

28 September 2009

Kansas Green Schools Update #1 (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.

School has been underway for awhile, and hopefully you are starting to implement ideas to make your school more green. Here are a few more to add to the mix, and don't forget to check out the Green Schools website's new Resource Links page!

More than 150 Educators Attend First Kansas Green Schools Conference



"Just pick an activity and get started," keynote speaker Robert Kobet told the first-ever Kansas Green Schools Conference audience. "No project is too small – the important thing is to do something."

Inspiration for schools to go green was the overriding theme at the conference, which featured schools receiving Green Schools Grants sharing their projects, roundtable sessions with organizations offering

grants and other resources, and several concurrent sessions focusing on green careers, curriculum activities for classrooms, how to organize festivals and events for schools and the community, and connections between a healthy school learning environment and productive students. A performance of "Down the Drain" by StoneLion Puppet Theatre provided "edu-tainment" for the attendees.

"We were very encouraged by the attendance at the conference," said Shari Wilson, KACEE manager of the Kansas Green Schools Program. "We appreciate our sponsors and the Sedgwick County Zoo hosting us, and believe there is a tremendous desire for this type of information about greening our state's schools and providing standards-based environmental education curriculum."



Focus on Green Schools at the Kansas Environmental Education Conference!



Updates on Green Schools legislation and education initiatives will take center stage at the 10th Annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference. Patrick Kerr with the U.S. Department of Education and Congressman Dennis Moore will speak about

DOE's interest in green schools to support high-performing learning environments and the green schools funding included in the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act recently passed by the House. In addition, concurrent sessions will provide Kansas-centered curriculum and project ideas, and there will also be additional keynotes, field studies, exhibits, and opportunities for networking with colleagues. **Green Schools are encouraged to bring exhibits about school projects—the exhibits are free!** For more information about the conference, and to register, go to www.kacee.org. Online registration is available.

Green School Success Stories Needed: Send Us Yours!

KACEE receives lots of requests for examples of Green School projects and ways teachers use environmental education in their classrooms. If your school is doing something innovative that you'd like to share with others, please send a brief description (one paragraph, please) to Shari Wilson at swilson@kacee.org. These examples may be used on the Green Schools website or shared with other organizations and schools. Photos are welcome, but please keep in mind the intended use and make sure necessary permissions to use the photos have been received.



For more information, check out our website at www.kansasgreenschools.org or contact Shari L. Wilson
Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)
swilson@kacee.org
913-287-6879

Join the Kansas Green Schools Facebook Page!

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=129189897280&ref=ts> to join.

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

Kansas Outdoors Today web videos



These web videos are produced by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, and feature 1-6 minute clips of various outdoors topics. Learn about the Milford Fish Hatchery, leaf feeders, state parks, red-tailed hawks, beavers, and more!
www.kdwp.state.ks.us

Conservation District Resources for Schools

Is your school looking for great new education programs, environmental professionals to talk to your students, or resources related to conservation and natural resources? Contact your County Conservation District, as they offer, or have access to, countless resources that may just fit your needs. Log onto <http://www.kacdnet.org/districts.html> and click on your county on the Kansas Map, click on your county again when the pop up window opens, and it will bring up the contact information for your local conservation office.



Green Schools e-News



Sign up for this electronic newsletter, which brings ideas and updates on Green Schools initiatives to your e-mailbox. Go to www.greenschools.net and click on Sign Up in the upper righthand corner.

Free Stickers Help Reduce Paper Use

These Come from Trees helps reduce the unintentional overuse of paper through a simple reminder. The water-resistant stickers can be posted on paper towel dispensers, photocopiers, and anywhere else that paper is used. Testing from the These Come from Trees founders shows reductions in paper consumption of up to 30% after one year. The stickers are free of charge to K-12 schools. Permission of school administration is required. Go to <http://thesecomefromtrees.com> and click on Education Challenge under Quick Facts to sign up.



Calendar

- 23 & 24 October - Educator Workshop: Exploring Environmental Education in Pratt, KS. Graduate Credit is available. Contact Jolene at jamtower@kacee.org or 785-532-1902 to register.
- 6-7 November - Kansas Environmental Education Conference, Lawrence
Pre-Conference Workshop on 5 November
- 15 November America Recycles Day

Bob the Ball Stars on EE Week's Website

Check out the home page of EE Week to see Bob the Ball sharing the green success stories of De Soto's Starside Elementary School! (And guess who will be making an appearance at the Kansas Environmental Education Conference. . .) <http://eeweek.org/> And while you're there, sign up to be a part of the 2010 EE Week.

Is your school in the newspaper or featured on a website or on television? Send us the information! We'll post it on our website.



Kansas Coalition for Children and Nature

Last spring, Governor Sebelius signed an Executive Order establishing the Kansas Coalition for Children and Nature. KCCN's charge is to identify barriers and make recommendations for getting more children outside, both for physical exercise and health and to develop appreciation and understanding for nature. Working groups in the areas of environmental education, outdoor recreation and activities, and health are currently being formed. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Shari Wilson at swilson@kacee.org.



HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?

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