



OGS Newsletter #2 – January 2011

Welcome to the Oklahoma Green Schools Program Newsletter!

By Jeff Wegener, Oklahoma Green Schools Committee Chair
LWPB Architecture / USGBC Oklahoma Chapter

As chair of the Oklahoma Green Schools Program (OGSP), I would like to invite you to participate in the second pilot year of this new program. Many educators in Oklahoma have expressed the desire to have a program to support and recognize “green” activities within their schools. Available information on the topic can be overwhelming, so there has also been a need to provide a clear, organized source for information. This program has been developed to address these needs.

The program has multiple tracks. Track I is to be used in the classroom, and is intended to be simple, fun and inspiring. It is voluntary and there are no costs involved. All it takes is a teacher motivated to lead a Green Team of students.

If you know a teacher who might be interested in learning more about the Oklahoma Green Schools Program, please forward this information to them. We would love to help them get started. Registration is available online here: <http://www.okgreenschools.org/pages/application.html>

National Green Week - Sponsored by the Green Education Foundation (GEF)

National Green Week 2011 is mobilizing millions of students nationwide to participate in sustainability education during Feb. 7-11. Each grade has its own green theme. [Enroll today](#) and be entered to win up to \$5,000 worth of eco-prizes. GEF is a non-profit organization committed to creating a sustainable future through education. GEF provides curriculum and resources to K-12 students and teachers worldwide with the goal of challenging youth to think holistically and critically about global environmental concerns and solutions. Visit www.greeneducationfoundation.org to register free and to gain full access to GEF’s comprehensive library of standards-based lessons and activities.

Greening Your School Provides Benefits

From the US Green Building Council website: <http://www.greenschoolbuildings.org/Homepage.aspx>

Green school /grEn skül/ n. a school building or facility that creates a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money.

- 20% of America goes to school every day. Too many of these students and teachers attend schools that are inefficient and miss important opportunities to reduce operational costs, foster learning and protect student health.
- Public and private schools alike are realizing that going green is a no-brainer. If a green school saved \$100,000 per year in operational costs, that's roughly enough to hire two new teachers, buy 200 new computers or purchase 5,000 new textbooks.
- By promoting the greening of all schools - new or existing - we can make a tremendous impact on student health, test scores, teacher retention, school operational costs and the environment.

Featured PLT Investigation: Energy - Every Watt Counts!

By Christina Stallings Roberson, Green Schools Training Coordinator

Project Learning Tree's (PLT) *School Investigations* form the basis for Oklahoma Green Schools' educational component. PLT, a nationally recognized environmental education curriculum, spent over three years developing and field testing the five investigations which cover Energy, Water, School Site, Environmental Quality and Waste & Recycling. These student led, hands on investigations, downloadable from the PLT website GreenSchools! section: www.plt.org are available in both an elementary and secondary format. Clear, easy to use data collection forms allow students to become actively involved in their own learning while being ambassadors of stewardship in their school communities.



The Energy investigation asks students to collect data around the school building and within classrooms. Questions are raised such as:

- How many items are plugged in and how much energy do they use?
- How much does a KWh of energy cost and where/how is my energy produced?
- What types of light bulbs are currently being used? Do cost effective alternatives exist?
- Is lighting adequate and of good quality in each classroom or hallway?
- Is temperature & humidity comfortable and consistent throughout the building?

As students collect data and document findings, questions arise regarding personal and cooperative actions that can be taken to address issues. Through student leadership, each school can move towards creating a healthy and green learning environment!

Meet the Experts: Les Pace, Energy Management Professional

Les has worked with K-12 educational facilities since 1970. He retired from Tulsa Public Schools in February 2007 after 17 years of service. Les re-opened his consulting firm and continues to work with Tulsa Schools along with several other school districts in Oklahoma, and Indiana. Les is a Certified Energy Manager (CEM), Certified Lighting Efficiency Professional (CLEP), Certified Demand Side Management and trained in Indoor Air Quality evaluation in K-12 facilities. He is the co-author of the Energy Management Handbook published and distributed by the National Association of Energy Engineers, and further distributed to the 44 member nations of the World Energy Engineers Congress. Les has twice been invited to speak to the World Energy Engineers Congress, and has subsequently had his white papers published.

Les is President of Pace Applied Technologies, Inc, home based in Wagoner, OK. He also formed a non-profit foundation, Partnership in Environmental Education Foundation, to provide services to K-12 schools that do not have the funds to afford professional energy, facility management, and indoor air quality services. This service also provides teaching materials and classroom instruction on environmental issues and how to become earth stewards through using renewable energy, and conservation of our natural resources. In addition to serving with our *Oklahoma Green Schools Program*, Les is co-chair of USGBC Oklahoma's Green Schools Committee, representing NE Oklahoma, and is past board member of the Oklahoma School Plant Managers Association.

Green Holiday Tips: Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated on February 14 and while it has a very long history dating back hundreds of years, the scale of the occasion we have today is largely thanks (or no thanks) to marketers. Valentine's Day is big business and as such has the potential to have substantial impact on the environment. For example, the one billion cards laid end to end would stretch around the world 5 times! That's a lot of trees. You can show a bit of extra love for the environment by carefully considering what you buy. Here are some ideas for a green Valentine's Day from Green Living Tips online.

- Send cards made from recycled or [tree-free paper](#) (this will be indicated on the card)
- Consider sending an e-card instead of using one of the many quality services around. (Google "free electronic greeting cards" for a plethora of choices.)
- Select [Fair trade](#) and/or organic chocolate
- Choose organic and/or locally grown flowers
- If you wish to give jewelry, consider pre-owned or purchasing from jewelers who are certified to be sourcing precious metals and gemstones in an [ecologically and socially responsible manner](#). Or considering something really offbeat like a [wooden ring](#) - they look amazing.
- Buy the person a gift certificate for a massage or health spa.
- Arrange dinner at a local restaurant specializing in organic or locally grown food, or make dinner yourself with locally grown ingredients. Eating locally [cuts down on food miles](#). View local options listed in the Oklahoma Buy Fresh Buy Local food guides here: <http://www.kerrcenter.com/buy-fresh.htm>.