

The Green Wire

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Energy Myths

1. **Myth:** Computer screen savers save energy.

Actually computers can use MORE energy when the screen saver is on. The screen saver was developed to protect old big box computers. If you have a flat screen you do not need a screen saver.

2. **Myth:** If a classroom gets too warm in the winter I should always open a window.

Actually if you feel too warm during the heating season please let your custodian know. Your room may have a malfunctioning thermostat or heater. When you open the window the heater works to raise the temperature of the over-heated room and the hot air goes right outside. Let the HVAC technician know about the problem and it can be fixed without wasting energy.

3. **Myth:** If lights turn on automatically they should be on, even if the sun is shining.

Actually you are the best judge of whether extra light is needed. If you have enough sunlight switch off lamps.

Resource Wise at OSD

This year many of us have made hard choices to save energy and resources.

Here are just a few highlights:

Support Services Staff, lead by Supervisor **Julie DeRuwe**, solved issues related to unnecessary resource use:

- Head custodians reviewed their garbage and recycling use, many opted to compact cardboard and garbage so they can use smaller, cheaper containers. Annual district savings will be over \$9000.
- Energy detectives and HVAC experts, **Greg Deer** and **Ian Tharp**, used sophisticated investigative techniques to find and fix equipment that was wasting energy. Thanks to them, in March and April **all** school natural gas bills showed savings!
- HVAC experts also balanced individual school energy demand loads to cut demand surcharges. By cutting peak demand electricity bills at some schools will drop by one third.
- Electrician **Mike Workman** hung new super efficient replacement EXIT signs.
- Vendors installed free water saving aerators in our hand sinks and kitchens. We should save \$4000 on water, sewer and electric bills.



Students and teachers also found ways to save resources and educate the community. Some examples include:

- **Carmen Kardokus** adopted worm bins, taught environmental classes and hosted guest speakers at Reeves Middle School.
- **Keitlyn Watson** started a "Lights Out" campaign, and a Watt Watchers Patrol while promoting conservation at Boston Harbor Elementary School.
- **Michael Stine** coordinated activities at Garfield Elementary School where students assisted in composting, created Earth Day posters and essays, and teachers taught about rain barrels and sustainability and lead field trips.
- **Ed Bassett** at Olympia High School lead Earth Corps club members who helped launch a food composting program, collected and sorted recyclable materials, sold reusable water bottles and collected used cell phones.
- **Jeff Waddington's** OHS students designed websites on environmental themes and promoted turning off TV's after morning announcements.
- **Ryan Hook's** Environmental Club members at Capital High School promoted environmental awareness and collected and sorted recyclables.
- Environmental speakers visited schools, from Puget Sound Energy, Thurston County, GruB, Terra Commons, and other organizations.
- Many students, teachers and staff used alternative transportation all year.



Your Resource Conservation Manager,

Bonnie Meyer (360) 596-8566

Summer ideas to save resources and money

1. Play it again Sam. Go back to the neighborhood park often to see the vegetation change and get to know every inch of the grounds. You will develop a deep sense of place that will stay with you throughout your life.
2. Water is scarce during the summer so use it sparingly. Incorporate outdoor water games into your sprinkling routine or cool off at a local pool instead of using water at home.
3. Pack a "waste free" picnic and enjoy the outdoors while you eat.
4. Visit the library for excellent entertainment; paper books, talking books, DVD's, magazines, computers and research materials.
5. Create art projects using only found items, recyclables and glue.
6. Play board games and cards to teach cooperation, concentration and to have fun without using energy.
7. Go on a nature walk and list what you see.



Intercity Transit and the City of Olympia sponsored Bike to School Day on May 15, 2009. Many OSD staff and students participated.

Waste Free Lunch



What's your favorite part of the day? If you answered lunchtime you are not alone. Students and staff look forward to lunch.

Child Nutrition Services staff serve up delicious, nutritious choices. Or families and staff may pack lunches from home. With many selections available here are some guidelines for packing a lunch without generating waste.



1. Use a lunch container that lasts a long time. Metal, fabric and nylon are great.
2. Place each lunch item into a sturdy reusable container,
3. Pack a metal spoon or fork and make sure it comes home to be washed and reused.
4. Buy food items in bulk to reduce packaging and dish up individual servings.
5. Wrap items with wax paper if you don't have a reusable container.
6. Pack a small cloth napkin or bandana.
7. Include a thermos or drink container that is reusable and sturdy, such as metal or hard plastic.
8. Only pack the amount of food that will be eaten.
9. If your school composts, paper bags and napkins may be composted too, but reuse is always best.

