



Sustainable Cascadia

# FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

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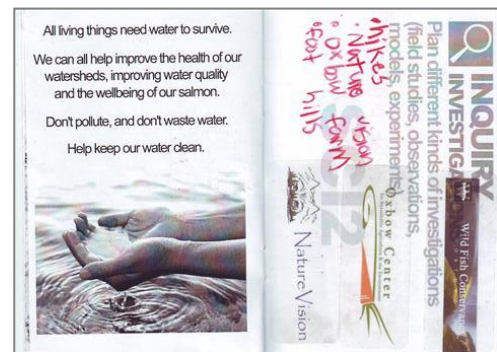
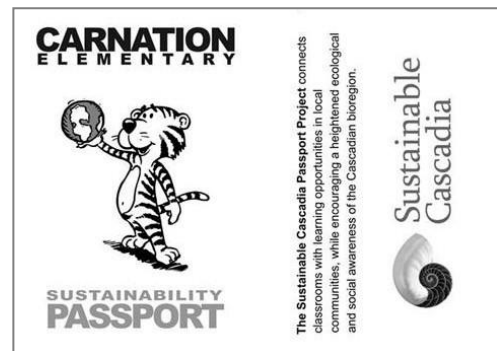
We at Sustainable Cascadia have been busy. We want to update you with the exciting progress we have made, put out a request for small donations to help us offset our costs, and ask for your volunteer help as we expand and shape our primary project: the [Cascadian Sustainability Passport](#).

## The Passport Project: Update on Progress and Future Plans

During the 2010-11 school year, we launched a pilot of our Sustainability Passport program with two 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Carnation Elementary in the Riverview School District. The teachers and kids both loved it. Kids found the [passports](#) to be a lot of fun and wanted to get stamps on all the pages. The teachers found the passports – which are based on Washington state standards – an easy way to track learning related to sustainability.

In an effort to better connect classrooms with their communities, we provided teachers a [catalog of community partners](#). These partners – which currently include community nonprofits, public agencies and museums – all provide informal education related to sustainability. The catalog includes summaries of the educational services offered by each partner (e.g., field trips, classroom resources, presentations, and class projects), contact information, service area, and costs (if any). The catalog is designed to make it as easy as possible for teachers to schedule enriching educational experiences for their students.

For the 2011-12 school year, we have expanded the program to grades 1-5 at Carnation Elementary, Kirkland’s Community School, and Ben Franklin Elementary. We are continually adding to the community partners catalog.



In the future, we envision a passport supported by a web-based clearinghouse to link teachers to one another and with local community partners. Teachers will be able to easily schedule classroom activities, rate and provide feedback to community partners, share ideas and experiences, and track student progress towards state standards. Community partners will find it easier to connect with schools, and to better understand teacher and student needs, so that they can tailor educational programs to meet state standards. Ultimately, we hope to offer funding to schools for field trips, as well as training for community partners about supporting the state educational standards. This build-out will require many things, including the participation of more schools and community partners, greater volunteer involvement, software development, and additional resources – including funding.

### **Need for Donations**

In the short-term, our costs are modest – chiefly, producing the passports and stamps for each student and classroom. Design and production of the passports and stamps have thus far been provided solely by our core team. Small donations to offset these costs (approximately \$35 per classroom) are welcome ([PayPal](#)).

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

As we scale-up the program – adding more schools and building out the website – we will need new volunteers for a variety of tasks. We will need to contact community partners to expand and update the catalog. We will need to recruit more teachers and schools to participate in the passport program. We also need expertise and help with grant-writing, software development, and project management. To join us in this fun and worthwhile project, please contact us at: [passport@sustainablecascadia.org](mailto:passport@sustainablecascadia.org).