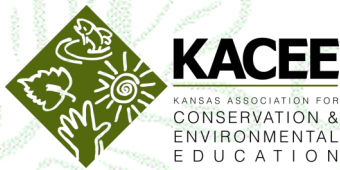




13 September 2011



Kansas Green Schools Update #1 (2011-12)

The goal of the Kansas Green Schools Program is to provide opportunities for preK-12 schools to increase awareness and understanding of the complex environmental interrelationships that impact public health and the environment, and promote environmental stewardship practices that relate to air quality, climate change, solid waste reduction and recycling, water management, and outdoor wildlife habitat.



School has been underway for awhile, and hopefully you are starting to implement ideas to make your school more green.

More than 100 educators take part in Kansas Green Schools Conference

Over 100 educators from Kansas and Oklahoma participated in the 2011 Kansas Green Schools Conference at Goddard High School in July. The keynote speaker, Dr. Herb Broda, wowed the group with low- and no cost ideas for using your schoolyard as a learning site. Dr. Broda was also very complimentary of all the great work Kansas Green Schools are doing!



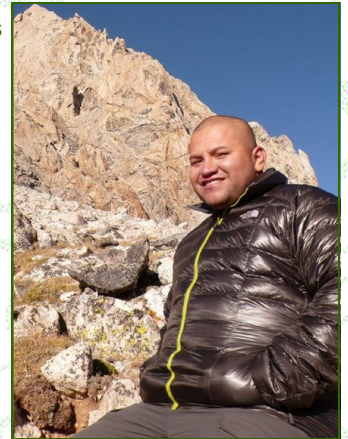
More than 30 presenters from 17 Kansas Green Schools and partners held informative concurrent sessions on topics ranging from school gardens to how to get started as a Green School. The new Kansas Green Schools Standards of Excellence were unveiled, and a new Garden Gate portal on the Kansas Green Schools website was demonstrated.

Watch your e-mailbox and the Green Schools website for information about next year's Kansas Green Schools Conference!



Kansas Environmental Education Conference Keynote Speaker, Scholarships, and More!

There's a lot going on in preparation for November's Kansas Environmental Education Conference, Flying into the Future with EE! The conference will be held in Great Bend at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center and Highland Hotel. Juan Martinez, National Natural Leaders Network Coordinator for the Children & Nature Network and 2011 National Geographic Emerging Explorer, will open the conference.



Scholarships for formal educators, administrators, and staff at Kansas schools registered on the Kansas Green Schools Network are available for the conference (while funds last). Recipients must attend BOTH the pre-conference workshop on Thursday, 3 November and the conference on Friday and Saturday, 4 and 5 November. For more details about the conference, workshop, and scholarships, go to <http://www.kacee.org/kansas-environmental-education-conference>.

Green School Success Stories Needed: Send Us Yours!



KACEE receives lots of requests for examples of Green School projects and ways teachers use environmental education in their classrooms. If your school is doing something innovative that you'd like to share with others, please send a brief description (one paragraph, please) to Shari Wilson at swilson@kacee.org. These examples may be used on the Green Schools website or shared with other organizations and schools. Photos are welcome, but please keep in mind the intended use and make sure necessary permissions to use the photos have been received.

**For more information, check out our website at www.kansasgreenschools.org or contact Shari L. Wilson
Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)
swilson@kacee.org
913-287-6879**

Kansas Green Schools Program is sponsored by Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Corporation Commission/State Energy Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture and Staples Foundation for Learning



KACEE does not necessarily recommend or endorse items and programs on the below items

Grant and Contest Opportunities

PROJECT LEARNING TREE GREENWORKS! GRANTS

Grant Application Deadline: **September 30, 2011**

Description: In 2011, Project Learning Tree will award grants to schools and youth organizations across the country for environmental neighborhood improvement projects that involve youth with their community.

Grant Amounts: Up to \$1,000

More Info: <http://www.plt.org/applyforagrant>



DO SOMETHING GRANTS:

NO DEADLINE. Weekly Grants Given

Description: There are several Do Something Grants offered to youth each week: 1) Seed Grants are offered to start a community action project or program or take an existing successful project/organization to the next level. \$500 each week. 2) Project Pitch Grants are offered to take a project or organization to the next level with a strong pitch. Check out their "Do Something U" video, "How to Pitch Your Project," for tips, then upload your best pitch for a chance to win one of five \$250 grants given each month. 3) Do Something Club Grants: Grants help sustain official Do Something Clubs and their community social action projects. Five grants worth \$250 each month.

More Info: <http://www.dosomething.org/grants>

CONTEST:

Global Green USA's Green School Makeover Competition

Date: **September 30, 2011**, *submission deadline*

Description: With budget deficits affecting school districts across the country, greening your school -- one of the quickest ways to save money (to the tune of thousands of dollars a year) -- is becoming a necessity. The non-profit Global Green USA is hosting a Green School Makeover Competition to "green" the winning school. Here's how it works: tell Global Green how you plan to green your school (make sure the principal and/or facilities manager signs off too) and follow the instructions for submitting an application any time from March 1 - September 30, 2011.

Award: Grand prize is \$65,000 for school greening, plus an additional \$65,000 of in-kind technical assistance. Four additional schools will each receive \$2,500 towards their green school renovations.

More Info/To Enter:

greenschoolmakeover@globalgreen.org

<http://tinyurl.com/greenschoolcontest>

Grant and Contest Opportunities (cont.)

CONTEST: Green Thumb Challenge

Date: **September 30, 2011**, *entry deadline*

Description: The Green Thumb Challenge from the Green Education Foundation (GEF) aims to connect children with nature and the healthy benefits of gardening. GEF provides schools and youth groups with beginner-friendly resources to plant gardens of any size, in addition to fun activities and standards-based lessons linking the classroom to the garden.

