

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.

Congratulations Brookwood Elementary, Shawnee Mission School District!

2012 Kansas Green Schools of the Year Award Goes to Brookwood Elementary!

KACEE congratulates this year's Kansas Green Schools of the Year Award recipient Brookwood Elementary, Shawnee Mission School District.

Brookwood Elementary will receive their award at the KACEE Awards Celebration on April 13th in Topeka. Watch the Kansas Green Schools website for the 2013 Awards Nomination Form, which will be available this fall. For more information about this year's awardees, visit www.kacee.org.

Dare to Declare!!!

Kansas Green Schools of Excellence



The declarations have begun as schools across the state are declaring they will be a Kansas Green School of Excellence! Schools are able to register and declare their intent online and then the fun begins! Registered green schools have the opportunity to work towards three different levels of certification and

recognition! Your school simply declares their intent to become a Green School of Excellence, choose which level of recognition they will be working towards, form your Green Team and begin the Investigations. The five available investigations are:

- 1) Plunge into Water- including water audits both indoors and on the school grounds
- 2) Wondering about Waste- how much waste do we produce, what do we do with our waste, and where does our waste go?
- 3) Ignited about Energy- includes energy savings investigations both in the classroom and school-wide
- 4) The Learning Community- investigating your school grounds and your broader community
- 5) Healthy School Environment- learn about your school's indoor and outdoor air quality

Based on the number of investigations your school's Green Team completes and number of action plans put together, your school can apply for different levels of recognition! The Silver Globe, Gold Globe or Green Globe award!!!! Each year you can reapply and keep advancing your level of recognition and school involvement!

Investigations are available in two different versions, both elementary and middle school/high school. The investigations have great inquiry involvement, 21st Century Learning skills and will help schools in the process of becoming a Green Ribbon School!

To learn more, visit www.kansasgreenschools.org and check out the "Get Recognized" section which includes KGS of Excellence. The investigations are also available online under "Investigate."

For further questions, please contact Rachel Wahle at rwahle@kacee.org or 785-539-7943

Nominate Your School to Become a Green Ribbon School **DEADLINE EXTENDED**

Nominations are due March 2, 2012.



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>.

You may view a recorded webinar on completing the Kansas Green Ribbon Schools application at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG7CIZscjHQ>.

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 Department of Agriculture, Koch Industries and Staples Foundation for Learning



NEW! Kansas Green Schools Garden Curriculum and Resources

<http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/green-schools-garden-gate>



Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education (KACEE) is excited to announce its launch of the new Kansas Green Schools Garden Gate! The Garden Gate, located on the homepage of the

Kansas Green Schools website, is a portal to the new Kansas School Gardens Curriculum and resources. Throughout the past year KACEE has worked with a dedicated team of educators and school garden experts to develop a comprehensive, hands on, and cross-curricular school gardens curriculum and resource hub to be utilized by all Kansas schools. The curriculum and resources were designed to provide schools with technical and educational support as they begin creating, maintaining, and expanding existing school gardening programs. Our vision is that Kansas school gardens will provide an integrated context for learning. A primary focus of this resource is to provide ideas and tools for educators that will involve students in all aspects of garden planning, planting, harvesting, and maintenance. The activities in this curriculum are designed to complement regular school curricula with hands-on, interdisciplinary environmental education, providing tools and inspiration for educators to take kids outside and connect the wonders of gardening with reading, writing, math, art, physical education, science, social studies, and more.

The school gardens curriculum is being launched through a series of professional development workshops where educators have the opportunity to experience the new hands on school garden activities and resources along with several other environmental education curricula. Two workshops have already taken place this past fall in Lawrence and Pratt. The final workshop will be held March 23-24 in Bushton (approximately one hour SW of Salina). For more information or to register for this workshop please visit www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule. Schools bringing two or more representatives to the workshop are eligible to apply for a \$500 school garden grant. In conjunction with the Lawrence and Pratt workshops KACEE awarded four participating schools with school garden grants to support their efforts to incorporate school gardening programs into the lives of their students.

School gardens create outdoor learning environments that provide for inquiry-based, hands-on learning that is invaluable to the growth and development of Kansas students. Educators can incorporate lessons about plants, insects, soil, photosynthesis, history and social studies into the garden to give a real world context to core subjects. Student gardeners may

also gain valuable life skills through learning about planting, harvesting, tasting fresh produce, food preparation, healthy life styles and food choices, and where food comes from. The benefits to students that are able to take part in school gardening are tremendous!

