

Recycle at School

NEWS TO REUSE | NOVEMBER 2009

*Every individual matters.
Every individual has a role
to play. Every individual
makes a difference.*

– Jane Goodall

What's inside?

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The Recycle at School newsletter, published every other month during the school year, provides sustainability tips and updates on waste reduction education.

We value your feedback. Please send comments, topic suggestions and requests to be added or removed from the mailing list to rasnews@oregonmetro.gov.

Teaming up for a successful year

Has your school had a chance to organize or revitalize its waste prevention and recycling program this fall? If not, there is still plenty of time to get started! The Metro Recycle at School program would like to help you make changes at your school to become more sustainable.

In this issue of the Recycle at School newsletter, learn how a few simple steps have made a big difference in four schools' efforts to go green. From strong staff support and timely curriculum additions to robust student participation and community involvement, the schools put their best foot forward for success.

Also included in this newsletter are tips for starting a green team. Schools with green teams have been shown to initiate projects that go above and beyond everyday recycling.



School showcase: going above and beyond

Templeton Elementary School

Tigard-Tualatin School District

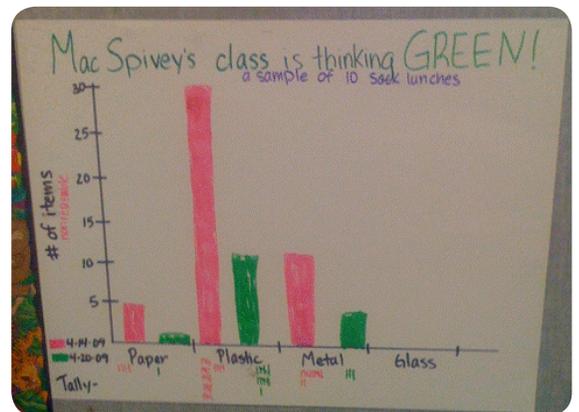
Key elements: Green team, green patrol, curriculum integration

Overcoming the challenge of limited staff time for working on the school's sustainability program is something all schools face.

Templeton resolved this by forming a green team comprised of teachers, staff and principal who meet on a regular basis to distribute tasks equally among members.

Green team accomplishments last year included starting a student green patrol whose fourth and fifth grade members rated recycling efforts in each classroom for quality and quantity. A significant reduction of paper in trash was noted after green patrols were implemented.

Templeton also worked on reducing lunch waste by having students from each grade level measure their lunch waste and graph the results



Templeton Elementary students show how much waste is diverted by recycling.

for Earth Day last year. Students were able to see how much trash they were producing as well as practice math skills. As a result of seeing how much lunch waste was created at the school, the green team is working with the parent/student organization to find resources and develop a plan for recycling milk cartons this school year.

At your service

Metro offers resources for teachers, students and staff to help improve and protect our region's livability, including ensuring clean air and water for future generations.

Waste reduction educators work in schools and summer day camps, helping youth learn about waste reduction, resource conservation and personal choices that can make a difference.

The Recycle at School program helps schools establish or expand their current recycling systems. Metro staff also provides assistance on preventing waste and conducting sustainable operations.

Metro partners with the Oregon Green Schools Association, which recognizes schools for their waste reduction efforts and achievements.

Find out more about these resources at www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling.

Sunstone Montessori School

Key elements: Parent volunteers, community involvement

Every school can use a champion to keep them going on the path to sustainability. Sunstone Montessori had already demonstrated its commitment to waste reduction by using durable dishware and cloth napkins for every meal and event held on campus, but parent volunteer Christy Miller Kuziinsky was ready to have the school do more – especially with food waste.

With the help of Metro's Recycle at School specialists, the school expanded its current recycling system to include food waste by participating in the *Portland Composts* program. Because food waste is composted in an off-site location, the school has eliminated the risk of pest problems and property management issues from on-site composting.

Sunstone Montessori also hosts NW Earth Institute community meetings that promote sustainability awareness and behavioral change. Creating partnerships with outside organizations is great way for schools to share resources and involve the community in becoming more sustainable.

Holy Redeemer Catholic School

Key elements: Green patrol, cafeteria systems, community involvement

It wasn't enough that Holy Redeemer's cafeteria system produced only one can of garbage per week by preparing meals from fresh ingredients, using durable dishware, composting food waste and recycling milk cartons – facilities director John Baggenstos wanted to do more!

The school's green patrol, along with a Metro Recycle at School specialist, conducted an audit of the school's waste by grade level and posted the results for all to see. Creating a fun and competitive culture prompted students to do more to reduce their garbage and consumption. It also led to creating new waste reduction goals for the school.

