



The Green Wire

Resource
Conservation News
February 2010



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Smart Computers

Ken White, OSD Information Technology Manager announced that staff are installing new software on District computers to ensure that each machine automatically switches off at the end of the day.

The Faronics Power Management Software, purchased with a rebate from Puget Sound Energy, allows the technology staff to program every computer to turn off or hibernate at scheduled times.

Before the installation of the new software if a computer user forgot to log-off the computer would stay on until the user returned— after a minute or a week. With Faronics, the computer will switch off after a reasonable wait.

People can always override the program and use equipment after hours.

Bright Wishes Come True



We will be seeing glowing lighting improvements thanks to a grant award of \$460,000 in energy efficiency funding from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. With matching funding provided by the District and Puget Sound Energy rebates of over \$332,000 we will be making fluorescent lighting upgrades and improve some heating systems in the District. Highlights of the improvements include:

- New bright and efficient lights will provide more light, or lumens in classrooms and interiors at Jefferson, Centennial, Garfield and Boston Harbor.
- School gym lights will be replaced with new energy efficient lighting that is bright, silent, quick starting, and will not increase heat in the summer. Gyms/multipurpose rooms will get new lights at Centennial, Boston Harbor, LP Brown, Jefferson, Lincoln, Marshall, Olympia and Reeves.
- Lighting will be replaced in Olympia hallways and in the Lincoln library.
- Mechanical improvements will be made at Olympia, Centennial and Marshall, where we will replace boilers and water heaters and install heat pumps.
- Annual savings should be \$89,400 (103,147 kilowatts and 7299 Therms.)
- The projects will be managed by the State Department of General Administration and the OSD Capital Planning and Construction Office.
- Quantum Engineering and Development, Inc. is our energy services company.

Work continues on improving school heating systems

Rainy and chilly and Brrrr! This year Support Services staff continue to bravely mend frigid roof-top systems and basement boilers. They are working to get to everyone soon, but until systems are fixed, some of our buildings will be chilly. Your Resource Conservation Manager,

Bonnie Meyer
(360) 596-8566

Schedule Events With School Dude Software

Help us to track energy use and smoothly rent school facilities. Please make certain that your events are scheduled using School Dude. This allows us to



turn off heat and light when buildings are vacant. If you want to use a school after hours, add the event to the School Dude schedule. You'll help to regulate building use, monitor energy expenses and calculate utility bills. Help us avoid extra utility costs from unauthorized use of buildings. Your administrator can help access School Dude.

Conservation Challenge in 2010

Take on the Conservation Challenge this year. You and your school can win recognition and budget awards if you show energy savings and support resource conservation. The new application process is fast, easy and all electronic. Simple instructions and a **two page electronic application** are available at:

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

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Write and perform a RCM song or play.
- Start or continue a Watt Watchers or Cool Schools program to save energy.
- Submit art, letters, poems or videos expressing conservation values.
- Make reusable lunch containers or sandwich bags and encourage everyone to use them.
- Start a recycled art project bank and accept donations of items that can be used for art projects.
- Collect used items and donate to those in need.
- Invite guest speakers from environmentally focused groups.
- Pledge to spend a day without using electronic toys or games.

Application for the Conservation Challenge

Directions

Use the spreadsheet below to document your activities. The only requirements are the top four items, the rest are suggestions. Please briefly fill out each subject line. Submit supporting pictures and video clips if desired. Please submit electronic copy to Resource Conservation Manager Bonnie Meyer at bmeyer@osd.wednet.edu for more information call 360-541-3333

Judging Criteria

- Required elements must be provided to qualify for awards.
- Amount of resources saved. Improvements in resource use AND continued conservation.
- School wide participation.
- The number of students reached for each activity.
- The values of the activity based on reduction in carbon footprint of the school.
- How well the activities match our resource conservation goals.
- Richness, depth and number of RCM educational opportunities provided.

Actions	Description	Date/Name
REQUIRED ACTIONS		
Resource Conservation Coordinator assigned		
Principal approval and inclusion		
Host an activity that involves the whole school (see suggestions below)		
Reduce annual energy use – data will come from RCM.		
SOLID WASTE		
Assign a site Recycling Coordinator		
Art supply recycling – use recycled products to make art projects, submit pictures		
Start or improve a school composting program.		
Start or improve a site recycling program		
Field trip to the composting center		
Host "Waste Free Wednesdays" at Lunch		
Make and sell green cleaning products or recipes		
Make and sell waste free lunch products		
Participate in America Recycles Day Event		
Participate in unwanted mail cancellations		
Perform a Waste Audit* This activity must involve the Head Custodian, your garbage vendor will do this for free		
Promote "green office practices".		
Purchase environmentally friendly office products or classroom supplies.		
Reduce size of Garbage container* This activity must involve the Head Custodian		
Other – please describe		
Other – please describe		

