

***Keeping Students Safe: Protecting Environmental Health in Schools***  
Sponsored by  
**King County and the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County**

**Speaker Contact List**

Welcome

**Ken Armstrong**

Program Administrator

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Ken Armstrong is the Administrator of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program - a regional government partnership that works to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. Prior to joining the Program in 2000, he spent 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, where his last assignment was as Director of Congressional and Community Affairs for the U.S. Coast Guard's Northwest Region.

Protecting Children's Environmental Health

**Steve Gilbert: PhD, DABT**

INND (Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders)

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Web: [www.asmalldoseof.org](http://www.asmalldoseof.org) ("A Small Dose of Toxicology")

Steve Gilbert has a Ph.D. in toxicology and is a Diplomat of American Board of Toxicology. He is Affiliate Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington and Affiliate Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW Bothell. Dr. Gilbert's research has focused on neurobehavioral effects of low-level exposure to lead and mercury on the developing nervous system. His book, "A Small Dose of Toxicology - The Health Effects of Common Chemicals," was published in 2004. (Visit [www.asmalldoseof.org](http://www.asmalldoseof.org) or contact [sgilbert@innd.org](mailto:sgilbert@innd.org)).

Indoor Air Quality

**Dave Blake**

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Dave Blake created the indoor air program at Northwest Clean Air Agency and has managed it since 1991. He has an MS in Environmental Science (Administration) from Huxley College of Environmental Studies at Western Washington University. Mr. Blake has completed evaluations of all public and most private schools in a three-county area of northwest Washington State. He has responded to a steady flow of indoor air quality concerns in homes and public and commercial buildings referred to him by three county health departments since 1992.

### Healthier Approaches to Maintenance and Cleaning

#### **Gary Jefferis**

Director of Maintenance and Operations  
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Gary Jefferis oversees custodial services, all maintenance activities, an inter-district courier service, grounds, warehousing, utilities, and refuse service for the district. Prior to his service at the Everett School District, Mr. Jefferis served in a similar position for the Bellingham School District. He has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a Masters of Science. With over 40 years of building maintenance and construction knowledge, he has presented both on a national as well as international level regarding indoor environment issues, and has been active in developing governmental programs and literature in this area.

#### **Colin McCrae**

Environmental and Safety Coordinator  
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When school personnel reported reoccurring health problems, Colin MacRae began investigating environmental issues associated with carpets in school buildings. He researched safe cleaning techniques and developed tests to determine hazards that might be contained in carpets. The Bellevue School District has implemented innovative green carpet-cleaning practices applying his research.

#### **Eric Nelson**

Environmental Purchasing Coordinator  
Environmental Purchasing Program  
King County Procurement and Contract Services Section  
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Eric Nelson has managed the King County Environmental Purchasing Program since its inception in 1990. Because there are few standards for environmental purchasing, Mr. Nelson and his colleague, Karen Hamilton, produce information to help county agencies develop contracts that favor environmentally preferable products and services. The result of their work is detailed in the program's 2004 annual report which describes over \$17 million in environmentally preferable purchases and nearly \$1 million in savings. In recent years, they have worked toward standards for cleaning products that are better for worker health and safety as well as the environment.

### Managing Pests without Hazardous Pesticides

#### **Lisa Niehaus**

Health and Environmental Investigator II

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Lisa Niehaus is a Health & Environmental Investigator in the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. Prior to joining the Hazwaste Program, she was a gardener and horticulturist for nearly 20 years, during which time her jobs included head gardener at the Woodland Park Zoo and at the West Point Treatment Plant in Discovery Park. She currently works with small businesses, helping them manage their hazardous waste. She also works on several IPM projects designed to help businesses, the public, and government reduce their reliance on pesticides.

#### **Mike Currie**

Facilities Director

Bainbridge Island School District

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Mike Currie is the Facilities Director for the Bainbridge Island School District, one of many districts in the state that has adopted an IPM policy. Mr. Currie previously served as the Director of Facilities and Organization for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and in that capacity worked on legislation related to IPM for school districts.

#### **Liesl Zappler**

Gardener

Seattle School District

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Liesl Zappler has been organically gardening in the public sector for 14 years. She has worked for the Missoula City Parks Department, the University of Washington, and the Port of Seattle. She is currently a gardener for the Seattle School District where she participated in writing its new IPM Policy. A certified arborist and a garden consultant, Ms. Zappler has been a presenter at numerous Green Gardening/IPM Conference. She has covered such topics as pesticide reduction, the use of compost tea, and the use of vinegar-based products. She has also been a guest speaker on the Ciscoe Morris radio show.

### King County Green Schools Program

#### **Dale Alekel**

Project Program Manager  
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Dale has worked in the recycling field since 1985. She was the founding Executive Director of Uptown Recycling, a nonprofit organization in Chicago which provided residential and commercial collection services, a buy-back center and drop-off centers, as well as recycling education. Since 1994, she has worked for the King County Solid Waste Division, where she has assisted businesses to expand waste reduction and recycling. In 2002, she launched the King County Green Schools Program to provide school districts and schools with the technical assistance and resources they need to initiate and improve recycling and other conservation practices.

### **Healthy Schools Database**

#### **Pam Emerson**

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Pam Emerson is the Children's Environmental Health & Environmental Education Coordinator for EPA Region 10. Since joining the agency in 1998, she has worked with federal partners, tribal, state and local governments, universities, non-profit community organizations, health care institutions, school systems, and private enterprises to: 1) build local and regional capacity for an "ecologically literate" citizenry and 2) improve children's environmental health outcomes by improving kids' environments. Prior to coming to EPA, Ms. Emerson worked in southern Chile as an environmental education specialist and taught 7th grade biology in upstate New York.

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