

## **Environmental Health Clubs**

Locations: Grant High School, Benson High School

### *Purpose:*

Multnomah County's multicultural environmental health clubs are dedicated to safer, cleaner, and healthier environments for children and youth that link urban high school students to hands-on environmental health education and community action. 80% of club students are from ESL backgrounds, live in high diesel particulate/benzene concentration areas, and live in/near affordable housing.

### *Goals:*

1. Support a workforce that reflects the community and engages students of color in public health principles/practices by exposing them to careers in environmental health/justice, and identifying the connection between environmental health and their potential areas of study in the university.
2. Works to develop youth leaders in environmental health through education and community action to foster self-esteem, critical thinking, and their ability to educate and influence others as teachers.
3. Foster an understanding of the principles of environmental justice, environmental health practices and urban sustainability in young people in order to promote the long-term health of their communities and themselves.
4. Draws concrete linkages between the state of their human health, the school environment and urban quality of life.
5. Employ young people to research, design and organize educational, neighborhood and school-based improvement projects, such as: no idling" campaign outside Benson High School, survey of students with asthma on increased symptoms in school and fundraising to reduce triggers such as purchasing an environmentally friendly copy machine, energy efficiency classrooms (recycling, CFLs, removing of toxic cleaning products in school), and increased awareness of global warming by students through assemblies and in-school social marketing campaigns.
6. Foster academic motivation, youth empowerment, resiliency and exposure to environmental health practices and environmental justice principles in an attempt to create pathways for youth to succeed as community leaders and address health disparities in the school system.