

CONSERVATION NEWS

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For more copies of this newsletter:

- Please contact Nicole Riss at 206-252-0599 or nariss@seattleschools.org
- Provide your name and contact information, the name of your school, and the number of copies you would like.

SPS STUDENTS SHOW THEIR LEADERSHIP AT ISLANDWOOD SUMMIT

On May 28th students and teachers from around the Puget Sound took part in IslandWood's *Make a Difference Summit*. This was a day for school groups to come together and share how they have made positive impacts in their school, community and environment. Students demonstrated their leadership in environmental stewardship and academics by preparing and delivering presentations on their projects.

The agenda was limited to 10 schools, with 4 Seattle schools represented. Montlake Elementary presented their three-pronged approach to waste reduction, focusing on worm bins, on-site composting, and haul-off composting. Montlake students use plant debris from their greenhouse and garden to produce beneficial compost in worm bins and on-site compost containers. Students also operate the haul-off composting program that diverts a large



Make a Difference Summit poster at IslandWood. Photo courtesy of Soren Burns

amount of lunchroom waste from landfills. Bryant Elementary demonstrated their knowledge of the history of Ravenna Creek and reported on their current research. Students are studying the creek's health through collecting data on the physical properties and macro invertebrate populations. Cooper Elementary is entwining environmental aspects through many of their activities and lessons in their EARTH Project. This project started in the classroom through planning native species gardens. Students and teachers are now taking the lessons into nature by planting the gardens where, once established, students will learn about a different species

at each grade level. The EARTH project brings the activities full circle back into the classroom by incorporating nature and recycled items into art projects.

Some projects outside of Seattle Public Schools included a plastic bag recycling campaign, a shoe drive, and a scientific approach to lunchroom composting.

Students demonstrated that they are not the future, they are the present; leading their schools and communities to a more sustainable and healthy planet.

For more information about IslandWood, please visit www.islandwood.org.

BOILER TUNE-UPS

With the help of Puget Sound Energy, our natural gas provider, nearly every gas boiler in the District will be tuned up at no cost to us! About 10 boilers were tuned this Spring. The remaining boilers will be adjusted during 2008/09. A tune-up can

reduce the natural gas consumed of the boiler by up to 20% and increase its output. The tune-ups start with measuring the oxygen concentration, flue gas temperature, and emissions. Then the air/fuel ratio is adjusted to the optimum point of combustion

efficiency. A tune-up can detect and correct excess air losses, smoking, unburned fuel losses, sooting, fireside fouling and high flue gas temperatures.

REMEMBER TO SORT AS YOU GET READY FOR SUMMER

For many of us, the end of the school year is a great time to go through items collected during the year and get rid of unwanted materials. As we do this it is important to take the time to sort through these items in order to divert as much waste as possible. Garbage from each facility in the District is picked up daily, weekly, or somewhere in between by a diesel truck.

Garbage trucks then take it to a transfer station where it is eventually moved to a rail train. The train then takes it to a landfill in Oregon where it remains indefinitely. In addition to the pollution emitted while transporting our garbage, it produces methane gas as it breaks down in the landfill. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane is

more than 20 times as effective as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere! When you are not able to reduce waste, it is important to divert as much as possible from the landfill by reusing or recycling it.

On average, one cubic foot of garbage weighs over 5.5 pounds.
~Resource Venture,
Seattle Climate Partnership

RECYCLE

Paper and Cardboard

- Clean paper and mail (staples and window envelopes OK)
- Magazines, brochures and flyers
- Shredded paper – bagged (long strips only, not confetti)
- Flattened Cardboard (size limit: 3'x3')
- Frozen food boxes (liner removed)

Plastics

- Plastic bottles, jugs, and jars (no lids)
- Plastic dairy tubs
- Plastic retail bags (bagged in one plastic bag, tied securely)
- Plastic film, shrink wrap, bubble wrap (bagged in one plastic bag, tied securely)

Metal / Glass

- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans
- Scrap metal
- Bottles and jars (no lids)

DO NOT RECYCLE

- Tissue / carbon paper
- Detergent boxes
- Motor oil containers
- Pizza boxes with oil or food remnants
- Light bulbs
- Paper towels, plates, or napkins
- Waxed / plastic coated cardboard or paper
- Loose plastic bags
- Aerosol cans
- Batteries
- CDs
- Window or mirror glass
- Plastic cups, plates, and utensils
- Toilet paper

DISPOSABLE WATER BOTTLES ELIMINATED AT CONCORD

The Green Team at Concord Elementary noticed that there were a lot of disposable water bottles being thrown away and recycled during WASL testing last year. The water bottles were used for convenience during the tests. In the past, over 100 disposable water bottles were used for each day of WASL testing.

As they prepared for the WASL this year, students wrote persuasive letters explaining why the

use of disposable water bottles was not environmentally responsible. In response, Concord purchased reusable water bottles for the students!

This follows Mayor Greg Nickels announcement in March

that the City of Seattle will stop buying bottled water. According to the executive order, producing bottles for U.S. consumers requires more than 17 million barrels of oil, not including transport, and only 1 in 10 bottles are recycled.



Concord students in the school garden. Photo courtesy of Soren Burns

HOW MUCH WASTE DOES YOUR SCHOOL PRODUCE?