Award: All participants have the opportunity to be awarded a \$5,000 grant in recognition of their garden project.

More Info/To Enter: <http://bit.ly/pMjyAu>

CONTEST: "What's Your Green Dream School?" Contest

Date: **October 14, 2011**, *entry deadline*

Description: This contest is a little different: rather than reward schools for past achievements, we want to reward schools that are just getting started and help you take action to green their schools. We'll select *two* schools where parents, school staff and students are starting a Green School program and have newly established a Green Team (within the last 12 months) with a compelling "Green Dream" that they hope to achieve.

Award: \$500, plus training and support from the Green Schools Initiative and environmentally-friendly prizes from our sponsors, like recycled paper notebooks from New Leaf Paper and Topflight, nutritious organic snacks from Clif Bar, and non-toxic hand soaps and sanitizers from CleanWell, among others.

More Info/To Enter: info@greenschools.net, 510-525-1026
<http://greenschools.net/article.php?id=417>



CONTEST: Like A Drop of Water Essay Contest

NO DEADLINE. Six winners per month.



Description: Like A Drop of Water's writing contest encourages youth ages 8-17 to share their ideas on how they and their countries can reduce climate change and pollution. Parents, grandparents and teachers are encouraged to share their ideas with their young authors. Teachers and their students may submit a class essay as well as serve as judges. "Like drops of water that make up the oceans, millions of people of all ages, can lead the way to creating the positive changes we need to create a sustainable planet."

Award: 6 Awards of \$50-\$100 per month through June 2015. Each year the top fifty essays will be sent to the White House and made available to governments across the world. Bi-yearly, the one hundred winning essays will be published as an e-book for world wide distribution.

To Enter: <http://www.likeadropofwater.org/entry-form/>

Official Rules: <http://www.likeadropofwater.org/official-rules/>



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National Public Lands Day



National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands in the United States. In 2011, NPLD will be held on September 24. NPLD began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers. It proved to be a huge success and NPLD became a yearly tradition, typically held on the last Saturday in September. Since the first NPLD, the event has grown by leaps and bounds. Last year, **170,000 volunteers** worked at over 2,080 sites in every state, the District of Columbia and in many U.S. territories. To get involved, go to <http://www.publiclandsday.org/about>.

Student Opportunities

The Lexus Eco Challenge offers an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to address environmental issues in three challenges: Land/Water, Air/Climate, and a Final Challenge. Teams have the opportunity to win \$10,000 in each of the first two challenges and up to \$30,000 in the final challenge. Deadline is 31 October 2011. Visit <http://www.scholastic.com/lexus/>



Youth in the Great Outdoors is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Interior designed to employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with and preserving America's natural and cultural heritage. The YouthGo website connects young people with natural places to visit, educational resources, current job openings and employment programs. Visit <http://youthgo.gov/>

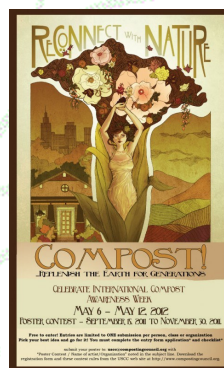
President's Environmental Youth Awards

Deadline: December 31, 2011

The President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) promote awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourage positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has joined with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to recognize young Americans for protecting our nation's air, water, land and ecology. Each year the PEYA program honors a wide variety of environmental projects developed by young individuals, school classes (kindergarten through high school) summer camps, public interest groups, and youth organizations to promote environmental awareness. Applicants from all 50 states and U.S. territories are eligible to compete for an award. The deadline is December 31, 2011. Learn more about the President's Environmental Youth Awards by visiting their website at: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya>



International Compost Awareness Week 2012 Poster Contest



The US Composting Council Invites You to Take Part in the 2012 International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest Ronkonkoma, NY, September 12, 2011 - The U.S. Composting Council Board of Directors is pleased to announce a call for entries for its 2012 ICAW Poster Contest. The contest will run from September 15 until November 30, 2011 and is open to anyone who wants to help celebrate composting and promote the benefits of composting and compost use. The winning poster will serve as the 2012 International Compost Awareness Week promotional media piece.

Posters must be submitted to the USCC by Wednesday, November 30, 2011. Online judging will take place in December. The Poster Contest Winner will have his/her poster reproduced and distributed nationwide as the official 2012 International Compost Awareness Week poster and featured on the US Composting Council Web site www.compostingcouncil.org. The overall winner will receive a \$500 prize and other divisional winners will each receive a \$100 prize. Contest divisions are grades 3-7, grades 7-12, and college - adult. All participants will receive an ICAW/USCC Certificate of Participation. Previous winning posters, as well as this year's registration forms and rules can be viewed at <http://compostingcouncil.org/posters/>. For questions, please contact icaw@compostingcouncil.org.

Calendar

- 30 September & 1 October - Get Going with Green Schools! in Salina, KS. \$100 stipend & \$50 tuition waiver for 1 hour of graduate credit for the first 20 K-12 classroom teachers. Visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule> for more information.
- 21-22 October - Dig In to School Gardens! in Lawrence, KS. Visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule> for more information.
- 26-27 October - Dig In to School Gardens! in Sublette, KS. Visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule> for more information.
- 4-5 November - Kansas Environmental Education Conference, Great Bend, KS
Pre-Conference Workshop on 3 November
- 18-19 November - Dig In to School Gardens! in Pratt, KS. Visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule> for more information.