Actions	Description
ENERGY	
Focus on turning off equipment carts and printers at the end of the day.	
Participate in Cool Schools	
Participate in Watt watchers	
Start or continue a "Lights Out" Campaign	
Other – please describe	
Other – please describe	
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES	
Eliminate personal refrigerators in classrooms or offices.	
Establish a school or site conservation policy.	
Focus on closing doors and windows.	
Green Teams	
Invite outside Presenters on RCM topics	
Lobby for green goals	
Participate in other Environmental Education, please describe	
Pledge to change behaviors to save the earth	
Read environmental books (if possible provide examples)	
Stage performance about saving the earth	
Students create a book with a RCM theme	
Students create a play, art project, video, song or display about an environmental theme (provide pictures or video clips)	
Write letters supporting environmentally sound actions (if possible provide examples)	
Write letters to elected officials(if possible provide examples)	
Other – please describe	
Other – please describe	
SCHOOL WIDE EVENT(S)	
School wide waste free lunches event	
School wide recycled art show or contest	
School wide Earth Day celebration	
Stage school wide performance about saving the environment	
Participate in an Energy Awareness Event	
Sponsor a walk/bike to school event	
Sponsor a native plant planting event	
Sponsor a clean-up event at a natural area	
Create an artist's materials exchange, except donations and distribute items for art projects	
Other – please describe	
Other – please describe	

Green Teacher Grants

The NEA Foundation has \$150,000 in new grant funding for projects that integrate green-related topics and experiences into the classroom. Public school educators can apply for grants to develop and implement ideas, techniques, and approaches for teaching "green" concepts.



The *Big Green Help Grants* target environmental education as an area of great promise in helping students develop a sense of environmental stewardship. *Green Grants to Public School Educators* support projects that integrate green-related topics with various standards-based content areas to increase student engagement and improve academic achievement. The grant amounts are \$2,000 for *Learning & Leadership* grants and \$5,000 for *Student Achievement* and group *Learning & Leadership* grants. To apply, go to:

<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/nea-foundation-green-grants/>



Go Electronic to Save Paper

From communicating to researching, people at the Olympia School District are embracing the use of electronic media. When you read an article or review an item on-line or electronically it saves paper. Staff and students often avoid printing altogether by submitting assignments in an email or making a presentation directly from a stored thumb-drive.

When Only Paper Will Do

A hand-written note provides a warm personal touch whereas typing and printing your note uses both electricity and expensive inks.

When you must print:



- Consider using draft paper already printed on one side.
- Only print the pages you need—choose “current page” or select the page numbers you need.
- Use the two-sided feature for copies.

Office Equipment Tips to Conserve Energy

Yes, even "energy efficient" equipment uses electricity when turned on. The major factor in the cost of operating computers and peripherals is the amount of time they are in the “on” or “ready” modes. The use of electronic office equipment in our schools and administrative offices is escalating. These electronic technologies have brought greater productivity, flexibility, creativity, and precision to our workplace and have immeasurably improved the learning environment. They have also significantly increased electricity use. Individually, the desktop computer seems to be a small user of energy, but the growing number of computers, printers, scanners, and other peripherals in the District add up to significant electric bills.



We are installing new software that will automatically save energy, but please follow these recommendation to help the District avoid unneeded operating costs:

Turn electronics on when you need them—not when you enter

Wait until you need your printer, computer or copier before you turn it on.

Turn printers off

Idle printers, especially lasers, draw significant amounts of power. If possible, turn off while preparing materials, attending meetings, at lunchtime, and especially at the end of the day.

Turn copy machines and scanners off

Printers, scanners and copiers are often left on because they are typically shared by several users who all sit in separate locations. Give yourself permission to turn off the shared machines to save energy.

Edit on the screen

Save energy and paper by editing on the screen instead of on paper.

Send files by E-mail

Only print and send a hard copy if it is essential.

Use inkjet printers

When you must print, remember that inkjets use 5% of the energy of lasers and make great drafts. Use lasers only for presentation materials.

Turn off idle computers and monitors and remember to log off

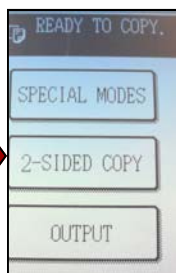
This saves energy and will not harm hard drives. Turn off when attending meetings, at lunchtime and especially at the end of the day. Our Apple computers are designed to turn off at 5:00 pm –but if the last user has not logged off they will stay on. If you see a lighted Mac screen without a user, please log off.

Print completed documents in batches

This reduces "on" time and eliminates printer idle time.

Use laptop computers

Laptops use 1/10th the energy of comparable desktop units.



