

AB2020-0169 - 2/11/2020
From Jeff Hege dus (Health Dept.)
In Finance Committee



RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES
PROTECT. ACTIVATE. INNOVATE. THRIVE.

2309 Meridian Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.733.8307 • re-sources.org

MEMORANDUM

ATTN: Jeff Hege dus (Whatcom County Health Department)
From: Priscilla Brotherton (RE Sources)
Re: Waste Prevention, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Education
Services performed by RE Sources on behalf of Whatcom County
Reporting Period: January 2019 – August 2019

Included in this report:

- Quarterly reports detailing the work performed from January 2019 through August 2019
- Deliverables completed during the contract period (Appendix 1)
- A log of in-class presentations and workshops delivered during the contract period (Elementary- Appendix 2; Middle and High School- Appendix 3)
- Social Media and Blog posts (Appendix 4)
- Photos (Appendix 5)

First Quarter Report

*During the first quarter of this contract, RE Sources education staff conducted **19** middle and high school in-class presentations and support visits reaching **616** students and **98** elementary in-class presentations and support visits reaching **808** students.*

Green Classroom Certification and Elementary Presentations

RE Sources education staff:

- Continued outreach and recruitment efforts for the Green Classroom program, we have a total of 11 classrooms registered for the remainder of the program. Outreach efforts have included:
 - Sending a waste prevention targeted email, phone calling, updating the Sustainable Schools facebook page and emailing teachers.
 - Tabling for the Green Classrooms program at Storming the Sound, an environmental education conference in La Conner on January 24, 2019.
- Certified 7 classrooms in Waste Prevention. The students in these classes all made pledges to reduce waste in their classrooms and completed their own hands-on action projects (see table below).
- Offered an "all-school assembly" by grade where 6 waste prevention workshops specific to lunchroom waste was offered to approximately 600 elementary students at Irene Reither Elementary.

Middle and High School Presentations

RE Sources education staff:

- Continued outreach efforts to middle and high school programs as well as youth organizations. Outreach included efforts such as:
 - Sending targeted emails to various target groups such as Social Studies teachers, art teachers, administrators, etc.
 - In-person interviews with several teachers to informally gauge interest and topics with middle and high school teachers. Including opportunities to engage students outside of the traditional classroom. Success has been found by engaging students in middle school "homeroom" or "extra period" classes with no district curriculum.
 - Follow-up with all previous participating teachers.



- Continued update and improve offerings to middle and high school teachers to expand the reach from educator's perception that only science teachers can participate. Offerings include:
 - *Material World* - This workshop educates students about the wasteful practices of our culture, balancing wants and needs, how some of our material goods are manufactured and disposed of, and ways we can change consumer behaviors.
 - *Food Foolish* - This workshop educates students about food waste in America, the social and environmental implications of food waste, and compost. Includes information about *Green Earth Technology* in Whatcom County.
 - *Upcycled* - This workshop offered to art teachers and educates students about landfills, garbage patches in the oceans, issues related to plastics, and how various materials we throw away can be repurposed in art projects.
 - *Waste Not* - This workshop educates students about our waste systems. Where our waste streams go and how to reduce contamination and consumption.

Additionally

- Continued to meet with Mark Peterson from Sustainable Connections to continue discussions on possible collaborative efforts for 2019.
- Participated as a member of the Bellingham Good Food Promise Implementation Committee.
- Met with Bellingham School District teachers and administration to further waste curriculum and infrastructure within the district:
 - Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning to best incorporate Sustainable School programming into the district.
 - Met and assisted 5th-grade class to help with student exhibit on waste and help with future IB school projects.
 - Met with Bellingham School District Director of Wellness to strategize food recovery district-wide
- Furthered Professional Development and outreach opportunities:
 - Conducted AmeriCorps member performance evaluation
 - Attended Storming the Sound, an environmental education conference in La Conner
 - Attended Sound Waters conference where plastic seminars were attended
 - Hosted Bellingham Human Rights Film Festival Movie: *Kids Can Save the Planet* at Whatcom Community College.
- Continued work on engaging curricula for middle and high school students around deeper dives into waste. Connections to plastics, climate change, and place-based education are the foci.
- Completed administrative tracking and reporting

Second Quarter Report

*During the second quarter of this contract, RE Sources education staff conducted **29** middle and high school in-class presentations and support visits reaching **616** students and **94** elementary in-class presentations and support visits reaching **346** students.*

Green Classroom Certification and Elementary Presentations

RE Sources education staff:

- Continued outreach and recruitment efforts for the Green Classroom program
Outreach efforts have included:

- Sending a waste prevention targeted email, phone calling, updating the Sustainable Schools facebook page and emailing teachers.
- Lead an Earth Day tabling event at Bellingham Farmer's Market, demonstrating globe seed balls out of recyclable paper. Also gave directions on how to make an upcycled T-shirt bag.
- Set up Ferndale Library upcycle art display from Cascadia Elementary 5th graders.

