

14 May 2009

# Kansas Green Schools Update #4



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.

**Summer's almost here, but opportunities for schools in the Kansas Green Schools Network aren't slowing down. This update is chock-full of conferences, workshops, and grant opportunities for you and your school!  
Have a great summer, and we'll see you at the Green Schools Conference in July!**

## Early Bird Registration Date for Green Schools Conference Approaches



Early registration rates for the Kansas Green Schools Conference are available until 31 May. The cost is only \$15 per person if you register by that date. The conference features keynote Robert Kobet, who will talk about connecting community and curriculum, and give examples of his green projects from other parts of the United States and beyond. In addition, concurrent sessions will feature representatives from schools who have

received Green Schools Grants; agencies and organizations that offer funding opportunities; and presentations on the outlook for green jobs in Kansas, green event/festival training, elements of a green and healthy school, and more! Information at [www.kansasgreenschools.org/conference](http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/conference).

## Before Summer Comes, Update Your Green Schools Profile!

Before school is out for the summer, please take a few minutes to update your Green Schools Network profile. Go to the Green Schools website at [www.kansasgreenschools.org](http://www.kansasgreenschools.org), enter your user id and password, and let us know what you've been doing this past year! We want to hear about your environmental projects and curriculum activities, and we'd love to see your photos. If your contact person will be changing for the 2009-10 school year, please update that section as well. Information submitted by 15 June 2009 will be compiled and included in the 2009 Kansas Green Schools Report. If you have questions, please contact Shari Wilson at [swilson@kacee.org](mailto:swilson@kacee.org).

**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)  
913-287-6879**

## Deadline for EE Conference Proposals Extended



The deadline for submitting a concurrent session or poster proposal for the 2009 Kansas Environmental Education Conference has been extended to Friday, 19 June. This year, there will be special tracks on Green Schools and

early childhood learning. If you are doing exciting projects at your school, please submit a proposal and share them with others! To submit your proposal, please visit <http://www.kacee.org/PRESFORM.pdf> to download the form.

## Governor Signs Executive Order on Children and Nature



Before leaving Kansas to become the new Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services, Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed an Executive Order establishing the Kansas Coalition on Children and Nature (KCCN). KACEE worked with the Kansas Wildlife

Federation, Governor's Sub-Cabinet on Natural Resources, Kansas State Department of Education, National Wildlife Federation, and others to develop the Executive Order for the Governor's signature. Overseen by 10 Conveners, the Executive Order provides for five working groups that will work to increase opportunities for children to spend more time outside; develop and implement an environmental literacy plan; devise a way to measure the amount of time spent outdoors by children; explore correlations between the amount of time children spend outdoors and their health; and identify opportunities and barriers to support implementation of programs in local school districts and on public lands. If you are interested in being involved with the KCCN, please contact Shari Wilson at [swilson@kacee.org](mailto:swilson@kacee.org). A copy of the Executive Order can be found here:

[http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/files/u417/Executive\\_Order\\_09-02\\_Final.pdf](http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/files/u417/Executive_Order_09-02_Final.pdf)

# Kansas Green Schools Update #4



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

## ECO-Meet



The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks is looking for high schools interested in participating in ECO-Meets next fall. For more information, check out the Kansas ECO-Meet website at <http://www.kansasecomeet.org/>. If you are interested in participating, or have questions, contact Mike Rader at [miker@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:miker@wp.state.ks.us) or 620-672-0708.

## Westar Grants



Teachers at schools in Westar Energy's service area are eligible to submit an original lesson plan or project for a \$250 Teacher Challenge grant for their classroom. For more information, go to [http://www.westarenergy.com/corp\\_com/contentmgt.nsf/publishedpages/energy%20efficiency%20school%20connections](http://www.westarenergy.com/corp_com/contentmgt.nsf/publishedpages/energy%20efficiency%20school%20connections) Scroll down to the bottom and click on Teacher Challenge. 2009-10 School Year deadlines are 26 August and 18 December 2009.

## Kansas Electronic Watershed Library



The new Kansas Electronic Watershed Library is a terrific resource for locating watershed-related information. Download information you need or upload information you have that would help others! Check it out at <http://www.kswraps.org/library>.

## Sunflower Foundation Grant Opportunity

The Sunflower Foundation is accepting Requests for Proposals (RFP 09-105) for Sunflower Trails Grants, which help to promote physical activity by building community-based and school-based walking trails. Deadline for applications is Thursday, 10 September 2009 (notice of awards by 31 October 2009). A telephone briefing will take place over the summer for those interested in applying. Go to [http://www.sunflowerfoundation.org/applying\\_for\\_a\\_grant-open\\_rfps.php](http://www.sunflowerfoundation.org/applying_for_a_grant-open_rfps.php) for more information and to download grant forms.



## Calendar

- 31 May Early registration deadline for Kansas Green Schools Conference
- 28-29 May Discover a Watershed Workshop & Floating Field Experience, Topeka. Contact Jolene at [jamtower@kacee.org](mailto:jamtower@kacee.org) or 785-532-1902 to register
- 9 June Teacher Workshop: Get WET and WILD at Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure! Open to teachers in Smoky Hill Education Service Area districts only
- 10-11 June Educator Workshop: Watershed & Natural Resource Education, Lecompton. Contact Jolene at [jamtower@kacee.org](mailto:jamtower@kacee.org) or 785-532-1902 to register
- 19 June Deadline for Kansas Environmental Education Conference Presentation & Poster Proposals
- 24 June From Camps to Classrooms: McPherson Uplands Field Studies, McPherson Valley Uplands Outdoor Life Center, McPherson. Contact Jolene at [jamtower@kacee.org](mailto:jamtower@kacee.org) or 785-532-1902 to register
- 31 July Kansas Green Schools Conference, Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita
- 6-7 November Kansas Environmental Education Conference, Lawrence  
Pre-Conference Workshop on 5 November



Goddard High School wind turbine project was supported by a Kansas Green Schools Grant. It powers an underwater aerator which helps clean the water. The high school hosted an Earth Day Festival and local elementary schools attended.

Photo by: Shari L. Wilson



**HAVE NEWS OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?**

Send them to Shari L. Wilson at [swilson@kacee.org](mailto:swilson@kacee.org)