

Kansas Green Schools Update #2 (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.

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

Kansas Green Schools Represented at Conference



Students from Erie Charter High School conducted their own energy audit at the Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence

Schools from the Kansas Green Schools Network were well-represented at last weekend's Kansas Environmental Education Conference. Through presentations, exhibits, and sharing their success stories, teachers, administrators, and students provided information and inspiration for the rest of the conference participants.

Schools represented were Erie Charter High School, John Dewey Learning Academy (Lecompton), Starside Elementary School (De Soto), Blue Valley (Johnson County), St. Joseph School (McPherson), Lawrence High School, Lincoln Central (Cherryvale), Bonner Springs-Edwardsville,

Wyandotte High School (Kansas City, KS), Topeka Public Schools, Sterling Public Schools, Wamego Middle School, Galena Public Schools, Olathe South High School, Goddard High School, Gardner-Edgerton High School, Explorer Elementary (Wichita), Hiawatha High School, and Newton Public Schools. Thank you for attending and sharing your knowledge and accomplishments!

Next year's Kansas Environmental Education Conference will take place on 5 – 6 November in Salina. Mark your calendars now!

Videos from the conference can be viewed on the KansasKACEE channel on YouTube (www.youtube.com/KansasKACEE).

They feature summaries of concurrent session presentations by speakers at the conference.

Green Starters

Just getting started with your green efforts? Try these starters:

- ◇ Ask a car dealer that sells hybrid or flex-fuel cars to bring one to your school and talk with your students about how it works.
- ◇ If you're making craft projects or holiday gifts, raid your supply closet and recycling bins instead of buying new supplies. Let your students use their imaginations – and use this teaching opportunity to talk about reusing and recycling!

The Green Artist

Do you use a canvas bag to carry groceries and other items, but still have tons of plastic bags? Here are a couple of green and crafty ideas!

- ◇ Make plarn and weave some cool "upcycled trashion" items like placemats, coasters, or even tote bags! This plastic yarn is easy to make, and just a basic crochet stitch is all that's necessary to know. Watch this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdTm2V4ssvY> or, if you can't access YouTube, just search for "plarn" and an array of websites will come up.
- ◇ Make a holiday wreath! KACEE's Executive Director Laura Downey made this colorful one from Target store bags, a coat hanger, and aluminum cans. Take the hanger apart and form it into a circle, with the hook at the top. Cut the bags into strips and tie them to the hanger so that the knot is in the middle. Tie them very close together so your wreath is nice and fluffy. You may want to intersperse different colors to make the wreath more festive! Use a contrasting color or patterned strip for a big bow on the bottom. Use hot glue to attach it. Cut circles or other shapes out of aluminum cans and hot glue them to the plastic strips to make your wreath sparkle! This wreath can hang inside or outside.



Need to find more plastic bags so your entire class can join the fun? Ask your local grocery or discount store if they accept bags for recycling, and if you can have them for a class project.

**For more information, check out our website at www.kansasgreenschools.org or contact Shari L. Wilson
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 913-287-6879**

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

Research Experiences for Teachers: Shaping Inquiry from Feedstock-to-Tailpipe (SHIFT)

Six-week summer program for high school and community college chemistry, biology, physics, and environmental science teachers to engage in biofuel research at the University of Kansas. \$8,000 stipend, housing and supplies included. Application deadline: 18 December 2009. For more information: www.cebc.ku.edu or Claudia Bode, bode@ku.edu or 785-864-1647.

The Kansas School Naturalist

A free publication from Emporia State University that devotes each issue to a single topic, such as Making an Insect Collection, Animals in Succession, Stream Ecology, Dragonflies of Kansas, Ants of Kansas, and much more! To subscribe or request free back issues (such as the ones listed above), send a note to Kansas School Naturalist, Emporia State University, Dept. of Biological Sciences, P.O. Box 4050, Emporia, KS 66801. The publication may also be viewed online at www.emporia.edu/ksn.



Sign Up for a Free Green Cleaning Webinar



"Piloting a Green Cleaning Program in Your District" is a free webinar to be held on Tuesday, 17 November, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Register at <https://californiabreathingevents.webex.com/>.

Participants will learn about the health impacts of conventional cleaning products used in schools; how to switch to safer "green" cleaning products; how to create a program to test and evaluate new products; and how to identify next steps to implement green cleaning and save money.

Generation Green Writing Contest: The Green Economy



Generation Green is a writing contest for college and high school students sponsored by The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE). Articles are limited to 500 words for high school students. Three types of green economy articles are being solicited: opinion articles, research showcases,

and community programs. Articles "should be designed to express personal perspectives and experiences, identifying key issues and solutions. Submissions will be evaluated on originality of thought, clarity of writing, and relevance to the new green economy." Go to <http://ncseonline.org/conference/greeneconomy/cms.cfm?id=3302> for more information. Contest deadline is 4 December

President's Environmental Youth Awards



Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the President's Environmental Youth Awards celebrate young people throughout the country for projects that demonstrate a commitment to the environment.

Student(s) must be sponsored by an adult and must submit an application along with evidence of a completed project to their local EPA regional office. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/PEYA/> for more information. Deadline for applications is 31

Calendar

- 15 November, 2009 America Recycles Day
- 21 November, 2009 and 13 February, 2010 Energize with EE Workshop, Garden City
For more information please contact Jolene Amtower at jamtower@kacee.org or 785-532-1902



A solar-powered water well was drilled and installed at Clifton-Clyde High School's football field. The solar-powered technology will provide enough water for all of the landscaping at the site through a "eco-friendly" water drip system. The site will be used for educational purposes in order for the students, staff, and community members to learn about the benefits of clean and renewable energy at high school football games this fall.

Resource Idea

Paula Henderson at Starside Elementary in De Soto recommends *Garbage and Recycling*, a DVD that follows recycled aluminum, plastic and wood through the recycling process. It answers the question where does the items we put in the recycling bins actually go? It is by GT Media ISBN 978-0-7662-3554-0



HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?

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