(Adapted from the Peninsula School District RCM website)

Get More Out of Your Gas Tank

Saving gas means reducing air pollution, decreasing our carbon footprint and paying less money. It's all good and not so hard to do if you follow these recommendations adapted from a Biodiesel Magazine article by Jack Lee:

1. Pay attention to your right foot—**avoid hard acceleration** and start up your vehicle with a light touch.
2. **Avoid idling** (see sidebar.) Excessive idling is keeping the engine on while not moving for over three minutes at a time. It adds up to 50% to your fuel costs and can reduce engine life by 75%.
3. **Start off slowly.** Avoid a “jack rabbit” start that uses 40% more fuel and increases air emissions by 400%.
4. **Slow down**—speeds above 60 miles per hour produce more than speeding tickets. Fast drivers emit more poisonous carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, use more fuel and risk accidents.



5. **Limit your load**—make sure you are not carrying unnecessary heavy items in your vehicle as load weight reduces fuel efficiency.
6. Whenever possible **choose the vehicle** with the most advanced fuel saving technology available.
7. Take the time to **maintain your vehicle**, remember to change the oil and follow tune-up schedules to ensure you have a smooth running and long lasting vehicle.
8. Pay special attention to **keeping your tires inflated** because correctly inflated tires saves enough fuel and also improves braking performance.
9. Leave the vehicle at home whenever possible. Instead, **choose alternative transportation** such as buses, bicycles, walking and carpooling. These options provide social networking and exercise in addition to all their other environmental benefits.

Keep Lungs Clean

Did you know that a parked idling car produces as much pollution as a car in motion? So lines of idling cars create pockets of unhealthy air. Winter air may already be unhealthy because warm air filled with particulates gets trapped below cold air masses.



Students and adults who suffer from asthma and allergies may have breathing difficulties when we do not respect the anti-idling zones around our schools.

Please respect the lungs of those around you and turn off your engine while you wait. Students will be at their best when they start with a deep lungful of clean air.

Reduce Smoky Air

Smoke from outdoor burning can be just as bad for your health as cigarette smoke. Protect yourself, your family and your neighbors by choosing not to burn.

Pay attention to air quality warnings and keep fireplaces and non-certified wood stoves cold when directed by air quality agencies.

Ride The Bus

Students are fortunate to be able to ride to school on our big yellow school buses. Buses help reduce congestion on the roads, and they keep students warm all the way to school. Our bus drivers provide a service to parents by ensuring that children safely get to and from school every day.

This year we are exploring how to make our fleet more energy efficient with electric-diesel hybrid technology.



OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resource Conservation Program
1113 Legion Way SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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

Why Reduce and Reuse?

Reducing and reusing is the best way to avoid the environmental impact from acquiring goods and disposing of waste.

Fast Facts

- ⇒ Between 1960 and 2008 the amount of waste each person in the U.S. created almost doubled from 2.7 to 4.5 lbs per day.
- ⇒ Source reduction, including reuse, can help reduce waste disposal and handling costs, because it avoids the costs of recycling, municipal composting, and land-filling.
- ⇒ Since 1977, the weight of 2-liter plastic drink bottles has been reduced from 68 grams each to 51 grams. That means that 250 million pounds of plastic per year has been kept out of the waste stream.

Why Compost?

- Composting keeps organic materials out of the landfill where they decompose to create methane, a potent greenhouse gas that speeds global warming.
- Properly composted, food scraps and yard trimmings can be used to enhance the soil and can be used to replace commercially produced compost.

Fast Facts:

- ⇒ Food waste is the second largest portion of the municipal solid waste stream now entering U.S. landfills. It accounts for 19% of disposed waste.
- ⇒ Over 30 million tons of food waste is sent to landfills or incinerated each year.
- ⇒ Less than 3% of food waste is now composted in the U.S.

Why Recycle?

Recycling creates jobs and prevents resource use and other environmental problems caused by the manufacturing of products from pure materials. Benefits include reduced impacts from:

- Climate change
- Energy and water use
- Pollution
- Ecosystem destruction

Fast Facts:

- ⇒ In 2008, America recycled 83 million tons of the 250 million tons of trash generated –a recycling rate of 33%.
- ⇒ Recycling one milk jug saves the same amount of energy it would take to run a laptop computer for over 9 hours.

Why Should We Reduce Our Environmental Footprints?

- Our planet has a finite amount of resources. The less we use the more available for people animals and plants, now and in the future.
- Simple choices, such as using less and recycling more, can directly impact climate change and water quality, land use, transportation emissions, and the release of toxic materials into the environment.

Fast Facts:

- ⇒ Reducing the amount of material that we need has the largest potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(Adapted from the US EPA website.)

