



Recycler's Digest

Newsletter of the Green Schools Project

Carlton County's Recycling & Waste Reduction Grant Program

Volume 5

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Crazy Times for Schools, Grant Funds Still Available

The 2020-2021 school year has certainly been challenging and unique. With students in school, out of school, and back in school, recycling and school environmental programs may not be top priority. Even so, the Green Schools Project remains in effect and this resource is available to Carlton County schools now or in the near future when ready.

Since 2017, students and school staff have primarily been working to improve recycling collection by purchasing bins and collection equipment with these funds. They have also worked to reduce waste going to landfills. This has been accomplished largely in

school cafeterias, most notably by removing plastic disposable utensils with reusable utensils and by separating food waste (organics) from trash destined for the landfill in Superior, WI. Now the organic food waste is sent to the commercial composting facility at WLSSD in Duluth. See page 3 for a complete list of grant projects to date.

School lunch and cafeterias have certainly not been operating in the same capacity since the pandemic. Some students remain in the classroom for lunch while others are social distancing in cafeterias. Whatever revised food service your school has adopted, keep in

mind that any equipment or tools that reduce trash or reduce food waste could be an eligible item for these grant funds. Think carts, reusable trays, insulated equipment for hot food delivery, etc. Contact us if you have ideas.

Even in the most stressful of times, here are some quick tips and reminders for recycling best management practices:

- Review, share, and post your school's Recycling Guide.
- Every garbage can should be paired with a recycling bin or bins.
- When in doubt, throw it out. Keep contamination out of your recycling bins.
- Plastic wrappers are not recyclable. Place in trash.~

Science and Recycling, Moose Lake Students Move Forward

Moose Lake Community School's high school Green Team is composed of students from Greg Eliason's science class. They have utilized Green Schools Project funds to improve their school's recycling program this year and last year. In 2020, they purchased better functioning carts and bins to collect recyclables. Students collect recyclables from classrooms and hallways and prepare them for Nordstrom's Sanitation, the school's solid waste service provider. For

recycling education, students held a design contest for new recycling posters. Cohesive and attractive signage is an effective tool for a recycling program. For example, their aluminum cans recycling sign clearly conveys that this bin is for cans only, not for trash, and not for any other recyclables such as plastic or paper.



Recycling Poster designed by students for Moose Lake Community School.

The school received a grant from Essentia Health to purchase a refrigerator to be used as a "Share Table". Instead of uneaten foods going into the garbage, students can place the items on the share table or in a refrigerator for other students to take for free. Acceptable items are unopened, packaged items and fruits with the skin intact.

which include containers for plastic, aluminum cans and garbage. Recycling containers should always be paired with a garbage bin. This allows people to properly sort recycling from trash in the same location. Stand alone recycling containers often get garbage dumped in them and stand alone garbage containers often contain recyclables. Pairing bins makes it more convenient to recycle right.



"Share Table" refrigerator in the cafeteria of Moose Lake Community School.

This school year the Green Team will be purchasing integral recycling centers

It will be exciting to see the progress as the Moose Lake Green Team moves their school forward in environmental sustainability. ~

Green Schools Project — *Project History*

Barnum Elementary

2017

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

2018

- Outdoor recycling station for playground area
- Reusable towels for custodial staff
- Reusable tumblers for weekly breakfast smoothies
- Recycling education books for school library

Barnum High School

2017

- Recycling bins for classrooms and hallways

2018

- 32-gallon rolling recycling container
- Double capacity janitorial cart
- Four (4) simple-sort two-stream stations
- Equipment for collecting compost on a small scale

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

2020

- Reusable silverware for the cafeteria
- Recycling containers for use in gym, concessions

Queen of Peace Elementary

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

2018

- Equipment for organics collection start-up

Churchill Elementary

2020

- Equipment for organics collection start-up

Cloquet Middle School

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

2018

- Additional recycling bins needed for the hallways and classrooms
- Recycling bins for the exterior and interior of the school's main entrance
- Prizes for student "Team Green" activities

Cloquet High School

2016

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

2017

- Reusable silverware for cafeteria
- Water bottle filling station

2020

- Equipment for organics collection start-up

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

2020

- Bins to transport paper recycling
- Paper recycling bins for classrooms

Wrenshall K-12

2016

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

2018

- Cooler and shelves for cafeteria "Share Table"
- Bins and dollies to improve cafeteria disposal line
- Condiment dispenser for the cafeteria
- Carts for collection of classroom recycling bins
- Carts for collection and emptying of the classroom recycling bins

2020

- Worm composting kits