

King County Green Schools Program

Best Practices Workshop

Agenda

May 21, 2009

Goals of the workshop are to share best practices in the following areas:

- Waste reduction – including recommendations for moving away from polystyrene
- Recycling – how to improve and maintain recycling practices, including food scrap recycling
- Environmental education – how to integrate curricula into your school
- Energy conservation – how to reduce energy use by involving students and staff, and by making policy and infrastructure changes

There will be time in sessions to share your experiences and to learn from the experiences of other workshop participants.

12:30 - 1:00	Registration
1:00 - 1:15	Welcome and Introductions
1:15 - 1:20	Move to assigned break out rooms
1:20 - 2:30	Session 1 – Three concurrent topics will be offered Based on registration selections, three of the four session topics described on pages 2 - 4 will be offered during this time.
2:30 - 2:45	BREAK: refreshments, networking
2:45 - 2:50	Move to assigned break out rooms
2:50 - 4:00	Session 2 – Three concurrent topics will be offered Based on registration selections, three of the four session topics described on pages 2 – 4 will be offered during this time.
4:00 - 4:25	Action Planning and Next Steps (large group) Recognition of schools that have met level one program criteria
4:25 - 4:30	Evaluation forms (The evaluation forms must be completed to receive reimbursement for substitutes.)

Session Topics and Presenters

Waste Reduction

This session will focus on waste reduction as both a mindset and a practice. This is the first “R” of the 4 R’s (REDUCE, reuse, recycle and rethink). Get ready to do more with less! How can your school adopt a waste reduction culture? Hear specific examples of schools that have successfully reduced paper and single-use containers, and that have eliminated polystyrene trays. The presenter also will share resources for simple, fun projects for students, such as zero waste locker clean outs, materials exchanges, waste-free Wednesdays and more. Teachers will learn easy ways to incorporate these topics into existing curricula, as well as how to create new lessons that teach the importance of reducing our waste.

Presenter

Karen Schrantz, Senior Associate, Triangle Associates, Inc., King County Green Schools Program Consultant

Karen is a certified teacher and environmental educator with more than 14 years of experience. Karen has assisted schools on behalf of the King County Green Schools Program for the past four years and began managing Triangle Associates’ contract with the King County Green Schools Program in 2008. For nearly ten years, Karen taught classroom workshops for students and worked with school environmental groups as part of King County’s School Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Program. She also has conducted teacher trainings and parent education workshops about hazardous waste reduction through the King County Household Hazardous Waste School Program. Karen’s prior experience includes four years as an elementary and junior high school teacher. She has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington with an emphasis on urban and regional policy.

Recycling

This session will focus on promoting and maintaining your recycling program. We will answer those recurring questions: What can *really* be recycled?; How do I keep my students motivated?; How do I deal with the loss of key team members?; How do I recruit new Green Team members?; How do we create a self-sustaining program? Bring other questions with you! The presenter also will share lesson ideas and King County classroom resources that drive home messages for students.

Presenter

Kristine Cramer, Associate, Triangle Associates, Inc., King County Green Schools Program Consultant

Kristine is an environmental educator with over 10 years of experience assisting schools, teaching classroom workshops and working with school environmental clubs on behalf of the King County Green Schools Program and the King County Green Team Program. Kristine effectively works with a variety of audiences, including teachers, students, principals, and custodians. Her prior work includes managing waste reduction, recycling, and water and energy conservation education programs at a Cal Sierra Disposal Station in California. Kristine has a Master of Science degree from the University of Washington’s College of Forest Resources.

Food Scrap Recycling

This session will focus on the following: (1) Collection of food scraps and other compostable materials for off-site composting; and (2) On-site composting of food scraps. Presenters will walk through the steps of how to: (a) set up a school cafeteria for recycling; (b) involve students, kitchen staff and custodians; and (c) promote and maintain food scrap recycling programs. We will address the following questions: What can be composted?; Are collection services available in my area?; How can our school pay for composting collection? Schools interested in tackling on-site composting will learn about composting equipment options as well as the benefits and challenges of doing it on-site. Presenters also will share environmental education lessons about the cycles of food decomposition and how teachers have used student volunteers.

