



Sustain BLS

A program to promote stewardship and conservation

GOALS - FALL 2026

- Form your green team! Recruit & Promote.
- Help ensure recycling infrastructure is in place (bins, signs, process).
- Increase understanding in school community (all staff and student body) about sustainability efforts, waste reduction and energy conservation in schools.
- Implement campaigns related to what is most important to your team.
 - recycling, energy efficiency, food waste reduction, walking/biking to school, idling, etc
 - resources: <https://blogs.bend.k12.or.us/sustainability/>

OBJECTIVES - FALL

- Work with/ meet with Green Team at least twice per month.
- Read through and share the [District Sustainability Plan](#).
- Coordinate a presentation to staff on waste reduction and energy efficiency plus whatever project your team will be implementing (Sustainability Program Manager can attend or provide resources). Start the year off right with sustainability at top of mind!
- Choose projects for the year.
- Earth Day is Thursday April 22, 2027. Start thinking with your team about your plan - an event, school-wide challenge, educational assembly?

TOPICS for projects

Building and Operations

Materials Management

- Waste stations: halls, commons and classrooms all need bins and signs. Ensure district signage is consistent throughout the school. Each classroom, office, and common area will need:
 - A clearly labeled waste station with [signage](#) about what can and cannot be recycled in Deschutes County. "Order" signs from Noelle to be sent via interdistrict mail or print yourself.
 - Put in work orders for any needed bins.
- Introduce and start the [Clean Sweep/Green Dust Pan Award](#) for every classroom. Having students pick up all the good stuff off the floor minimizes waste. Custodians sweep up, but are not expected to sort out what is still usable – pencils, markers, erasers, fidgets, etc should be put in their place before students leave for the day. Passing the 'clean sweep' could earn you the Green dustpan award!

- Waste Audit:
 - Work with custodial staff and students to complete a [Waste Audit](#).
 - Work with staff to have classes empty garbage and recycling into common area bins.
 - Work with custodial and teachers to reduce the common corridor bins to 1 recycling bin and 1 garbage can per wing/6 classrooms (this helps us monitor recycling is being done right and saves garbage bags too!).
- Work with staff all year on locker and desk cleanouts (Integrated Pest Mgmt!)
- Work with staff and PTA/PTO at the end of the year for [Locker and desk clean out](#).

*Note: The Environmental Center is a great resource on any waste reduction and prevention projects!

Materials Management-Cafeteria

Bring in Nutrition Services on any food or cafeteria related projects. They are part of our education experience! If a project is going to change normal operations (ie encouraging kids to bring lunch instead of eating school lunch), communicate so we don't have excess food!). They want to work with you!

- Share the [Love Food Not Waste BLS video](#)
- Schools that compost: Ensure composting is going smooth, enlist whatever resources could help kick off the year right (Administrators, Custodial, Sustainability Program Manager, etc).
- Teach students about the "No Thank You" or "Share" Bin. Food share tables are strategies to enable students to place unwanted, unopened food and drinks they do not intend to consume onto a table or cart outside of the serving line. Students can take items from the share table at no additional cost.
 - Have Green Team in cafeteria helping to educate students.
 - Collect fruit waste at the end of the meal and share results with students.

ENERGY

- Educate staff and students on the importance of [Energy Efficiency](#).
 - Consider showing this [video](#) from the students at Pine Ridge Elementary school.
 - Check out this [lesson plan](#) from the NEED project.
 - Consider borrowing kilowatt meters to use with green team.
 - Start Power Down or Phantom Fridays for school classrooms and offices in October. This could involve students going to classrooms or reminders sent to teachers.
- Share the [holiday tips checklist](#) with staff for Breaks and help with shut downs

WATER

- Present the [Sharing Water Video](#)
 - Audit the school for water leaks and send list to custodian for a work order.
 - [Learn about the Municipal water system in Bend](#) and [Wastewater treatment](#)
- Share the water [film video contest](#) (TBD for 2026-27 schoolyear)

Transportation

- Walk + Roll School Events
 - Promote the [Bend-La Pine Schools Safe Routes to Schools programs](#) and distribute map via school website and parent newsletters.
- Anti-Idling Campaigns. Many ways to do this. See [blog](#) for resources and fun campaign ideas.
- Participate in [Love the Bus Month](#) to help promote bus ridership (in February)
 - Green team lesson about buses and greenhouse gas reduction
 - ALL - [Watch video about vehicles to transport 200 people](#)
 - Have students who ride the bus write thank you notes to drivers

Additional ideas for Green Teams

- Create a scrap bin paper box for every classroom.
- Create a Party Package: ask for donations and create a check out system of ~30 reusables for class parties (plates, bowls, cups, utensils, cloth napkins?). Find out if it's possible to use a school dishwasher and other logistics to offer zero waste party services.
- Create a makers space for art project supplies by organizing bins for donations of hard to recycle items that make great art: corks, ribbon, caps, bubble wrap, paper packaging, fabric, wire, wood scraps, Styrofoam. Keep an inventory and remind teachers to use, also ask them what they need and help collect it.
- Curate a list of sustainability-related books in the library and make a challenge for students to read and earn something when they've completed the list.
- Work with The Environmental Center to initiate and support school-based swap/repair/resale activities.