

Recycler's Digest

Newsletter of the Green Schools Project,

Carlton County's Recycling & Waste Reduction Grant Program

Volume 3 • Issue 1

Recycling presentations held at Washington Elementary

More than 500 students took a pledge to recycle at Washington Elementary in December.

Karola Dalen, Carlton County resource and recycling coordinator, and Josie Flatgard, MN GreenCorps member, presented to both Washington Elementary students and teachers. The purpose of the presentations was to bring an awareness about why recycling is important and how to recycle correctly at their school.

Grades, Kindergarten to fifth, were given 20-minute presentations over the course of two afternoons.



Students were then offered stickers after pledging to recycle well and recycle often at Washington Elementary.

The commitment was to encourage them to think before throwing an item "away" and to recycle in order to conserve natural resources for a sustainable future.

If your school is interested in holding recycling presentations, please get in touch with us.



Each student at Washington Elementary received a sticker that reads, "I recycle at Washington Elementary." They were encouraged to put it on their shirt and wear it home.

Hand dryers installed at Queen of Peace

In order to reduce the amount of waste generated via paper towel usage, Queen of Peace School purchased five hand dryers with 2017 Green Schools Project grant funds.

The school reported they ordered two cases of paper towels once every two weeks. With twenty-six orders made annually, 52 cases with six 800-foot rolls in each were used during the past two school years.

After installing the new hand dryers, the school said the younger students had a hard time, as the sound was scary. The adjustable noise levels al-

lowed them to turn it down to the lowest decibel amount.

At the end of the school year, the school will report their paper towel data for 2017-18. We hope to see a measurable reduction in the amount of waste Queen of Peace keeps out of the landfill.

In addition, there may be cost savings, as \$1,952.08 has been spent on purchasing paper towels annually.

If your school is interested in purchasing hand dryers, contact us, and we'll provide a handout and let you know the additional reporting requirements.



By the Numbers

52 Number of cases of paper towels ordered annually

6 Number of rolls per case

1,320 Pounds of paper towels used annually



A set of bins at Barnum High School is a good example of a few ways to reduce contamination. The trash bin is paired with recycling bins, each are labeled with text and images, and each a distinguishing color. Ideally, a school recycling guide would be posted above for more detailed reference. Sample guides are available to view on our website. Contact us for assistance.

Preventing contamination in recycling and trash bins

Contaminants in recycling and trash bins can take a few forms, such as a half-full pop can or an unrecyclable plastic item in the recycling bin.

1. Signage for recycling and trash bins.

Signs should list acceptable items AND non-acceptable items with text and images.

2. Always pair a trash bin with a recycling bin.

A standalone trash bin results in recyclables in the trash bin. This creates waste disposal stations with options for both recycling and trash disposal.

3. Post and distribute a recycling guide.

A recycling guide serves as a resource for students and staff on what materials the school collects for recycling and how to properly recycle it. This guide should be a reference whenever there are questions on recycling at the school. The guide should also be emailed to all staff and students.

Green Schools Project

Past Purchases

Barnum Elementary

2017

- Paper recycling bins for every classroom
- Recycling substation for the entryway
- Water bottle filling station

Barnum High School

2017

- Recycling bins for classrooms and hallways

South Terrace Elementary

2017

- Recycling bins for every classroom
- Recycling substation for the entryway
- Water bottle filling station

Carlton High School

2016

- Materials to build recycling centers around the school
- Cart to aid the emptying of recycling centers
- Identical blue bins for every classroom, every office, and the library
- Two worm composting towers
- Water bottle filling station

Queen of Peace Elementary

Currently collecting organics

2016

- Recycling bins for every classroom, office, and the lunchroom
- 50-gallon carts for recycling collection in the hallway
- Water bottle filling station

2017

- Bin for organics collection in cafeteria
- Five hand dryers for bathrooms

Washington Elementary

2016

- Recycling bins for every classroom
- Reusable silverware for the cafeteria

2017

- Water bottle filling station for cafeteria
- Plastic recycling container for the cafeteria
- Cart to transport recyclable materials

Cloquet Middle School

Currently collecting organics

2016

- Recycling bins and labels for every classroom and office
- Large bins for the school's substations in the hallway
- Reusable silverware for the cafeteria

Cloquet High School

2016

- Recycling bins for every classroom
- Recycling bins for the hallway

2017

- Reusable silverware for cafeteria
- Water bottle filling station

Cromwell-Wright K-12

2016

- Recycling bins for classrooms and hallways
- Water bottle filling station

Moose Lake K-12

2016

- Recycling bins for classrooms and hallways
- Outdoor collection carts

2017

- Water bottle refilling station
- Recycling receptacles for new school facility

Wrenshall K-12

2016

- Recycling collection kits for every classroom
- Five recycling substations for use in gyms, common/student areas

2017-18 grant year underway

We've had great success over the last two years with the Green Schools Project. To date, we've allocated \$34,000 to schools in Carlton County for purchases aiding in waste reduction and recycling.

We've also provided technical assistance to several others.

We're working to continue the success this year, the third year of the Green Schools Project.

Grant program coordinators are available to help with waste reduction and recycling efforts regardless of a school participating in the Green Schools Project grant program.

Meet Josie, MN GreenCorps member

Hello! I'm Carlton County's 2017-18 MN GreenCorps member serving in the Zoning & Environmental Services Department.

I grew up in Arlington, South Dakota - a town of less than 1,000 - with an older brother and an older sister. I enjoy hiking, biking, baking, creating, and adventuring.

I attended the University of South Dakota and graduated in May 2017. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in sustainability as well as in English, and I received a minor in media & journalism.

I'm one of forty Minnesota GreenCorps members throughout the state. My position is classified under Waste Prevention and Recycling, while others are serving in the focus areas of Air Quality, Living Green, and Green Infrastructure.



What would you like to know?

Have questions about recycling and/or waste reduction? Want to learn more about a specific topic? Aren't sure if an item is recyclable? Ask away!

Email your questions to Josie Flatgard:

Josie.Flatgard@co.carlton.mn.us.

Find us on social media



Follow Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services on Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/carltonco/.

Get ideas for classroom teaching, learn how to lower your carbon footprint, and find countless other resources.

You can also like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/.CarltonCountyZoning/.



Do you have a double-sided printing policy at your school?

Printing double-sided reduces waste and helps conserve resources. To implement a policy, include it in the school handbook and post reminder signs above printers and copiers. If sheets must be printed one-sided, use the other side for scratch paper. And remember to recycle the paper once used.