



Kansas Green Schools Update #3 (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.

Fall is here, and the holidays are right around the corner. Don't forget to think green during this festive time of year!

Nominate Your School to Become a Green Ribbon School

You know about Blue Ribbon Schools, but have you heard about Green Ribbon Schools? This prestigious award is given to select schools across the nation that The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognizes as schools that save energy, reduce costs, feature environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protect health, foster wellness, and offer environmental education to boost academic achievement and community engagement. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, the Department will recognize schools where staff, students, officials and communities have worked together to produce energy efficient, sustainable and healthy school environments and to ensure the sustainability and environmental literacy of graduates. The Kansas State Department of Education is pleased to announce that Kansas will be participating in the first year of the Green Ribbon Schools program, in partnership with the Kansas Green Schools Program.



We know there are lots of great things happening at your school and we encourage you to consider nominating your schools for this incredible award. More information is available at: <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/kansas-green-ribbon-schools>. Please note that nominations are due January 27, 2012.

Westar Energy Kansas Green School's School Bus Diesel Retrofit Grants: Request for Proposals

There is still time to apply for a Westar Energy Kansas Green School's Diesel Bus Retrofit grant, complete the online application found at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Westar> Schools selected for funding will be required to submit additional funding information prior to final funding approval. See the "Detailed Grant Requirements and Guidelines" available for download below for more information.

Applications need to be submitted no later than January 16, 2012 to be considered.

**For more information, check out our website at www.kansasgreenschools.org or contact Rachel Wahle
 Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)
rwahle@kacee.org
 785-539-7943**

Many Changes with Kansas Green Schools!

We have so many changes many of you have been waiting for and we are so excited for this announcement! The new Kansas Green School Investigations are up and running!!! This NEW recognition and celebration process for schools allows you to "green" your school's environment, both indoors and out, at your own pace! The five investigations include Water, Waste and Recycling, Energy, the Healthy School Environment and the Learning Community!

You select which level of recognition you wish to apply for; the Silver Globe, Gold Globe or the ULTIMATE Green Globe! You can begin at whatever level your school feels comfortable with and apply again for another level each year.

For more information, visit: www.kansasgreenschools.org and check out the "Investigate" and "Get Recognized" tabs. The application process will be available soon along with a teacher forum!!!

Also, our former Kansas Green School Coordinator, Shari Wilson, has ventured off into "greener" pastures and we are excited for where her path takes her! KACEE and I'm sure all of you wish Shari the best of luck in her endeavors and we wish to thank Shari for all of her hard work!

We are also excited to have on board Rachel Wahle, the new Kansas Green School Coordinator! Rachel has been with KACEE for three years and before that was the Curator of Education at Sunset Zoo in Manhattan. Rachel helped develop the Green School Investigations and is eager to see them in your hands and to help in the process of getting your school recognized! Her contact information is rwahle@kacee.org and 785-539-7943.



As always, Laura Downey is also available to answer questions as well and also helped to coordinate the Green School Investigations! ldowney@kacee.org.

Enjoy all the new Kansas Green School Investigations!

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, January 13, 2012. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KACEEAwards2012> to submit your nomination electronically. Awards will be presented at the KACEE Awards Celebration in Topeka on April 13, 2012.



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

EE Week 2012: Greening STEM The Environment as Inspiration for 21st Century Learning

The theme for EE Week 2012: Greening STEM: The Environment as Inspiration for 21st Century Learning.

Increasing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) knowledge and expanding STEM education and career opportunities for students is a national priority. Student achievement in STEM is key to fostering a new wave of innovators who can creatively address complex 21st century challenges.

The environment is a compelling context for teaching STEM as it provides teachers with a diverse range of real-world challenges that engage students in hands-on opportunities to apply and reinforce STEM concepts across multiple subject areas.

To support this year's theme, EE Week will offer:

- Free EE Week planning toolkits with information and grade-appropriate activities that incorporate STEM learning into popular environmental topic areas, such as school gardens, energy conservation and weather.
- A free educator webinar on using the environment as a context for teaching STEM, with school-based project ideas and opportunities for Q&A with experts.
- Discounts, giveaways and special offers from our partners.

Learn more about EE Week 2012 by visiting <http://eeweb.org>.

Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Application deadline: December 30, 2011

This program recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for student learning. Two teachers from each EPA region will receive an award of \$2,000 and a commemorative plaque. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/education/teacheraward/>

America's Home Energy Challenge Submission deadline December 31

America's Home Energy Challenge uses the link between saving money and energy to teach 3-8 grade students about energy. Participating schools compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes. For more information, visit <http://challenge.gov/DOE/178-america-s-home-energy-education-challenge>



Great American Can Roundup School Challenge Registration deadline December 15



The Can Manufacturer's Institute is awarding a \$1,000 to a school in each state and the District of Columbia recycling the most aluminum cans per student and an additional \$5,000 to the top per capita recycling school nationwide. For more information, visit

<http://www.cancentral.com/roundup/>.

Captain Planet Foundation Grants Application deadline: January 31, 2012

The Captain Planet Foundation offers grants from \$250 to \$2,500 for programs that involve students ages 6 to 18 in hands-on environmental projects that promote interaction and cooperation within a group and help young people develop planning and problem-solving skills. Visit

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/default.aspx?pid=3&tab=apply>



Compete for \$300K in Prizes in the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

The premier national environmental, sustainability competition for grades K-12 is now open. Register today and encourage teams of your students to create solutions to environmental problems and to learn about science and conservation while gaining 21st century skills. A wealth of free digital tools is available through the program to help integrate the Challenge into your curriculum. At stake is more than \$300K in prizes including scholarships, adventure trips, and even a chance to present at the United Nations. To win big and save the planet, visit www.wecanchange.com.

Calendar

- 13 April, 2012 - Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Celebration, Topeka
More info to follow

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
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