff to reduce the amount of storm water going down the drain and ultimately into the Willamette River.

Students at MLC initiated the project and helped through every stage along with dedicated parents and teachers. The MLC bioswale and others like it enhance the aesthetics of the school itself while benefiting the community by decreasing pollution to watersheds. In addition, to increased watershed health, other benefits include the creation of habitat as well as providing a learning opportunity for students just outside the classroom window. Students will have an opportunity to identify plants,

BookByte

Portland Public Schools (PPS) has selected Bookbyte.com as their preferred service provider in the management of **obsolete, out of date, old textbooks**. This new process saves the district time and increases revenue potential. Schools contact Bookbyte.com by phone or email when they have books for recycling or disposal. Charlene DeLong 503-378-1500, ext 8120 (cdelong@bookbyte.com) The textbook pros from Bookbyte schedule a convenient time to pick up the books at the school. The school receives payment for the books of value. Books of no value are recycled. The district receives all recycling proceeds.

Engage the National Movement for Action on Climate Change!

Preventing a climate crisis is going to be the challenge this young generation faces. Thousands of American students recognize climate change and are coming to know our contribution to the problem. The youth are especially optimistic about our future, and as the science solidifies our focus changes from problems to solutions. There are several national student-led organizations fighting climate change from the university level of American society. This student network is organizing from the grassroots to build critical support for political and economic reform. As it gains momentum, the movement is reaching out to high school and middle school students. We know that our institutions have to reflect our values of conservation and social equity.



Attention: High Schoolers, Want to save the world? Here's how:

- ❖ Find out your impact on the global environment:

<http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/>

Consumer Consequences is a game that walks you through your carbon footprint. And shows you what parts of your lifestyle contribute the most to climate change.



- ❖ See what students at other schools are doing:

<http://focusthenation.org/>

Focus the Nation is a national campaign to focus the curriculum in schools on global warming solutions for one day every year. There are more than 600 schools involved. It was conceived here in Portland and will culminate on January 31, 2008, when students will enter into dialogue with our politicians.

<http://ssc.org/> , <http://climatechallenge.org/>

The Campus Climate Challenge is a campaign supported by the Sierra Student Coalition and has more than 800 schools across the country with the goal of making American campuses climate neutral.

- ❖ Plug into an organization that appeals to you:

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

Save Our Snow! A campaign to save the glaciers that we ski and snowboard on, preserve the clean oceans we surf and swim in, and make sure that water flows in the rivers where we kayak and boat.



Green School Summit

The Oregon Green School Summit will be held in Salem at the Oregon State Fair Grounds. It is FREE to attend and substitute teachers, transportation and lunch are included. Only Certified Oregon Green Schools are invited to attend. The summit is on March 13th, 2008, so we have plenty of time to get you certified so that your students can attend. There will be numerous hands on sessions and this year the focus is on "personal empowerment for resource conservation." Each school brings a display to share. To learn more see www.oregongreenschools.org or contact Cassidy, (503) 916-2000 x4266, csulliv1@pps.k12.or.us who is your Green School Coordinator.

Low Hanging Fruit: Battery Collection



When working for the health of the earth we always want to tackle simple but important issues first. We use the term “low hanging fruit” to refer to easy actions we can take and things we can change about operations that are simple but that reduce our environmental impact significantly. Recycling batteries is a prime example of low hanging fruit.

At Maplewood Elementary Schools, a newly certified Oregon Green School, Phil Novitsky's third graders have initiated a battery collection program. They have already collected 200 pounds since this fall and intend to continue collection all year! Battery recycling removes very toxic materials from the waste stream and recycles them through the Environmental Health and Safety Department here at the district office. The kids at Maplewood now have access to battery recycling and have the power to keep the hazardous heavy metals out of their home trash cans and landfills!

Thank you, Maplewood for giving students and employees the opportunity to make more responsible choices. You have shown us how easy it can be to plant the seeds of change!



Recycling Announcement:

Does your school recycle correctly? Paper (white and color newspaper, copy paper, magazines, notebook paper, etc.) bagged separately from drink containers (plastic bottles and aluminum/tin cans).

NEW! We are now permitted to recycle yogurt tubs with the plastic and cans as long as it is **rinsed out** thoroughly.

Upcoming Grant opportunities:

- Metro Community Enhancement Grants: **Applications due December 17th**. Grants available for a wide range of projects in North and Northwest Portland, including restoration and environmental education programs. Contact Karen Blauer with questions: blauerk@metro.dst.or.us or (503) 797 1506. Learn more and apply [here](#).
- EPA Environmental Education Grants: **Applications due December 20th**. Grants available for environmental education projects that enhance public awareness, knowledge and skills to help them make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. Learn more and apply [here](#).
- Captain Planet Foundation Grants: **Applications due December 31st**. \$250-\$2500 Grants available for projects that promote environmental understanding in youth. Learn more and apply [here](#).
- The Mountaineers Foundation: **Applications due January 1st**. Up to \$5000 available to educational projects related to environmental preservation and restoration. Learn more and apply [here](#).
- Toyota Tapestry Grants: **Applications due January 28th, 2008**. Large and Small Grants to K-12 Science Teachers for innovative science projects. Send questions to tapestry@nsta.org and apply [here](#).
- Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants: **Applications due February 15, 2008**. \$2000-\$5000 grants available for projects that engage parents and communities. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Website

Looking for more Grants and other Resource Conservation information?

Check out [PPS' Resource Conservation Website](#) – here you can find out about other grants available to you as well as the wealth of resources available to you via your friendly neighborhood AmeriCorps Members. Check it out and find information about anything and everything from Green School Applications to PPS Recycling Procedures to Stormwater projects to Energy Conservation tips and programs to environmental education links and more. You can also find this and prior issues of Save It! on our website.