

To: EEA Board
From: The subcommittee considering the adoption of Washington Green Schools (WAGS)
Abby, Jessica, Kara, Nan, and Tim
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PROS / Benefits to EEA in adopting the WAGS program

1. The WAGS program could help promote EEA/E3 statewide. WAGS is a systemic, real-world, on-the-ground project with participants across the state. Our administration of the program could help spread the word about EEA/e3 and demonstrate our connection to and support of programs.
2. EEA would gain committed support of the WAGS steering committee. The WAGS steering committee is dedicated to the ongoing growth and success of the program and wants to move WAGS to EEA. Their involvement with us in administering the program – with one person joining the EEA board – could bring resources (e.g., expertise, contacts) that will help EEA with other projects and programs.
3. WAGS brings the possibility of a \$5,000 grant from the Clean Air Agency to support a grant-writer.
4. WAGS may make EEA and especially E3 more appealing to potential funders.
5. EEA could bring the WAGS community into the E3 network, increasing our support network.
6. E3 and WAGS share a similar path and launch strategy. WAGS is the only green schools program that was “grown in Washington” and is ready to deploy along with E3.
7. WAGS addresses E3 goals and is a systemic initiative that begins to integrate sustainability concepts into schools across the state, so would programmatically reflect our EEA/E3 mission.

CONS / Risks or consequences to EEA in adopting the WAGS program

1. EEA does not have funds to support and grow WAGS. Merger with WAGS places greater demand on EEA to raise new funds. The WAGS steering committee estimates the need to hire a full-time program coordinator to administer and expand the program. There are no funds for this position. No grants are pending. The \$5,000 grant is quite small and won't stretch far. Other WAGS items needing dedicated resources include ongoing marketing, email and print communications with current schools, and WAGS website maintenance.
2. Administering a new program would take resources and attention away from other priorities in the EEA 2010 Work Plan and 2010-2012 Strategic Plan.
3. The time and funds of EEA are limited. The 2010 Work Plan outlines an ambitious agenda and support for WAGS is only a small part of it. Is merger of WAGS and EEA one of the most important priorities for us during 2010? Would it displace other key priorities in the Work and Strategic Plans?
4. If EEA got to choose any “on-the-ground” program in the state to support, would WAGS be the one it would choose? Will other programs be concerned that we did not approach them?
5. Are there other entities that are promoting green school programs that might be in competition with EEA/WAGS? Does this matter?
6. Will adoption of WAGS create competition for funds that would otherwise go to EEA/E3?
7. While WAGS is deployable, it hasn't been around long enough to know if/how well it works. Thus, we will not only need to ensure that it is funded, but evaluated and adapted to be current and vital.