

The Green Wire

Resource Conservation News December 2010



Snow and Gifts

This winter the snow and ice started early. My thanks go out to all of you who have taken to wearing pile and wool during these colder days. As you know, some schools have better heaters than others. The dedicated Support Services Center staff are busy repairing and adjusting our equipment, doing their best to keep all of us comfortable. If you notice problems, please tell your head custodian, who will report the condition. This is the first step towards solving any problems. When it comes time to pay the gas and electrical bills this season I'll let you know how we've done and hope to report continued success in conservation.



OHS Students show their glass-working skills.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Opportunities and contests | 2 |
| Stop the thieves | 3 |
| Set printers to default to print on both sides | 3 |
| Holiday lights | 4 |

Cool Programs

Cool the Earth Campaign is a new program for K-6. The program has lots of creative, fun free items and ideas for promoting climate change education.

Cooltheearth.org

The **LOTT Alliance** has opened the Water Education and Technology (WET) Center with interactive exhibits, weekend family activities, and environmental presentations. They also offer treatment plant tours. Call Susie Vanderburg, (360) 528-5742.

The **Thurston County Public Health Department** has programs and publications about: toxic materials in the home and yard; septic systems; wells and drinking water, and watershed protection. For more information call (360)867-2674

Gifts

As the holiday season comes rapidly upon on us, I offer low-impact **gift suggestions**. Making lasting memories is as easy as giving experiences instead of stuff.

- Give the gift of an **outing**: Listen to live music, see a play, cheer for a sports team, watch animals in the zoo, attend the ballet, or visit a museum.
- Give the gift of **technical skill**: Show a novice how to use text messaging; download photos; program their new television; or set their programmable thermostat.
- Give the gift of **craft**: Share your knowledge by teaching a lesson on wood-working, sewing, painting, home repairing or singing.
- Give the gift of **playing**: Take a bicycle ride, paddle a boat, play basketball, venture out onto the ski slopes, or enjoy a board game together.
- Give the gift of **time**: Offer an hour or two of your specialty: home improvements, changing light bulbs (to CFLs, of course), gutter cleaning, babysitting, gardening, taxi service, reading aloud, cooking, baking or closet organizing.

Happy Holidays,

Bonnie Meyer (360) 596-8566

Conservation Challenge in 2011

Earn prizes and funding for your school by taking the Conservation Challenge. You and your school can win if you show energy savings and support for resource conservation. The new application process is easy and quick. Simple instructions and a two page electronic application are available at:

http://osd.wednet.edu/schools/resource_conservation/conservation_challenge_materials

Some project ideas include:

- Produce a Public Service Announcement about an RCM topic.
- Start a club to Detect Energy Waste and find solutions to save energy.
- Decorate the school with art on an environmental theme or using recycled products.
- Focus on reducing waste from home by encouraging students and staff to use reusable lunch and drink containers.
- Visit a water, electricity or waste utility, learn more about conservation and let us know how you change your habits.

Keep classroom crooks away when you leave

- Close blinds.
- Lock-up expensive equipment. If you don't have a locked area, hide the equipment. Out of sight may be good enough to prevent crime.
- Check to make sure air intake areas are uncovered.
- Cover or put away items of sentimental value.
- Take home food and decorations that are made with food. Food attracts pests that destroy property and spread germs.
- If you come back while school is out be sure to double check that doors are locked behind you when you leave.



Opportunities and Contests

President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) - Recognizes young people who protect our air, water, land, and ecology. One project from each region is selected for national recognition. Projects of all types may be developed by young individuals, school classes (K-12), summer camps, and youth organizations to promote environmental stewardship.

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/basic.html>

Planet Challenge - Disney's Planet Challenge (DPC) is a project-based environmental competition for classrooms. State finalists are awarded and compete for national grand prizes. Registration deadline is December 17, project submissions are due in February 2011.

<http://disney.go.com/planetchallenge/index.html>

The Volvo Adventure Competition - Is an educational program for students between the ages of 13 and 16 working in teams to design and manage an environmental project in their local community. Projects can be submitted online. The best projects teams receive an all expenses-paid trip to Sweden, and large cash prizes. Due January 31, 2011.

