

Kansas Green Schools Update #2 (2010-11)



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.

Wishing You a Very Happy Holiday Season!



Environmental Literacy for the 21st Century: Classrooms to Careers

The 11th annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference was held on November 5 and 6 in Salina, Kansas. After a networking dinner at local restaurant, Martinelli's, on Thursday evening the conference participants started off Friday morning with a welcome from State Senator Pete Brungardt and a keynote presentation on the Kansas Environmental Literacy Plan given by Laura Downey, KACEE; Janet Waugh, Kansas State Board of Education; Jared Bixby, Sunset Zoo; Denise Scribner, Goddard High School; and a PowerPoint provided by Elyzabeth Navarre, Starside Elementary School. During the presentation this comprehensive plan for advancing environmental literacy in the state was introduced. Each speaker explained how their organizations have played a part in making the plan happen and how it in turn affects the work that they do. Kansas is one of only a few states to have a plan that insures our Kansas children gain the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to become citizens who make informed and

responsible personal and collective decisions and choices about our environment and its natural resources. Dr. Tom Foster, with the Kansas State Department of Education spoke to the participants on Friday about how Environmental Education can assist schools with Career and Technical Education. At the close of Dr. Foster's presentation he was accompanied by an expert panel, comprised of staff from the Kansas Department of Labor and Hutchinson Community College

who led a discussion on how educators can utilize environmental education to prepare students for green jobs.



On Friday evening, back by popular demand, was the "Taste of EE." During this session conference participants were able to stop at several tables where environmental education professionals from all over the state were displaying some of their favorite, new and innovative "EE" activities and resources.

Saturday was started off with fossil expert and Adjunct Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology with the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Michael

Everhart, whose presentation was sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council. Michael gave the conference goers a wonderful glimpse into the world of the oceans that covered Kansas many years ago and the creatures that inhabited them.

Conference participants were also able to learn more about Environmental Education through concurrent sessions, exhibits, and field studies offered both days of the conference.



Kansas Green Schools Waste Management Grant Applications Now Open



Online applications are now being accepted for projects related to recycling, composting, and environmental education professional development, and waste management and purchasing audits, among other projects. Any public or private K-12 school that is registered on the Kansas Green Schools Network may apply for up to \$4,500 in grant funds. Matching funds or in-kind services are required. Go to <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/grants> for grant guidelines and the online application form.

Nominate Your School for the Kansas Green School of the Year Award!

Any Kansas public or private school registered on the Kansas Green Schools Network is eligible. The deadline for nominations is Friday, 14 January 2011. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RHZQKJR> to submit your nomination electronically. Awards will be presented at the KACEE Awards Celebration in Topeka on 1 April 2011.

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

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

Einstein Fellowship Application is Now Open!



The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship is a paid fellowship for K-12 science, math, engineering and technology (STEM) teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. To be considered for an Einstein Fellowship for the 2011-2012 school year, apply online NOW, and submit your application and three letters of recommendation no later than January 4, 2011.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit <http://www.trianglecoalition.org/fellows/einapp.htm>. If you have questions about the program or application, contact Program Manager Kathryn Culbertson at culbertsonk@triangle-coalition.org.

Toyota International Teacher Program to South Africa

This fully-funded professional development opportunity advances environmental stewardship and global connectedness in U.S. schools and communities. Full-time classroom teachers of all subjects and librarians, grades 7-12, may apply online at www.iie.org/toyota. Program dates are 24 July-10 August 2011, application deadline is 23 January 2011.



Outdoor Imagery



Free images, publications, and video and audio clips about the outdoors are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Image Gallery. All materials and photos are in the public domain, so all you have to do is credit the author or photographer and USFWS. Go to www.fws.gov/digitalmedia to check it out!

Do Something Growth Grants and Seed Grants

Grants up to \$500 are available for community projects at <http://www.dosomething.org/grants>. These grants are reviewed regularly, so there is no deadline for applications!



Climate Change Resources



Free materials and resources regarding climate change are offered by the Cool the Earth Program at www.cooltheearth.org. The materials are for grades K-8.

CALENDAR

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| 15 February | Kansas Green Schools Waste Management Grant Applications Due |
| 29 July | Kansas Green Schools Conference
Pre-Conference Workshop 28 July |



HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?

Send them to Shari L. Wilson at swilson@kacee.org

Green Prize in Public Education

The National Environmental Education Foundation, with major support from the NEA Foundation and in partnership with EarthEcho International, will recognize and celebrate an outstanding K-12 public school that has successfully taken on the challenge of becoming a green school through the **Green Prize in Public Education**.



The **Green Prize in Public Education** will award \$10,000 to a K-12 public school that has most successfully implemented an innovative, sustainable and replicable school-wide greening effort that has involved and benefitted its students. Two merit awards of \$5,000 each will also be given to schools that demonstrate this kind of success.

Applications are due February 15, 2011.
Visit http://neefusa.org/grants/green_prize.htm