

# Kansas Green Schools Update #4 (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.



## Love Green, Live Green, Think Green!



### Applications Now Open for Koch Green Schools Grants



The Kansas Green Schools Program is pleased to announce the "Koch Green Schools Grants" program for public and private K-12 schools. These grants are available through the support of Koch Industries, Inc. A total of \$5,000 is available through a competitive grant process. These grants are intended to encourage schools to develop creative, innovative, effective environmental projects which improve the environment; make schools a healthier place to learn, play, and work; and save money through reduced use of natural resources. Grant projects must address one or more of the following: indoor or outdoor air quality, solid waste reduction and recycling/composting, and/or water management through an integrated holistic approach emphasizing public health or environment-related issues. All program initiatives must include direct environmental benefits and integration into school curriculum. The deadline for applications is 1 April 2011. Projects will take place during the 2011-12 school year.



Information and online registration are available at <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/koch-green-school-grants>, or by contacting Shari Wilson at [swilson@kacee.org](mailto:swilson@kacee.org) or 913-287-6879.

For more information, check out our website at [www.kansasgreenschools.org](http://www.kansasgreenschools.org) or contact **Shari L. Wilson**  
 Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)  
[swilson@kacee.org](mailto:swilson@kacee.org)

### 3rd Annual Kansas Green Schools Conference

### Blazing New Trails: Kansas Green Schools on the Move

Friday, 29 July 2011  
 Goddard High School

#### Conference Highlights:

**NEW!** Kansas "Model Green Schools" Program

**NEW!** Kansas School Gardens Initiative

**NEW!** National organization for Green Schools

Environmental projects in Kansas schools

Ideas for curriculum connections

Goddard High School's innovative pond aeration project

And More!



#### Pre-Conference Workshop at GHS

#### Trek a New Route in Green Schools!

Projects Learning Tree, WILD, and WET in the City

Thursday, 28 July 2011

One-Hour Graduate Credit

Available for attending Workshop and Conference

Best Professional Development Value! Early Registration only \$15!

For more information, go to [www.kansasgreenschools.org](http://www.kansasgreenschools.org) or contact Shari Wilson at [swilson@kacee.org](mailto:swilson@kacee.org). Online registration available by 1 April!



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## 2011 Kansas Green School of the Year Awards

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2011 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards. Nominated by their peers, these awardees exhibit outstanding innovation, leadership and achievement, as well as collaboration and cooperation within and beyond the environmental education field. For the third year, three schools are receiving Kansas Green Schools of the Year Awards. "We are thrilled to honor these deserving individuals and organizations, who give so much of their time and are so dedicated to environmental education in Kansas," said KACEE President Kathy Sexson, of the Lee Richardson Zoo.

Awardees will be recognized at an Awards Celebration hosted by KACEE on Friday, 1 April 2011, at Heritage Hall in Topeka. The honorary chair for the event is Dave Kendall, executive producer and host of the popular KTWU series *Sunflower Journeys*. The event is sponsored by KACEE and the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, and Capitol Federal Foundation. Ticket information is available at [www.kacee.org](http://www.kacee.org) or by calling 785-532-1902.

### Kansas Green School of the Year:

#### ***Hesston Elementary School, USD 460***

Hesston Elementary School has made great strides this year in becoming a "Kansas Green School." Paper recycling takes place in classrooms, with students collecting the recyclables weekly. The "Worm Team" collects leftover food from the cafeteria to feed the worms, and the compost will be used in the school's rain/butterfly garden. Local church groups help prepare and plant the garden. During Red Ribbon Week the school hosted a recycling relay day, teaching students how to recycle at home. Students also created a "recycling rap" in music class.



### Kansas Green School of the Year:

#### ***Prairie Moon Waldorf School/Okanis Garden, Lawrence***

Prairie Moon Waldorf School incorporates the environment into everything the school teaches. Through a Green Schools Grant, the school designed a Waldorf-inspired environmental education curriculum and built a system for rainwater harvesting and storage. The system waters the Okanis Garden, an organic market garden that involves students, teachers, and volunteers in fruit, flower, herb, and vegetable production. The school works in cooperation with the adjacent new native plant medicinal garden established by the University of Kansas and the Kansas Biological Survey.