<http://www.volvoadventure.org/home.aspx>

People For Puget Sound Events

Mud Bay Restoration Work Day—December 18 volunteer to restore the Randall/Allison Springs site in Olympia. Help restore a unique complex of freshwater and estuarine habitats by removing Himalayan blackberry and other habitat-modifying invasive species. For more information contact Christina Donehower at cdonehower@pugetsound.org

Sound Stewardship Workshops in Habitat Restoration—Volunteers can become Sound Stewards working to restore estuaries and shorelines. In return for 16 hours of training, Sound Stewards commit to 40 volunteer hours over the next year at restoration sites. Participants meet with other stewards monthly to perform maintenance and monitoring, including invasive plant removal and native plant installation. One-day training sessions will be held in Olympia on February 13 and in Tacoma on February 20, 2011. To register contact Christina Donehower at cdonehower@pugetsound.org

Beware of the energy thief

Have a great vacation, and while you are gone, give the school a present by making sure you aren't allowing the energy thief in by using unnecessary power.

Turn off or unplug:

- Chargers for phones and appliances
- Computer monitors
- Overhead projector
- Televisions
- Lights
- Printers
- Kitchen appliances
- Coffee makers
- Space heaters
- Ornaments

Also:

- Take home plants and pets that are sensitive to cold., Remember the school will not be heated during the break.
- Set refrigerators to their lowest setting.
- Check that closet lights and appliances are off.



Set Printers to Default Two-sided

This useful resource-saving suggestion was sent in a message from Kim Reykdal, OHS Counselor: "I appreciate all you are doing to conserve resources and make OSD more "green." There is another issue I would like to bring up. Too often I get packets of information that are all printed one sided and it's a huge waste of paper. I would like to suggest that we get all of our building's copy machines to default to a 1 sided --> 2 sided setting. My husband's work (the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges) did this and saved thousands of dollars.

Just a thought.... :-)"

Kim will receive a reusable water bottle for her suggestion.



Please send your suggestions to Bonnie Meyer, Resource Conservation Manager and you too may save resources and win a reusable water bottle for your efforts.



Safety Message

Space heaters can be a fire hazard. Most use 1500 watts of electricity. The Fire Marshall does not allow this type of heater in schools because they blow circuits and pose a fire risk.

School visits have shown that staff sometimes follow unsafe practices, such as: using heaters near flammables; leaving heaters on unattended; and using damaged heaters.

Please remove space heaters from the District as soon as possible. If you feel that your room does not meet District standard temperatures notify your Head Custodian. We may be able to improve your heating situation. If we cannot, we will give you an Underwriters Lab-tested space heater that does not pose fire or electrical panel dangers.

LED Lights Shine

Save energy and money by buying and using energy-efficient LED (light emitting diode) strands to decorate. LED lights can operate 30 times longer than traditional incandescent, icicle and miniature holiday lights, and reduce energy consumption by 75 percent per string. Bulbs last an extra long time so they don't need to be replaced very often. Most stores selling holiday lights carry the ENERGY STAR®-rated long-lasting LED lights. LED holiday lights are shatter-proof, shock resistant, and produce almost no heat, reducing the risk of fire.

| Type of Light | Energy Cost |
|------------------|-------------|
| C7 incandescent | \$8.00 |
| Icicle/miniature | \$1.30 |
| C7 LED lights | \$0.14 |



Olympia School District

Resource Conservation Program
1113 Legion Way SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Bonnie Meyer
Resource Conservation Manager
360-596-8566
http://osd.wednet.edu/schools/resource_conservation/main



Sweaters

Make your fashion statement this year with the versatile sweater. Warm, cuddly and good looking. (Almost) anyone can wear one. You'll look and feel great!

Warm clothes are the most energy efficient heaters. And the cheapest too.



Holiday Lights

When creating a festive atmosphere lights can be fun. LED lights are bright and use very little energy. On the other hand, non-LED lights use lots of energy. They may also pose a fire risk. Please remember to put safety first. Most lights come with warnings to use only for a short period of time and not to leave lights unattended. Staff are expected to heed all warnings and use special lights only for rare occasions and according to safety regulations.

As the District looks to money-saving opportunities reducing our electrical use is one of the easiest ways to avoid spending money.

We are installing energy efficient lights throughout the District to save resources and money. Let's be sure not to bring in lights that waste energy. The savings we achieve will translate into jobs if we do not increase our electrical load. For example, one ornamental string of 100–25 watt lights uses more energy than all the overhead lights from two classrooms.

The ornamental lights shown here use a lot of energy and may be a fire hazard.