Presenters

Sam Wilder, Wilder Environmental, King County Green Schools Program Consultant

Sam has worked in the recycling and waste reduction field for 13 years, and as a contractor for the King County Green Schools Program for six years. As a presenter with the Pacific Science Center for three years, Sam taught about waste reduction and recycling to primary and secondary school classrooms in King County. In 2003 she started Wilder Environmental Consulting and has worked with many cities and two counties. Sam has delivered more than 600 presentations to schools and businesses, assisted over 100 schools and 500 businesses to start or improve recycling programs, and set up food recycling programs at more than 25 schools and 100 businesses including the Microsoft campus. Sam has a degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Education.

Christina Banchemo Graham, District Manager, Cedar Grove Composting

Christina is District Manager in the Organics Recycling Division, where she educates businesses about food scrap recycling. Growing up in the family business, Christina has worked throughout the company since 1995 when she began to help in the accounting department and customer service. After graduating from the University of Washington with a degree in Marketing, Christina became a Cedar Grove sales representative, where she enjoyed educating consumers about the benefits of using all natural, organic products to help better the environment.

Cedar Grove Composting is part of a family owned enterprise with 250 employees and with roots in the waste management industry going back to 1938. As the Pacific Northwest's leading organic recycling company, Cedar Grove transforms grass, leaves, yard trimmings, food scraps and wood waste into nutrient-rich compost. The company has grown to become the largest single dedicated composting facility in the United States.

Kinley Deller, Program Manager, King County

Kinley Deller has been a Waste Reduction Specialist for King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks for 10 years. Part of this time was spent managing the County's three-year on-site in-vessel food waste composting pilot program. In addition to providing assistance on green building and deconstruction projects, Kinley continues to be a valuable resource regarding on-site composting.

Beyond WRR: **Overview of program levels 2 & 3 / Focus on Energy Conservation**

This session will provide an overview of levels two and three of the King County Green Schools Program along with a focus on energy conservation. Dale will address the question “My school has a great waste reduction and recycling program in place -- what now?” You will hear about other Green Schools Program categories, including Energy Conservation, Water Conservation, Environmental Education, Environmental Purchasing, Green Building, Hazardous Materials Management and Reduction, Litter Reduction and Transportation Choices. Dale will highlight successes in schools and districts, as well as effective ways to involve students. Sheryl will share best energy conservation practices and the most important ways to conserve energy in the classroom and other parts of the school. She also will include information about Puget Sound Energy services for schools.

Presenters

Dale Alekel, Program Manager, King County Green Schools Program

Dale has worked in the recycling and resource conservation field for 25 years. Since 1994, as part of the Solid Waste Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, she has assisted more than 600 businesses and schools to improve their waste reduction and recycling practices. In 2002 Dale designed and launched the King County Green Schools Program to help schools and school districts to conserve resources. More than 250 schools – as well as ten school districts – have benefited from the Green Schools Program.

Before joining King County, Dale was the founding Executive Director of Uptown Recycling, a nonprofit organization in Chicago. She advocated for city-wide recycling services, marketed recyclable materials, and expanded the organization’s services. Starting with a recycling buy-back center, the organization grew to include two drop-off centers, residential and commercial collection services, and environmental education. Dale also served for two years as President of the Illinois Recycling Association. Her work has received numerous awards, including awards for a business recycling newsletter and, most recently, two awards for the Green Schools Program.

Sheryl Anayas, Program Manager, Puget Sound Energy

Sheryl coordinates the Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) program for Puget Sound Energy. Her work includes marketing, grant writing, and coordination of training and assistance to school district RCMs. Sheryl has worked for Seattle Public Utilities, the King County Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in program implementation, communication and grants management. Prior to her public sector experience, Sheryl worked as a freelance writer for Science Interchange, a nonprofit environmental media network. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree, with a focus in Environmental Policy, from the University of Washington.