### Kansas Green School of the Year:

#### ***Tomahawk Elementary School, Shawnee Mission USD 512***



Tomahawk Elementary has been working toward a significant reduction in waste for several years. Great strides have been made during the past school year, with a 92% decrease in solid waste trash through composting of lunch waste and recycling efforts. In addition, paper usage declined by 14% and electricity usage decreased by 28% since 2008. Students receive an enriched science and energy education through these projects, and also help their school and families reduce energy costs and become smarter consumers. The after-school environmental club (the "HiP" Club) has expanded greatly this school year.



Congratulations also to Brian Pekarek, Superintendent of Clifton-Clyde USD 224, for receiving the Rising Star Award, and to the Olathe North High School Geosciences Program for receiving a KACEE Award for PreK-12 Education!

## CALENDAR

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>1 April</b>      | Kansas Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Celebration, Heritage Hall, Topeka  |
| <b>29-30 April</b>  | Discover a Watershed Educator Workshop & Floating Field Experience workshop in DeSoto. Visit <a href="http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule">http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule</a> for more information.         |
| <b>1-2 June</b>     | Energize Your Students with Environmental Education! workshop in Paola. Visit <a href="http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule">http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule</a> for more information.                        |
| <b>14-15 June</b>   | Watershed and Natural Resource Education in Your Classroom & Community workshop in Washington. Visit <a href="http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule">http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule</a> for more information. |
| <b>28 July</b>      | Green Schools Pre-Conference Workshop, Goddard High School   |
| <b>29 July</b>      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Kansas Green Schools Conference, Goddard High School  |
| <b>3 November</b>   | Kansas EE Conference Workshop, Great Bend  |
| <b>4-5 November</b> | Kansas Environmental Education Conference, Highland Hotel, Great Bend  |

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

## Announcing EE Week 2011 annual theme: *Ocean Connections*



National Environmental Education Week is 10-16 April! This year's theme is Ocean Connections. Go to <http://www.eeweek.org/> to register your school and learn more about the resources offered.

## National Healthy Schools Day is 26 April!

National Healthy Schools Day is great day for everyone to celebrate and promote healthy and green indoor school environments for all children and staff. Check out the website



<http://www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org/> for activity suggestions and tools! You may also sign up for free, informative national conference calls. There will be two calls in March.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rachel Carson Intergenerational Sense of Wonder Contest

Deadline: 10 June 2011



Entries must be developed by a multi-generational team of two or more individuals with at least one each representing the younger and older generations. Teams may submit a poem, essay, photograph, or dance video that captures the sense of wonder you see, hear, and feel in nature. The contest takes its name from a book written by Carson and published posthumously 45 years ago, *The Sense of Wonder*. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>.

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 and Staples Foundation for Learning

## Eagle Cam gives viewers rare glimpse into eagle's life at Norfolk Botanical Garden

People around the world watch the eagles at Norfolk Botanical Garden as they create the home they'll for this year's eaglets. The pair had three babies in 2010 and has successfully raised 15 eaglets in their eight years at the Garden. The nesting season typically runs from mid-to-late summer.



<http://www.wvec.com/marketplace/microsite-content/eagle-cam.html>

## Environmental Education Regional Grants Program for 2011



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications for \$1.9 million in funding for environmental education projects and programs. The purpose of the grants is to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 and will accept applications until May 2, 2011.

The grants provide financial support for innovative projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Projects should involve environmental education activities that go beyond disseminating information.

EPA will be hosting two conference calls for potential applicants interested in additional information about the application process. The conference calls will take place on March 21, 2011 at 11 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and April 6 at 2 p.m. EDT. To participate in the conference calls, dial: 1-866-379-5082, conference ID number: 48699133 for the call on March 21. Use conference ID number: 48696117 for the call on April 6.

The Environmental Education Grant Program provides funding to local education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, colleges or universities, not-for-profit organizations, or noncommercial educational broadcasting entities. Tribal education agencies, which are controlled by an Indian tribe, band or nation, may also apply, including a school or community college.

More information on eligibility and application materials: <http://www.epa.gov/education/grants.html>



**HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?**  
Send them to Shari L. Wilson at  
[swilson@kacee.org](mailto:swilson@kacee.org)