Middle and High School Presentations

RE Sources education staff:

- Continued outreach efforts to middle and high school program as well as youth organizations. Outreach included efforts such as:
 - Sending targeted emails to various target groups such as Social Studies teachers, art teachers, administrators, etc.
 - In-person interviews with several teachers to informally gauge interest and topics with middle and high school teachers. Including opportunities to engage students outside of the traditional classroom. Success has been found by engaging students in middle school "homeroom" or "extra period" classes with no district curriculum.
 - Follow-up with all previous participating teachers.
- Continued update and improve offerings to middle and high school teachers to expand the reach from educator's perception that only science teachers can participate.
- As the issue of food waste and its connection to climate change is taking center stage more and more, Sustainable Schools is offering more *Food Foolish* workshops. We are developing a food waste series addressing food waste and climate science, contamination of the waste stream, food recovery and food security issues.

Additionally

- Continued to meet with Mark Peterson from Sustainable Connections to continue discussions on possible collaborative efforts for 2019.
- Participated as a member of the Bellingham Good Food Promise Implementation Committee.
- Began collaborative effort with Bellingham School District's Food Service Director and Custodial Supervisor to streamline the district's waste stations at every school. This is a collaborative effort with Sustainable Connections, Whatcom Farm-to-School and Common Threads Farm.
 - Set up waste education training for food service staff and custodial staff in August
 - Set up waste education training for Common Threads staff who will assist in the cafeterias.
- Completed administrative tracking and reporting

Third quarter

During the third quarter of this contract, RE Sources education staff spent time evaluating programming, formulating what to offer schools and teachers as well as recruiting and hiring a new AmeriCorps Green Classroom Coordinator. The team completed the following tasks, specifically:

- Finished hiring efforts for 2019-2020 Green Classroom Coordinator AmeriCorps position:
 - Recruitment
 - Vetting of applications

- Interviews
- AmeriCorps enrollment paperwork
- Continued to collaborate with Mark Peterson of Sustainable Connections to talk about reducing food waste in schools and the potential opportunity for food recovery in schools.
- Continued to meet with Bellingham School District around uniformity and standardization of waste station and food recovery efforts
- Offered a training for the Bellingham School District's Food Service Staff on how to better reduce food waste and increase food recovery efforts.
- Offered Common Threads Farm staff on how to better reduce food waste and increase food recovery and school garden composting efforts.

Curriculum

- Researched new material to update workshops offered.
- Developed a workshop series for teachers to offer their students.
- Documented lesson plans for *Food Foolish and Upcycle* workshops.
- Began creating the new Problematic Plastic workshop. Short description follows:
Plastic is such a useful material, we have become dependent on it in nearly everything we use — if it doesn't contain plastic, then it's built with plastic or packaged in plastic. With all this plastic everywhere, we face the problem of managing discarded plastic. Students will learn what is going wrong with discarded plastic waste management that results in plastic-filled oceans, innocent creatures eating plastic and dying, and microplastics contaminating freshwater. Through interactive lessons and action projects, students will think creatively about possible solutions to problematic plastic waste.

Recruitment and Outreach:

- Updated master list of middle and high school teachers in Whatcom County.
- Updated language and program descriptions for the new website.
- Composed and sent the beginning of the year YAMM email to middle and high school teachers in Whatcom County.
- Met with a Fairhaven Middle teacher and scheduled 3 workshops for the fall.
- Scheduled 4 workshops with Kulshan Middle teacher for September.

Appendix 1

Whatcom County Youth Education Program January - August, 2019			
Contract Deliverables			
Presentation Deliverables	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Totals
Elementary Program			
# of Green Classroom workshops and support visits	98	94	192
# of Students	502	346	808
Middle and High School Programs			
# of Presentations and Support Visits	19	29	48
# of Students	616	413	1029
All Presentations and Support Visits			230
Total Students			1837

