



Corvallis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sustainability Practices

The Corvallis School District is committed to both practicing and teaching the concept of sustainability to assure that current and future generations of students will enjoy a healthy environment. This commitment is evident in the way we build and maintain our facilities, manage our use of energy and resources, provide nutritious food options and handle our waste. It also guides the development of learning opportunities that will help our students understand the issues that affect the quality of our environment now and into the future.

A Sustainability Steering Committee was formed in 2009 to investigate how the district can become more sustainable in its operations, how to incorporate sustainability in each classroom, and to provide leadership in fulfilling the district's sustainability goals. Recommendations from this committee have informed our work during the last seven years. In 2016, the school board revisited the topic of sustainability and will be initiating a new committee in the 2016-17 school year.

School Board Policy related to sustainability

<http://policy.osba.org/corvall/E/EDDA%20D1.PDF>

Waste Reduction and Composting

- Micro cloths, rather than paper towels, are used for glass/mirror cleaning.
- Floor cleaning equipment assigned to each facility is designed to use less chemical and water. Equipment features dual cylindrical brushes (rather than a disc pad) which reduces waste, as the cylindrical brushes last much longer.
- Trash can liners replaced only when necessary rather than routine replacement. When replacing trash can liners we now use a thinner liner than we used before.
- In elementary schools, students are instructed to pour out the liquid waste before discarding their drink containers reducing the waste by up to as much as 30% by weight.
- Comingle recycle bins are located at each site along with large cardboard recycle dumpsters.
- Several schools are providing composting options in the lunch room as a pilot and we have plans to phase this in at all schools.
- All district dumpsters feature signage outlining prohibiting certain items and encouraging recycling. Dumpsters are lock after hours.

- All lamps and batteries are recycled through a centralized process to keep them out of the landfill.
- Reduced document printing and paper use due to Scan and Send function of new copiers. This practice is encouraged and supported district-wide.

Energy and Water Conservation

- Lighting retro-fit completed in 2010 at all schools with PP&L.
- Mercury vapor and metal halide lamps in gyms have been replaced with fluorescent lamps.
- "Alto" lamps (lower in mercury gases) are used when possible. CFL and LED lamps are used as we make replacements.
- Regular monitoring of utility use has led us to discover and repair leaks and has led to energy and cost savings.
- As funds are available, boiler retro-fits are completed, providing better heat leading to energy and cost savings.
- Water bottle filling stations have been installed at all schools to promote and encourage the use of personal, rather than disposable, water bottles.

Sustainable Cleaning and Maintenance Supplies

- We use "green" chemicals consisting mainly of peroxide based cleaners which are dispensed in "quick mix cabinets". This assures the optimal dilution rates to dispense chemicals for cleaning all facilities.
- Chemicals and dispensing units are designed to use cold water, using less energy.
- We use strippers that have less caustic chemical make-ups and perform optimally, thus using less water as well.
- Custodial supplies RFPs include a clause mandating sustainable chemicals and practices to ensure our purchases are sustainable products.
- Staff are educated to reduce and eliminate pest conducive conditions. When chemical use is required, we follow the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP).
- IPMP Policy requires the use of chemicals on low-impact chemical list developed and approved by OSU. We work closely with Tim Stock from OSU.
- School labs and chemicals were audited last year through an Oregon D.E.Q. Cleanup Program. We continue to work closely with the Benton County Environmental Health Department for proper use and disposal of lab chemicals.