

## Conservation News & Announcements

May 10, 2007



### Walking School Bus Reduces Air Pollution



Students on a Walking School Bus at Bailey Gatzert Elementary.

One of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution is vehicle exhaust. In order to mitigate some of those effects, Lawton Elementary organizes a Walking School Bus every Wednesday and Friday. Students are escorted by parents, teachers, and staff from five separate locations about a mile from school. 125 students participated on the inaugural day. Not only did this reduce the amount of pollution and traffic congestion around the school, but the students arrived at school refreshed and ready to learn.

One 2nd grader commented “I used to think walking to school would be really really boring, and long, and tiring, but it was really FUN!” Cool Moms, a neighborhood environmental group, received a grant to enhance the project with route signs and other promotions. Bailey-Gatzert and Laurelhurst also have similar programs.