This school year, Holy Redeemer is working to establish community partnerships and integrate sustainability into the curriculum by making plans to create a community garden that can help teach the students about conservation and provide vegetables to food banks or other community organizations.



Holy Redeemer Elementary School's cafeteria collects food waste for composting.

Tip of the month

Go farther with GREEN Teams



What's a green team?

A school green team establishes school goals and actions for recycling, preventing waste and conserving resources. Led by students or staff, it can include both as participants too. Green teams can go a long way toward increasing participation in school waste reduction programs because the goals and project ideas come from the team, rather than just one person. Successful green teams may not include all staff, but are sure to communicate goals and objectives to everyone.

Where do you start?

One person can't do it alone! Find supporters by sending a note to faculty, staff and parents or by requesting volunteers at a meeting. Don't have time to be your school's champion? Identify another supporter who can coordinate the efforts.

Create your green team with the folks who expressed interest and support in helping your school be more sustainable. Schedule regular meeting times and select one person to lead the team.

Contact your recycling specialist for help with establishing goals and best practices. Metro's Recycle at School specialists can conduct walk-through site evaluations at your school to identify best practices for waste reduction and recycling. They can also help you find resources needed to implement your program.

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What is the difference between a green team and a green patrol?

Green patrols are groups of students that carry out the actions decided by the green team. For example, the green patrol at Templeton Elementary includes fourth and fifth grader students that audit the waste and recycling containers and collect every classroom's recyclable materials.

Participation in the patrol group helps students develop leadership skills and directly contribute to a sustainable future for their school.

Prescott Elementary School

Parkrose School District

Key elements: Green team, cafeteria systems, curriculum integration

Principal Michael Lopes and volunteer Johanna Lopes are working hard to create a culture of respect for the environment and for learning at this Parkrose school.

Last year, Prescott took advantage of the waste prevention assembly programs, puppet shows and presentations offered by Metro and Johanna showed Garden Club students how their food waste can be turned into nutrient-rich soil amendment to use in the school's garden. A compost tumbler was purchased and Mr. Lopes and staff familiarized student with the new composting system in the cafeteria.

By integrating waste reduction concepts into the curriculum, students have increased their understanding of conservation concepts and decreased the amount of trash that is created at the school.

Prescott received its Oregon Green Schools certificate at the first assembly of this school year. Along with messages promoting respect for learning and the environment, the school was recognized for all of its outstanding efforts.



Prescott Elementary Principal, Michael Lopes, receives the school's Oregon Green School certificate from Metro's Freda Sherburne.

Would you like to see your school highlighted in the Recycle at School newsletter? Send a note and photo about your achievements to rasnews@oregonmetro.gov.

This issue's W.O.W. (waste-oriented web site)

www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling

You can't do it all – and you don't have to! Team up with Metro educators for engaging, interactive presentations on recycling, composting, waste prevention and more – all at no cost to your school. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling for details. While there, discover fast facts, field trips, free puppet shows, videos for loan and other available waste reduction resources.

Have a W.O.W. to share? E-mail your favorite waste-oriented web site to rasnews@oregonmetro.gov.



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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President
David Bragdon

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Rod Park, District 1,
Carlotta Collette, District
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District 4, Rex Burkholder,
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Auditor
Suzanne Flynn



Oregon Green Schools

Fall 2009 achievers

The following schools worked hard last spring to complete their applications to be Oregon Green Schools. Their certificates were presented at assemblies this fall. Congratulations! What a great way to motivate students to get going on waste prevention and recycling for this school year!

Entry level

- Riverdale High School
- Sweetbriar Elementary School
- Prescott Elementary School
- Holy Redeemer Elementary School
- St. Anthony School

Premier level

- Harold Oliver Primary School – now in its ninth year as a Premier Oregon Green School!

Save the date!

The 2010 Oregon Green School Summit is scheduled for Friday, March 5th at Portland Lutheran School in Gresham. Each Oregon Green School is invited to send a small team of students and one adult to participate in a full day of sharing and learning.

Registration information will be announced in early January. To be eligible to register for the Summit, your school must be certified as an Oregon Green School.

Contact your Metro Recycle at School specialists for assistance in becoming an Oregon Green School or download an application from www.oregongreenschools.org.



2009 Metro Billboard contest winner

Sophie Alness, grade 6
"Reduce reuse recycle"

Recycle at School contact information

Recycle at School specialists

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Metro presentations

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www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling