

# **Attachment #2**

## Youth Waste Reduction and Recycling Education RE Sources for Sustainable Communities - Sustainable Schools Program

### Program Overview

#### Green Classroom Certification (elementary)

- Helps teachers integrate conservation education into curriculum and initiate positive action in the classroom. Through workshops, pledges, and action projects we challenge students to think critically about their use of natural resources and see how waste is an integral part of our everyday lives. Hands-on activities and projects provide them the opportunity to brainstorm solutions and take action to promote waste reduction.
- Three step process:
  - **Host a workshop**- Each workshop introduces key concepts and vocabulary related to waste prevention, explores the environmental impacts humans have on natural resources and related problems, and brainstorms solutions that students can take part in regularly at school and home.
  - **Make a Class Pledge**- Teachers and students create a classroom pledge to add one new, sustainable behavior to their regular classroom activities. Every classroom is different, so every pledge is individualized to what the classroom does throughout the school day.
  - **Complete an Action Project**- This important step brings the learning out of the classroom and engaging others in the school or community. The Sustainable Schools team looks for projects that create a real and lasting change in the behavior of the students and creatively share the information learned during the workshop with others. This is also a great opportunity for teachers to introduce the importance of service-learning projects and how to make everyday decisions to solve worldwide problems.

**2015-2016 school year** (projected through the end of the year): 51 workshops and support visits, over 1300 student contacts, 9 schools and 1 youth organization from 5 school districts.

#### Waste Reduction and Recycling Presentations and Support Visits (elementary)

- For teachers or youth organizations that are not able to commit to the whole certification program, we offer 30-60 minute presentations, similar to the above workshops.
- We also provide support to schools that are interested in improving their waste systems through waste audits, consultations on cafeteria waste management, school-wide education on waste systems or other assistance as requested.

**2015-2016 school year** (projected through the end of the year): 29 presentations and support visits, over 1300 student contacts, 6 schools and youth organizations from 4 school districts.

### Middle and High School Waste Prevention Programs

- Presentation at the Youth Earth Summit- a collection of over 100 high school students from environmental clubs in Whatcom, Skagit and Island counties.
- Toward Zero Waste in schools- working with groups of students to initiate zero waste projects in their schools. These projects are student-driven, we provide support, materials, expertise and guidance. Utilizing 2015-2016 experience to create a Toward Zero Waste Toolkit for Schools.
- Organic Waste Prevention presentations- pilot this year, with Career and Technical Education high school course. Includes an organic waste overview (what it is and how much we currently throw away), the economic, social and ecological impacts of wasted organic material and ways to reduce organic waste at home through source reduction and composting.

**2015-2016 school year** (projected through the end of the year): 22 presentations and support visits, over 300 student contacts, 6 schools from 3 school districts.

### Future Goals for Programs

- Greater district optimization and equity across schools/districts (Ex. Ferndale grade-level alignment, Irene Reither whole-school approach)
- After-school and summer programs- example: Waste Rangers service-learning program for youth organizations (Scouts, Camp Fire, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.)
- Extend the reach of our existing programs by adding pre/post activities for teachers to do with their students

### Questions?

#### **Riley Grant, Sustainable Schools Manager**

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

2309 Meridian Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

[rileyg@re-sources.org](mailto:rileyg@re-sources.org)

(360) 733-8307 ext. 210

Thank you to Whatcom County staff and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for your continued support of our youth programs!