Nearly every day materials flow in and out of our schools. Newspapers, lunches, packing materials, office paper, and other waste is an inevitable part of our world today. The Seattle School District produces over 211,000 cubic feet of waste every month during the school year! That's enough to fill almost 2 ½ Olympic swimming pools every 30 days. There are a lot of things we can do to reduce our waste. For ideas, visit www.seattleschools.org/area/conservation and click on "Conserving at SPS".

	ft ³	G	R
VIEW RIDGE	2.2	75%	25%
GREENWOOD*	2.7	37%	63%
LAURELHURST*	2.8	55%	45%
WHITTIER	3.1	73%	27%
COE	3.1	67%	33%
LOYAL HEIGHTS*	3.1	60%	40%
ROOSEVELT	3.1	87%	13%
LINCOLN	3.1	82%	18%
MADISON	3.1	67%	33%
LAFAYETTE	3.1	67%	33%
HALE	3.2	80%	20%
BLAINE	3.3	57%	43%
WEDGEWOOD	3.4	67%	33%
NORTH BEACH	3.4	89%	11%
BAGLEY	3.5	60%	40%
BALLARD*	3.5	80%	20%
INGRAHAM	3.7	74%	26%
JSIS	3.7	50%	50%
W. SEATTLE H.S.	3.8	60%	40%
DEARBORN PK.	3.8	67%	33%
MERCER	3.8	67%	33%
SCHMITZ PARK	3.9	73%	27%
LAWTON*	4.0	62%	38%
W. WOODLAND*	4.0	62%	38%
GATEWOOD*	4.0	60%	40%
WHITMAN	4.0	75%	25%
FRANKLIN	4.1	83%	17%
SANISLO	4.1	73%	27%
MUIR*	4.1	55%	45%
LOWELL*	4.1	71%	29%
MCGILVRA	4.2	67%	33%
WHITWORTH	4.2	67%	33%
SACAJAWEA*	4.3	67%	33%
SALMON BAY*	4.4	78%	22%
DECATUR	4.5	67%	33%
DAY	4.5	60%	40%
AKI KUROSE	4.5	67%	33%
HIGHLAND PARK	4.6	75%	25%
MAPLE	4.6	67%	33%
ECKSTEIN	4.6	83%	17%
SEWARD*	4.7	57%	43%
HAY	4.7	67%	33%
MANN/NOVA	4.8	50%	50%

	ft ³	G	R
OLYMPIC VIEW	4.8	67%	33%
ALKI	4.8	57%	43%
CONCORD*	5.0	46%	54%
BRYANT	5.0	73%	27%
BRIGHTON	5.1	80%	20%
GRAHAM HILL	5.1	80%	20%
MEANY	5.2	80%	20%
GATZERT	5.2	57%	43%
MADRONA	5.2	67%	33%
SEALTH	5.3	86%	14%
STEVENS*	5.4	50%	50%
EMERSON	5.5	67%	33%
HAMILTON	5.5	75%	25%
KIMBALL	5.5	67%	33%
NORTHGATE	5.6	67%	33%
ADAMS	5.7	67%	33%
DUNLAP	5.8	67%	33%
WASHINGTON	5.9	62%	38%
LESCHI	5.9	67%	33%
WING LUKE	6.0	73%	27%
MONTLAKE*	6.0	67%	33%
BEACON HILL	6.1	60%	40%
DENNY	6.1	73%	27%
GREENLAKE	6.2	86%	14%
ROGERS	6.2	87%	13%
MCCLURE	6.3	75%	25%
BROADVIEW	6.3	50%	50%
JANE ADDAMS	6.3	75%	25%
AAA	6.6	80%	20%
OLYMPIC HILLS	6.8	67%	33%
ROXHILL	7.2	80%	20%
ARBOR HEIGHTS	7.6	60%	40%
PATHFINDER*	7.6	67%	33%
T. MARSHALL	8.0	60%	40%
HAWTHORNE	8.8	67%	33%
MINOR	9.0	67%	33%
VAN ASSELT	9.0	82%	18%
RAINIER BEACH	9.8	80%	20%
PINEHURST	10.0	67%	33%
COOPER	10.5	75%	25%
W. SEATTLE ES	10.7	67%	33%
J. MARSHALL	12.8	75%	25%
CLEVELAND	13.8	87%	13%

ft³ : Cubic Feet of Waste per Student per Month (including garbage and recycling)
G : % of waste that is disposed of in the garbage.
R : % of waste that is recycled (through mixed waste and/or composting)
* : indicates a school with a commercial composting program

Seattle Public Schools spent approximately \$1,118,000 on refuse in 2005/06 alone.

Seattle Public Schools

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*We want to hear from you!
If you have a story you
would like to share, please
contact SPS Resource
Conservation at the address
listed above.*

“BRING LESS, EAT MORE” CAMPAIGN AT WEST WOODLAND

As part of their efforts to reduce at school, West Woodland students are teaching their peers to conserve in the lunchroom. The students say it best in an article they wrote for their school paper:

“The reason for this [program] is because our class was not eating enough of their lunch, so we decided to inform other students and parents that human waste is negatively impacting our environment. To help reduce your waste, here are some simple ways you can help! You can use a lunch box instead of a paper/plastic bag. This can help you because a paper bag you just throw away, but if you use a lunch box, you will be able to use it for a long time. Another way to help reduce waste is to use containers instead of plastic bags, because if you throw plastic bags away, they will be sitting in a landfill for ten to twenty years [or many more]! In addition, the containers are reusable, so you won’t have to throw them away. Finally, the simplest way to help is just to drink water from the water fountain in your classroom, because you don’t have to waste paper cups at the coolers in the halls. Also, you can bring your own water bottles to school.



We are doing this program because: it’s a way to help our environment by reducing waste and reusing our old things (Tupperware, bags, paper, and more!).. This is a way we can help to reduce landfills and make the world healthier. Think what the world will be like in a few years if we don’t take action now. If you are careless, nature will get back at you by running out of the things that you like. Imagine walking down your street and looking at people’s gardens and they were full of trash. Would you like that? Or, would you rather see flowers in bloom and tall trees all around? That’s why we are trying to help.”

Many thanks to Room 206 and Mr. Langley for sharing their article with us.