Leave halogen home

Halogen lamps get very hot and can cause fires on contact. When torchieres, or pole lamps are used in classrooms it is a recipe for disaster.



This lamp was recalled because the halogen bulb gets so hot it melts the plastic and could start a fire.

Fire hazard

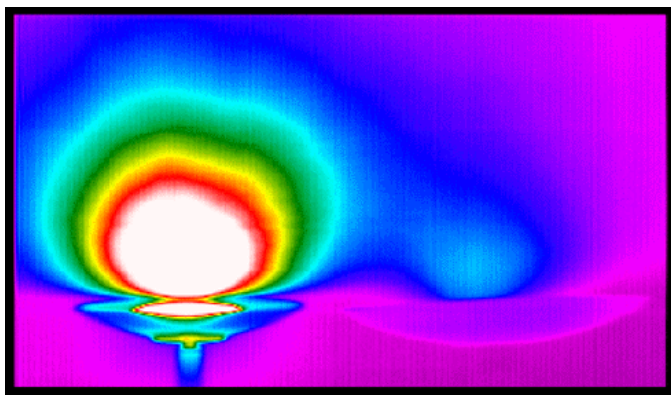
Students are active and can knock over the lamps which reach very high temperatures. Many colleges and apartments have banned these lamps because of the fire hazard.

Energy hogs

There is another reason to get rid of these lamps. They burn lots of energy, using ten times more power than a compact florescent lamp with the same amount of light. The compact florescent lamps stay cool and pose no fire risk.

Classroom Lighting

If your classroom or office is too dark please see your Head Custodian about increasing your lighting. Everyone is entitled to a safe and lighted workplace. Support Services staff will work with you to ensure that you have enough lighting, while also ensuring that your lights meet school district energy efficiency standards.



Halogen

CFL

Halogen lamp compared to a compact florescent lamp using heat sensitive photography. The blue and purple light is cool, while the white and red light is super heated.

OHS Earth Corps Wins \$1000.00 Ecology Award

The Terry Husseman School Awards program, presented by the Department of Ecology recognizes schools annually for developing and implementing innovative curricula, sustaining ongoing waste reduction efforts, or starting new environmental programs.

This May, the Olympia High School Earth Corps received a \$1000 award to cover the costs of a recycling sorting station and clear view bags for a collection system.

Student Earth Corp members Leah Rick and Kaytlyn Ly say they know first hand the positive effects that their environmental endeavors have had on their school community. From a reduction in lunch time waste, to increased awareness about recycling, the student body has become much more aware of its impact on the environment.

According to proud Advisor Ed Bassett, students wanted to do the right thing even after learning that their efforts would no longer bring monetary commodities credits.

Summer Opportunity

Student intern volunteers are encouraged to apply to assist in resource conservation management this summer at OSD.

Interns may work 4-6 hours per day for one to three weeks this summer.

Benefits

Interns will learn about conservation, gain real world experience, gain database analysis and energy software skills.

Responsibilities:

- Enter data
 - Write letters
 - Make telephone calls
- Each intern will also create an original program, article, game or promotional material that will be used during the 2010-2011 school year.

Send letter of interest, resume and references to: Bonnie Meyer, RCM
bmeyer@osd.wednet.edu

Plug Loads are Energy Thieves

When is turning it off not enough? When your appliance draws power just from being plugged in. Plug load costs can add up fast since each watt costs about a dollar a year.

Many appliances are designed with motors that stay warm and “ready” even when turned off. You must unplug these items or they continue to use energy. The school district asks teachers to turn off their power strips at night and on weekends to reduce plug-load. One power strip holds several energy draining plugs and is easy to switch on and off. See how much energy your device uses each year:



Device	Average watts
Computers	
Desktop off	2.8
Desktop idle	74.0
Notebook off	8.9
Computer speakers	1.8
Fax- inkjet ready	6.4
Scanner (off)	2.7
Printer, laser on	131.0
Printer, laser, off	1.6
Printer Inkjet on	5.0
Printer inkjet off	1.3
TV/VCR off	5.2
Microwave	3.1
Coffeemaker	1.1

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory www.standby.lbl.gov



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Message from the Olympia High School VisCom class. Graphic urges people to turn off classroom TVs after morning announcements. Submitted by Jeff Waddington.