



Kansas Green Schools Update #4 (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.

Wishing you a very happy holiday season!

Up To \$4500 Grants Available for Your Green School!

The Kansas Green Schools Program is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$4500 in grant funding for Kansas Green Schools for the 2012-13 school year. The Kansas Green Schools Grant Program was initially developed through a partnership between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE). Kansas Green Schools Grants are intended to encourage schools to develop creative, innovative, effective environmental projects to improve the environment; make schools a healthier place to learn, play, and work; and save money through reduced use of resources, while incorporating strong educational components. Grant projects may address air quality, climate change, solid waste reduction and recycling, or water management through an integrated holistic approach emphasizing public health or environment-related issues. All school-based program initiatives must include direct environmental benefits and education as components of their integrated holistic approach.

Any public or private K-12 school in Kansas may apply for a Green Schools Grant. Green Schools Grant awards will be limited to projects that can reasonably be completed within one school year. Grant amounts cannot exceed \$4,500 per school, and schools must be registered on the Kansas Green Schools Network. All projects must include an environmental education component in the classroom. Schools may apply for more than one (1) grant per school year, but should realize that due to the limited amount of grant funding, preference may be given to schools that have not previously received grants.

Funding is available for a wide range of green school projects. Kansas Green Schools Grants fall into several categories, depending on their funding source. Grant awards are dependent on available funding. Please see the following guidelines for each of the grant categories at <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/grants>:

1. Air Quality and Energy (Deadline 2/15/12)
2. Solid Waste Management (Deadline 2/15/12)
3. Water Quality (Deadline 2/15/12)

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. For more information, please visit <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/westar-diesel-bus-retrofit-grants>

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



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

International Educators Institute Term: July 8-14, 2012 Application deadline February 28, 2012.

The International Educators Institute is an innovative forest study tour for environmental educators, natural resource managers and conservationists. Combining content-rich, hands-on experiences in the field with a multicultural exchange of best practices in education and research, IEI seeks to advance effective outreach, teaching and learning about social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the world's forests. World-class scenery, special behind-the-scenes tours, and interviews with local people are combined with peer-to-peer leadership development. The course is scheduled for July 8-14, 2012 in Portland, Oregon, and the application deadline is Feb. 28, 2012. For more information and to download application materials visit: <http://bit.ly/rZ1Vlt>.



World Forest Institute

Get Geared Up For National Green Week 2012!

Now is the time to prepare for National Green Week 2012! Choose your activities, curriculum and greening initiatives today! National Green Week empowers students to be leaders of their own sustainability campaigns. This year, the largest waste reduction campaign kicks off February 6 - 10, 2012 but you can chose *any* week from Feb. 6- April 22 (Earth Day) to participate. For more information, visit <http://bitly.com/uJy4kF>



Join the Challenge and Win!



The Green Energy Challenge is calling on YOU to save energy and money for your school. Join for free and participate in energy audits and standards-based curriculum. For more information, visit <http://bitly.com/tqql1wu>

Simens We Can Change the World Challenge

Prizes of \$5000 per school and more! Free online webinars to for schools to get great ideas, answer questions and more. Find out how to enter the Simens We Can Change the World competition at:

<http://www.wecanchange.com/>



PLT's *The Branch*



Project Learning Tree advances environmental literacy and promotes stewardship through excellence in environmental education, professional development, and curriculum materials that use trees and forests as windows on the world. PLT and its state programs work on -the-ground with teachers and other educators, giving you the tools and resources you need to help children value the natural world and prepare them for the future they will inherit. PLT's *The Branch* newsletter is published four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall).

In addition to PLT news and environmental education policy updates, we feature articles by educators that focus on teaching tips; practical ways to use PLT materials; recommendations for curriculum resources; grant opportunities; and quality children's literature. Sign up to receive *The Branch* at <http://www.plt.org/sign-up>.

Calendar

- 13 April, 2012 - Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Celebration, Topeka
More info to follow
- 18-19 April, 2012 - Get Going With Green Schools! Workshop in Parsons. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>

Don't forget to 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.



HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?
Send them to Rachel Wahle at
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