

Kansas Green Schools Update #3 (2009-10)



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!

Waste Management Grant Round Now Open!

The third round of Green Schools Waste Management Grants is now open. Schools registered on the Kansas Green Schools Network may apply for grants not to exceed \$4,500 for projects in established categories:

- Field trips to environmental education centers/recycling centers/landfills.
- Waste Audits.
- Recycling containers.
- Purchasing Audit.
- Composting and vermicomposting equipment.
- Environmental Stewardship Education Programs.
- Sponsorship of an Environmental Program.
- Waste Reduction School to Home Projects.



More information about the types of projects eligible for grants is available in the Grant Application Guide.

(<http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/kansas-green-schools-grant-program>)

The deadline for waste management grant applications is Monday, 15 February 2010. Applications may be submitted online or by downloading a copy of the application and mailing it in. If you have questions, please contact Shari Wilson at swilson@kacee.org, 913-287-6879, or Maureen Ruhlman at mruhlman@kdheks.gov or 785-296-6596.

Green Ideas

Need a book to go along with your school garden curriculum? Mark Manning with the Kansas City, Kansas Community Garden Project recommended several during his presentation at the Kansas EE Conference, including *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman (middle and high school level) and *Gardening with Children* by Beth Richardson.

This NSTA site provides free resources for science teachers to use in their classroom. The search tool allows teachers to search by keyword for the resource types (CDs, Kits, Videos) they are seeking.

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/freebies.aspx?lid=exp>

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

Nominations are now open for the 2010 KACEE Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards, including the Kansas Green School of the Year and the KACEE K-16 Educator Award. Please consider nominating your school and/or one of your teachers for an award! The deadline for nominations is Friday, 22 January. Awardees will be honored at the KACEE Awards Celebration at Heritage Hall in Topeka on Friday, 9 April. More information, including awards criteria and the nomination form, are online at www.kacee.org. To fill out an online form, visit

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GLS7HWS>. The Kansas Green School of the Year Award is co-sponsored by KACEE and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

Green Starters

Here are some great ideas from Kansas sources:

- Give your students this Energy Internet Scavenger Hunt, courtesy of Denise Scribner at Goddard High School: [see page 3 of newsletter]
- Challenge your students to a recycling contest and have each grade bring recyclables from home. Alice Hill with Rawlins County Schools reports the contest showed each family how much they could do to help the environment, and it helped jumpstart their community recycling program.
- Barb Keltner at Medicine Lodge High School reports that they have recycled ink cartridges and cell phones from the school and community for several years, using Funding Factory (<http://www.fundingfactory.com/>) as their recycling organization. They receive a check which they use for environmental or community projects.



**For more information, check out our website at
www.kansasgreenschools.org or contact
Shari L. Wilson
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Environmental Education (KACEE)
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*****KACEE does not necessarily recommend or endorse items and programs on the below items*****

President's Environmental Youth Awards



Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the President's Environmental Youth Awards celebrate young people throughout the country for projects that demonstrate a commitment to the environment.

Student(s) must be sponsored by an adult and must submit an application along with evidence of a completed project to their local EPA regional office. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/PEYA/> for more information.

Deadline for applications is 31 December 2009.

2010 Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica



The application for this program is now online at www.toyota4education.com. It will take place from 18 June – 3 July 2010. Deadline for applications is 6 January 2010.

EE Week Theme for 2010 Announced

The theme for EE Week 2010 is *Be Water and Energy Wise*. Learn more about what's planned when you register for EE Week at www.EEWeek.org.



Nickelodeon's The Big Green Grants Program



Green Grants up to \$5,000 for resources to schools and community-based organizations to support environmentally-friendly projects that educate and inspire kids to 1) take care of the environment; 2) be active and live healthier; and/or 3) engage in community service. Go to

<http://www.bghevent.com/grant/index.htm>

for information and the application. The deadline is 31 December.

The Green Artist

Here's a fun idea to use up some of those foam packing peanuts and make it snow in your classroom!

- Take white foam packing peanuts and some thin wire. Cut the wire into whatever length you need, leaving room on one end to attach it to the ceiling. String the packing peanuts along the wire, leaving space in between. Hang the wire and voila, you've got snow!



- Make ornaments out of holiday cards. Cut the cards into 1/2-inch strips. Punch holes in the top and bottom of each strip, and put brads through the top and bottom. Separate the strips (start at the inside) and it will form a ball. (thank you to Renee Strnad for the idea!)

Send us your ideas for Green Starters and The Green Artist! We'll include a few in each Green School Update and credit you and your school.

CALENDAR

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|---------------|--|
| 22 January | Deadline for KACEE Award Nominations |
| 15 February | Deadline for Green School Waste Management Grant Applications |
| 11 – 17 April | EE Week |
| 30 July | Kansas Green Schools Conference (pre-conference workshop the day before) —More details soon! |



HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?

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

Energy Internet Scavenger Hunt

Use the internet to get a burst of energy information.

1. What are fossil fuels? And renewables?

Check your definitions at www.energy.ca.gov/glossary

2. What percent of the world's energy do fossil fuels supply?

www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/energy/intro/intro_02.cfm
(Go to fossil fuel eco-stat under more about this topic.)

3. Name one reason gas prices are so high.

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/ask/faq.asp>

4. List three advantages of nuclear energy.

www.nucleartourist.com/basics/why.htm

5. According to the graph at http://www.naturalgas.org/overview/uses_electrical.asp which fuel is used to produce most of our electricity?

And what is the fastest growing fuel?

6. Visit Hoover Dam, a great example of hydropower, and find out how much electricity it produces.

http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energy_fungames/energyant_trips/trip_hooverdam.html

7. Find out what brought colonists to America at <http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/movieroom/index.html> and click on kid wind video.

8. What does a lineworker do?

<http://iec.electricuniverse.com/flash/eu/education/louie/life/index.html>

Check out "When you grow up, what would you like to be?"

9. Could you power your TV or computer with a bicycle generator?

Go to <http://science.howstuffworks.com/question658.htm>

10. How many energy students does it take to change a light bulb?

Check your answer at http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energy_fungames/riddles/index.html