

## BLS commits to ensuring a sustainable future for students

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

reSource Partnership Encourages Energy Conservation, Recycling, And Waste Prevention For more than 15 years, Bend-La Pine Schools has been working diligently to ensure sustainable schools through curriculum, community partnerships, and classroom practices. This week, they announced plans to take these efforts to the next level through an extended relationship with reSource; a local not-for-profit organization whose mission is to ensure a healthy, sustainable future for Central Oregonians. “Thanks to our partnership with reSource, we believe that we will not only help to educate our staff and students, but will be able to save thousands of dollars in the years to come,” said John Rexford, Assistant Superintendent of Operations for Bend-La Pine Schools (BLS). The environmental education programming that reSource is currently providing at Bend-La Pine Schools, through its EarthSmart program, is being expanded to include energy conservation and waste prevention and recycling programs at individual schools, as well as development of a District sustainability plan. Rexford said that thanks to energy conservation and recycling efforts taking place at the 24 schools, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been saved. “This partnership just makes good business sense,” said Rexford. “With their support and guidance, we will be able to take our efforts to the next level – saving the environment, educating our students about sustainability, and saving even more tax payer dollars.” Every year the district returns a portion of the savings from these programs back to schools through Bend-La Pine Schools popular energy rebate program, BLEEP (Bend La Pine Energy Efficiency Program). “A portion of the dollars saved at each school are returned and used to purchase a variety of supplies and materials,” said Rexford. “It’s really a win-win for everyone.” Additionally, Bend-La Pine Schools has signed on as a sponsor of reSource’s Sustainable Business Network, a network of business, government and community organizations committed to economic vitality, environmental health and social well being.

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