

Institute for Sustainable Solutions

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The Honorable John Kitzhaber
Governor of the State of Oregon
State Capitol, Room 160
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kitzhaber,

We are writing to request designation of *Green Portable Classrooms* as an Oregon Solutions project.

School districts in Oregon struggle to undertake capital projects, including major renovations or additions. To deal with the fluctuation in school enrollment, districts use operating funds to purchase a temporary portable building that often remains onsite permanently due to extensive infrastructure investments required at the site. As a result of their perceived temporary nature, portables are usually designed at a low cost, resulting in an inferior, inefficient, unhealthy, poor educational environment. Since 2008 almost 200 portable classrooms have been purchased for use in Oregon's schools. Oregon's modular building industry has the potential to be a national leader for Green Portable Classrooms which could have a significant economic impact for Oregon when this product is exported to other states.

Portland State University faculty and students in architecture, engineering and economics, as well as Portland area professionals, school district personnel and portable manufacturers have been working for two years to understand the complex issues that lead to our continued dependence on temporary structures. They propose to create a greener, healthier model for our students, as the need for these classrooms seems assured for the foreseeable future. To implement preliminary designs, we seek an Oregon Solutions project to develop, and test a prototype portable classroom at one or more school districts during the 2012-2013 school year. We want to pursue innovative solutions now, and seek Oregon Solutions' assistance to leverage our resources and resources of additional partners.

This project has obvious environmental benefits, will make better use of resources, and has the potential to improve Oregon's economy by capitalizing on the state and national portable classroom market. This project addresses the Triple Bottom Line of Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives and advances Oregon's reputation as a leader in sustainability.

We appreciate your support and are eager to utilize the Oregon Solutions Community Governance System.

Sincerely,



Robert Costanza, Director
PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions

Marv Shetler, President/CEO
Blazer Industries



Kurt Hampala, President
American Institute of Architects, Portland Chapter