KACEE would like to offer special thanks to the dedicated writing team who worked with us on this exciting endeavor. Without the talent and expertise of this special group of people the Garden Gate and online curriculum and resources would not be what they are today. For all of your support and hard work we would like to say thank you! We are sincerely appreciative of everything you have done to support and increase the number of school gardening opportunities for Kansas students!



Kansas School Gardens Curriculum Writing Team

Beth Carreno - Bookworm Gardens, Sheboygan, WI

Dan Phelps - Professional Gardener, Lawrence, KS

Heather Teasley - Kindergarten USD 382, Pratt, KS

Kathy Talbott - 2nd Grade Tomahawk Elementary, Overland Park, KS

Lily Siebert - The Community Mercantile, Lawrence, KS

Mandy Kern - Agriculture Hiawatha High School, Hiawatha, KS

Mike Hotz - High School Science Wyandotte High School, Kansas City, KS

Nancy O'Connor - The Community Mercantile, Lawrence, KS

Laura Downey - KACEE, Manhattan, KS

Melissa Arthur - KACEE, Perry, KS

Ashlyn Kite-Hartwich - KACEE, Onaga, KS

The Kansas School Gardens Program is co-sponsored by the USDA Specialty Crop Grant Program (through a sub-grant from the Kansas Department of Agriculture) and Annie's Homegrown.

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



HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?

Send them to Rachel Wahle at

rwahle@kacee.org



Kansas Green Schools Update #5 (2011-12)



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

National Kids to Park Day Class Contest



This new national contest is open to schools across the country and in the U.S. territories. The theme of this year's contest is "Explore outdoors, the parks are yours!" which is the motto of our woolly mascot Buddy Bison. Students can submit proposals that exemplify this theme for a KTP event at a park in

their community. NPT will award scholarships in the amount of \$250, \$500 or \$1000 to winning entries. Awards will be used by the winners to implement their KTP event during the week leading up to May 19th. Deadline for entries is Thursday, March 1st. Winners will be announced Monday, March 19th. For more information, visit <http://www.kidstoparks.org/school-contest>

Kansas TV Show Wants to Tell Your Story

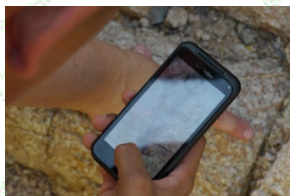


Get your school garden or school agriculture project broadcasted on a local Kansas television show! *Ag am in Kansas*, a half-hour agriculture show, wants to hear your good

news stories about school gardens and school AG-related projects. This is a great opportunity to get your school and students' hard work recognized. Please visit the *AG am in Kansas* website for more information and to view past episodes www.agaminkansas.com. If you are interested in sharing your story please email Ashlyn Kite-Hartwich, KACEE at akite@kacee.org.

EE Week Educator Webinar: Technology Goes Wild: New Tools for Connecting Classrooms with Nature

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. EST



National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is partnering with National Geographic Education and Project Noah to bring educators the information and tools they need to take technology outside, engaging students in STEM (science,

technology, engineering and math) learning in their own schoolyard or local public land. To register, visit http://www.eeweek.org/webinars/tech_goes_wild

Calendar

- 8-9 March, 2012 - Get Going with Green Schools! Workshop in Horton. Graduate Credit will be available. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 14 March, 2012 - Science & Civics: Sustaining Wildlife in Great Bend. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 23-24 March, 2012 - Dig in to School Gardens! Workshop in Bushton. Graduate Credit will be available. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 28 March, 2012 - Flying WILD! Workshop in Great Bend. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 13 April, 2012 - Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Celebration, Topeka For more information, visit www.kacee.org
- 14 April, 2012 - Get Outside, Learn Outside: Environmental Education for Early Childhood in Emporia. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 18-19 April, 2012 - Get Going With Green Schools! Workshop in Parsons. Graduate Credit will be available. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 31 May-1 June, 2012 - Get Going With Green Schools! Workshop in Garden City. Graduate Credit will be available. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 7-8 June, 2012 - Get Going With Green Schools! Workshop in Manhattan. Graduate Credit will be available. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 9 June, 2012 - Get Outside, Learn Outside: Environmental Education for Early Childhood in Independence. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 16 June, 2012 - Get Outside, Learn Outside: Environmental Education for Early Childhood in Hays. For more information, visit <http://www.kacee.org/workshop-schedule>
- 27 July, 2012 - Kansas Green Schools Conference in Topeka More information to follow.

The Lorax is Back!

Celebrate the upcoming release of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* with some great Project Learning Tree activities! Download them at <http://www.plt.org/the-lorax-is-back->

