

School Zero Waste Program



Central Vermont Solid Waste Management
District

Gwen Lyons, School Program Manager



CVSWMD School Program Overview

- Composting (food scrap collection)
- Educational Activities and Lessons
- School Solid Waste Scorecard
- Waste Stream Audits
- Faculty/Staff Training & Education
- Technical Assistance & Troubleshooting
- School Zero Waste Grant Program
- Waste Reduction Initiatives
 - End of Year Locker Clean Out
- Student involvement – Green Teams



How the Program Started

- USDA Grant Funding
- Pilot Program in 2004
 - Montpelier Public Schools



- CVSWMD provides:
 - Outdoor totes, buckets and sawdust (during warm months)
 - Training for students, faculty and staff
 - Classroom collection buckets
 - Posters & signage
 - Hauling
 - Monthly tonnage reports
 - Compost Monitor (in new schools)

Program Logistics



Food Scraps Diverted (since 2004)

1,722,726 lbs.
(861.36 tons)
(As of June 30, 2014)



School Solid Waste Scorecard

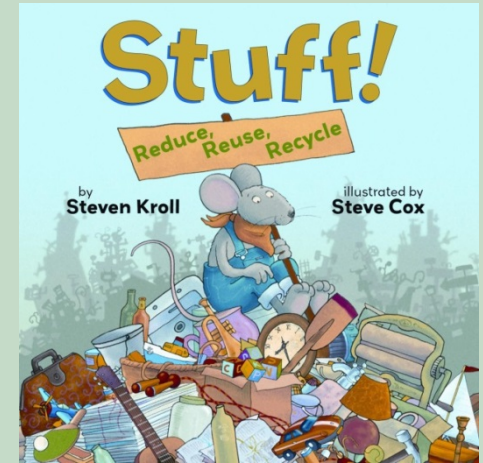
- Designed for CVSWMD to track how schools are doing in regards to waste management
 - 20 yes or no questions
- Focused on solid waste issues (compost, recycling, etc.)
- Has sparked:
 - Green Team creation
 - Closer relationships with administration
 - Competition between schools
 - Increased educational opportunities



Recycling Activities & Lessons

- **In-Class Lessons**

- Intro to Composting (K)
- Why Should I Recycle? (Grade 2)
- Take out the Trash (Grade 4)
- Solid Waste from a Historical Viewpoint (MS/HS)
- Anatomy of a Landfill (MS)
- 3R's Lessons (3 parts)
- Recycle Relay & Compost Tag
- Individualized lessons:
 - Electronics & E-waste
 - Papermaking



Waste Stream Audits



- Students help sort through one days worth of trash (excluding bathroom and nurses office trash)
- Helps determine what areas school needs to work on (composting, recycling, etc.)
- Great hands on activity for students/Green Team
- CVSWMDC creates report with findings and suggestions for next steps
- Schools often complete a waste audit at beginning and end of the year to track progress

Green Teams

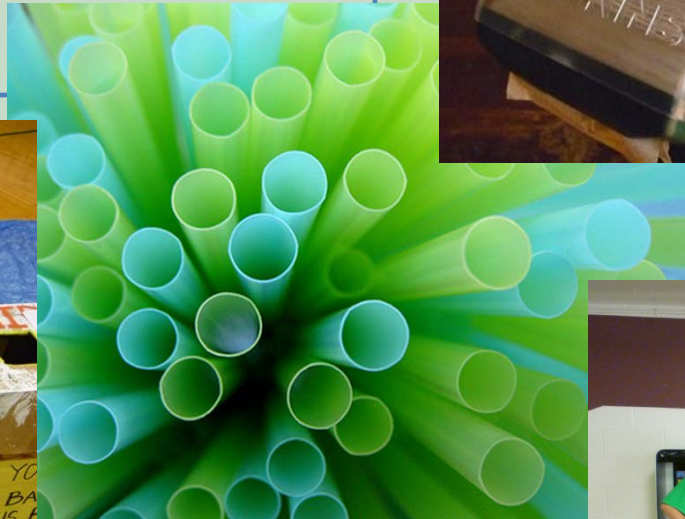


- Peer to peer education
- “Train the Trainers”
- Student buy-in
- Ownership of program



Waste Reduction Initiatives

- Locker Clean Out Day
- Compostable Napkins
- Terra-Cycle
- Hard to Recycle Materials
 - ARCC



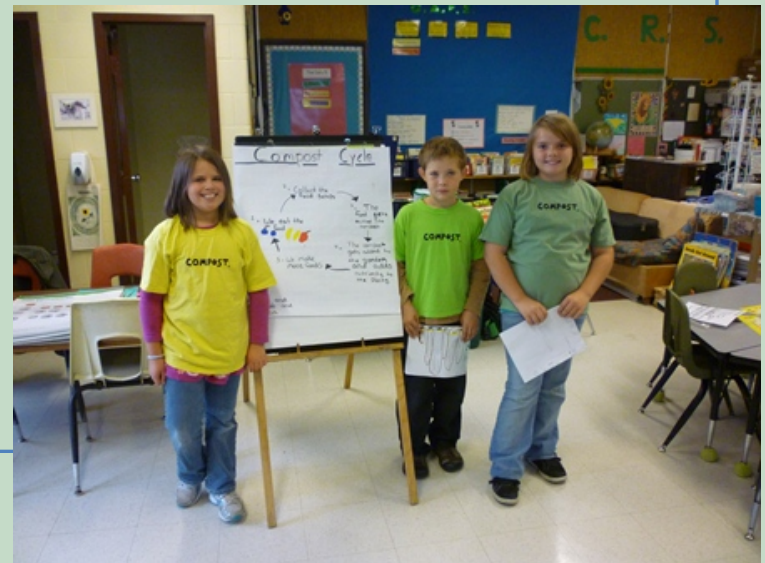
Program Challenges

- Competing with cheap trash hauling contracts
- Meeting state standards in lessons (MS & HS)
- Integrating technology into lessons and programming
- Changing behavior that isn't always replicated at home
- Changing behavior and mindset of adults in schools



Steps

1. Meet with Administration/Staff
 - Principal, maintenance & kitchen staff, teachers
 - Specific class/Green Team
2. Survey
 - Current practices
 - Recycling, composting, reuse
3. Waste Stream Audit
4. Decide what stream to target
5. Education
 - “Train the trainers”
6. Re-education as necessary



Materials Needed

- Waste Audit Materials
 - Tarps, scales, gloves, collection bins, calculator
- Lessons
 - Books, bin of assorted recyclables/trash (clean)
- Posters/Handouts/Flyers
 - Consistent message, state-wide symbols
- Recycling Bins/Compost buckets



Tips for Program Success

1. Get students involved!
2. Work closely with maintenance staff from the start.
3. Talk with faculty and staff about expectations from them (being a good example, etc.)



Questions??

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