Appendix 2

Last Name	Date	School	District	Grade	# of Students	Class Pledge	Action Project
Ballard	1/15	Irene Reither	Meridian	2	22	To reuse paper. Use the lunchroom recycle bins	upcycling posters
Colby	1/16	Columbia	Bellingham	1	19	Re-use or recycle ALL paper, to think before we throw away things, and to pick up safe litter when we see it	papermaking-seeds
ONeill	1/17	Eagleridge	Ferndale	4	29	Compost our snack food scraps. We made a recycled composter. To never put recyclable items in the trash and to use reusable containers	litter cleanup- 6 lbs school grounds
Rhodes	1/22	Irene Reither	Mt. Baker	2	25	Awaiting pledge	upcycle project
Monsen	1/25	Cascadia	Ferndale	2	20	Awaiting pledge	papermaking w/seeds
Clarke	1/31	Kendall	Mt. Baker	2	19	use more scrap paper, and also to recycle dried-up markers	litter cleanup
Dierdorff	2/20	Columbia	Bellingham	2	27	Correctly sort waste to make sure recycle and compost as much as possible.	litter cleanup @ Squalicum creek park -10 lbs
Pittis	2/27	Columbia	Bellingham	2	27	Save paper by using scrap paper, copied from board, using less. Use metal spoons and forks when available.	litter cleanup @ Squalicum creek park -10 lbs litter
Ostendorff	2/28	Roosevelt	Bellingham	1	20		
Smith	3/8	Cascadia	Ferndale	5	24	Awaiting pledge	galimoto upcycle
Guessford	3/8	Cascadia	Ferndale	5	24	donate clothes that don't fit, share what you know, compost, use reusable bags, do to 4 R's	galimoto upcycle
Zagelow	3/8	Cascadia	Ferndale	5	24	Use both sides of paper, reusable containers in lunch, make recycled art, reuse plastic bags	galimoto upcycle

Bennett	3/13	Blaine	Blaine	4	24	We pledge to think before we throw something away; and follow the 4 R's (reduce, rot/compost, reuse, and recycle.	Papermaking
Edgley	3/13	Blaine	Blaine	4	24	reuse/refill water bottles	Papermaking
Gasper	3/14	Blaine	Blaine	4	24	reuse items - or recycle - (rather than throwing them in the trash)	papermaking
Tennyson	3/14	Blaine	Blaine	4	24	reuse items - or recycle - (rather than throwing them in the trash)	papermaking
Lawrance	3/19	Blaine	Blaine	4	24	reuse items - or recycle - (rather than throwing them in the trash)	Papermaking
Schulz	3/19	Blaine	Blaine	4	24	reuse items - or recycle - (rather than throwing them in the trash)	Papermaking
Stiles	3/19	Blaine	Blaine	4	24	reuse items - or recycle - (rather than throwing them in the trash)	Papermaking
Delange	3/27	Harmony	Mt. Baker	K	17	We will recycle lunch plastic and try to draw on both sides of the paper.	upcycle project
Gilmore	3/27	Harmony	Mt. Baker	K	18	recycle plastic juice cups and markers, reduce paper use, reuse paper	upcycle project
Pfeffer	3/27	Harmony	Mt. Baker	K	19	to recycle hard plastics from breakfast and lunch	upcycle project
	3/5	Irene Reither	Meridian	K-5	600		
Jones	4/8	Cascadia	Ferndale	2	20	To use both sides of the paper and recycle.	papermaking
Sauvola	4/11	Kendall	Mt. Baker	2	17	use 2 sides of paper, recycle and reuse things to make less of impact, compost food instead of throwing away.	social awareness posters
Harder	4/12	Acme	Mt. Baker	4	17	Don't throw paper in the garbage and recycle plastic that can be recycled. Really use up our white board markers before throwing away. Eat all the food you get for lunch. Use scrap	marker recycle box

						paper for work that is not important to keep.	
Spring	4/12	Acme	Mt. Baker	4	17	same as above	marker recycle box
Davis	4/16	Columbia	Bellingham	3	25	Think before you buy. Buy loose fruit and veggies. Use reusable water bottles. Recycle hard plastics. Refuse plastic straws.	litter cleanup Squalicum beach-100 lbs!
Pevonak	4/16	Columbia	Bellingham	3	25	Make sure to follow the 4 R's to prevent waste from ending up in marine waters.	litter cleanup Squalicum beach-100 lbs!
Sampson	4/26	Columbia	Bellingham	5	25	We will: Reuse plastic bags, Ziplocks and plastic containers/ Pick up trash when we see it outside/ Encourage our parents to buy in bulk/ Reuse produce bags, cutlery, straws/ Repurpose single-use items/ Cut up soda rings	waste audit
Brehan	4/30	Cascadia	Ferndale	2	19	We will: Use water bottles instead of plastic Reuse plastic, glass, metal and paper Recycle plastic, glass, metal and paper	upcycle project
Yost	5/3	Skyline	Ferndale	K	21	If we want to draw something, we will use papers out of the recycling bin.	litter clean up school grounds-2 lbs
Teshera	5/3	Skyline	Ferndale	K	20	If we want to draw something, we will use papers out of the recycling bin.	Litter cleanup school grounds-2 lbs
Hauck	5/3	Skyline	Ferndale	K	19	If we want to draw something, we will use papers out of the recycling bin.	Litter cleanup school grounds-2 lbs
Fairchild (Lyon)	5/7	Roosevelt	Bellingham	3	21	pour water into animal dish, use leftover water in other ways, turn off water when not using, take a quick shower, don't water your lawn in the summer	comic book
Alejandre	5/15	Eagleridge	Ferndale	2	21	Recycle properly and put things in the proper bins.	upcycle collage

Neyman	6/3	Geneva	Bellingham	5	25	We will advocate and teach others about waste prevention and how to recycle more.	unique workshop/project on own
Duncan	6/4	Roosevelt	Bellingham	4	25	To reduce use of things that can be reused or recycled	papermaking
Hanley	6/4	Roosevelt	Bellingham	4	25	To Recycle to protect the Salish Sea	papermaking
Schiffner	6/4	Roosevelt	Bellingham	4	25	To reduce use of things that can be reused or recycled	papermaking

Appendix 3

School	District	Teacher	Grade/Class	Topic	# of students
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Mueller	7th gr extended learning	Waste Not workshop	17
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Mueller	7th gr extended learning	Material World workshop	17
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Mueller	7th gr extended learning	Food Foolish workshop	19
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Mueller	7th gr extended learning	Upcycled workshop	17
Fairhaven Middle School	Bellingham	Smith	Future Problem Solvers	Food Foolish workshop	200
Fairhaven Middle School	Bellingham	Gillman	COMPASS class	Waste Not workshop	20
Fairhaven Middle School	Bellingham	Gillman	COMPASS class	Food Foolish	20
Fairhaven Middle	Bellingham	Gillman	COMPASS	Material World	20
Meridian Middle	Bellingham	Yeager	8th gr art	Upcycle workshop	28
Lynden Middle	Lynden	Brooks	8th gr science	Waste Not	25
Lynden Middle	Lynden	Brooks	8th gr science	Waste Not	22
Lynden Middle	Lynden	Brooks	8th gr science	Waste Not	24
Lynden Middle	Lynden	Brooks	8th gr science	Waste Not	25
Lynden Christian High	Lynden	Hammons	art II class	Upcycle	25
Lynden Christian High	Lynden	Hammons	art II class	Upcycle	25
Whatcom Middle School	Bellingham	Ostlund	social studies	Material World workshop	28
Whatcom Middle School	Bellingham	Ostlund	social studies	Material World workshop	28
Whatcom Middle School	Bellingham	Swanson	social studies	Material World workshop	28
Whatcom Middle School	Bellingham	Swanson	social studies	Material World workshop	28

Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Mueller	7th grade ext learning	Material World workshop	19
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Mueller	7th grade ext learning	Food Foolish workshop	13
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Mueller	7th grade ext learning	Upcycle workshp	13
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Fischer	8th gr MAP	Waste Not earth day workshop	20
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Fischer	8th gr MAP	litter clean up on campus	17
Fairhaven Middle School	Bellingham	Lazich	6th gr COMPASS	Food Foolish workshop	17
Options High School	Bellingham	Burgess	Env Science	Food Foolish workshop	14
Options High School	Bellingham	Burgess	Env Science	Food Foolish workshop	12
Options High School	Bellingham	Burgess	Env Science	Food Foolish workshop	14
Fairhaven Middle	Bellingham	Sachs	6th gr COMPASS	Food Foolish Workshop	20
Farihaven Middle	Bellingham	Nyman	6th gr COMPASS	Food Foolish workshop	24
Fairhaven Middle	Bellingham	Riley	6th gr COMPASS	Food Foolish workshop	19
Options High School	Bellingham	Burgess	Env Science	waste audit of cafeteria landfill	13
Options High School	Bellingham	Burgess	Env Science	waste audit of cafeteria landfill	15
Options High School	Bellingham	Burgess	Env Science	waste audit of cafeteria landfill	16
Fairhaven Middle	Bellingham	Beatty	6th gr COMPASS	Food Foolish workshop	18
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Zaccheo	6th grade	Food Foolish workshop	19
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Zaccheo	6th grade	made posters about food waste issues	19
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Zaccheo	6th grade	Food Foolish workshop	21

Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Zaccheo	6th grade	made posters about food waste issues	21
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Creager	6th grade	Food Foolish workshop	19
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Creager	6th grade	made posters about food waste issues	19
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Creager	6th grade	Food Foolish workshop	21
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Schutt	6th grade	Food Foolish workshop	22
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Schutt	6th grade	Food Foolish workshop	25
Blaine Middle School	Blaine	Schutt	6th grade	Food Foolish workshop	25
Fairhaven Middle School	Bellingham	Lazich	env club	helped students interested in starting Env Club at school think of projects for next year	4
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Stelling	8th gr MAP	Food Foolish workshop	20
Kulshan Middle School	Bellingham	Stelling	8th gr MAP	Food security game	20

Appendix 4 Facebook Posts

Sustainable Schools
Published by Simon Bakke · March 7 at 8:08 PM

TIP OF THE WEEK: You can reduce the massive islands of plastic pollution in our oceans. Look for products packaged in recyclable materials, bulk, and non-plastic!



Sustainable Schools
Published by Hannah Coughlin · February 27

TIP OF THE WEEK: Paper can be recycled up to SEVEN times, but can only be composted once. Recycle unsoiled paper products!



Sustainable Schools
Published by Simon Bakke · February 8

We'll be facilitating dialogue at this Bellingham Human Rights Film Festival film, about a young filmmaker from the San Juan Islands who follows plastic trash to where it ends up -- with some surprising results.



THU, FEB 28

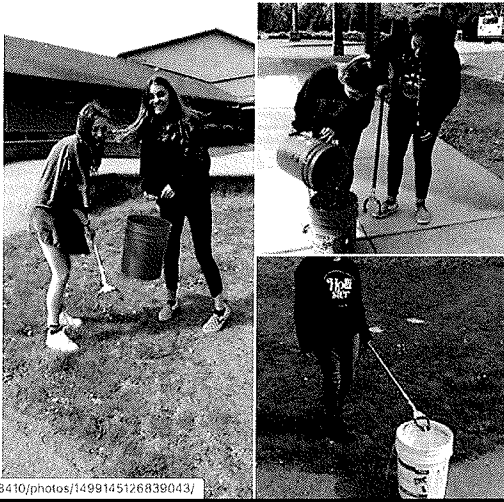
Sustainable Schools
Published by Natalie Lord · 5 hrs

TIP OF THE WEEK: Plastic-lined to-go cups contaminate our industrial compost (plastic isn't compostable). Bring a reusable mug, or frequent coffee shops who use recyclable cups!



Sustainable Schools
Published by Simon Bakke [P] · April 30 ·

Kulshan Middle School 8th grade class led a trash cleanup with us on their campus. All it takes is some buckets, grabbers, and a little bit of love for where you live!



3410/photos/1499145126839043/

Sustainable Schools
Published by Hannah Coughlin [P] · April 18 ·

Looking for a fun and easy action project for Earth Day? Check out this DIY wildflower seed bombs!



CBC.CA

DIY Earth Day Wildflower Seed Bombs | CBC Parents

Celebrate Earth Day with some seed bombing! These would make gifts...

Sustainable Schools
Published by Hannah Coughlin [P] · April 24 ·

In a world where so much time is spent indoors and in the virtual world, students desperately need to connect with the natural world — which actually improves academic performance, focus, behavior, and love of learning! See how RE Sources' Sustainable Schools team is helping youth find ways to get outside and do something about the environmental challenges they are sorrowfully facing.



PROMISE.BELLINGHAMSSCHOOLS.ORG

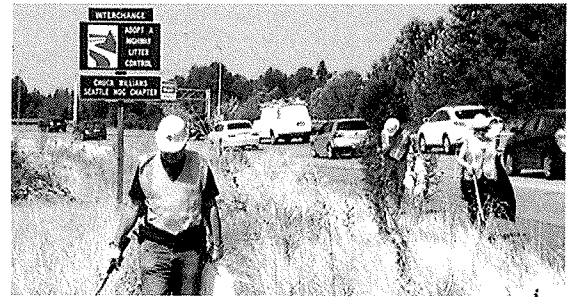
Sustainable schools program focuses on environmental education across the district

[Learn More](#)

Sustainable Schools
Published by Hannah Coughlin [P] · April 25 ·

Anyone else noticing the alarming amount of roadside litter this time of year? Check out this article from WSDOT addressing our state's highway maintenance program and the hard work that's underway to clean up our roadways!

<https://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/.../a-tricky-balancing-act-roa...>



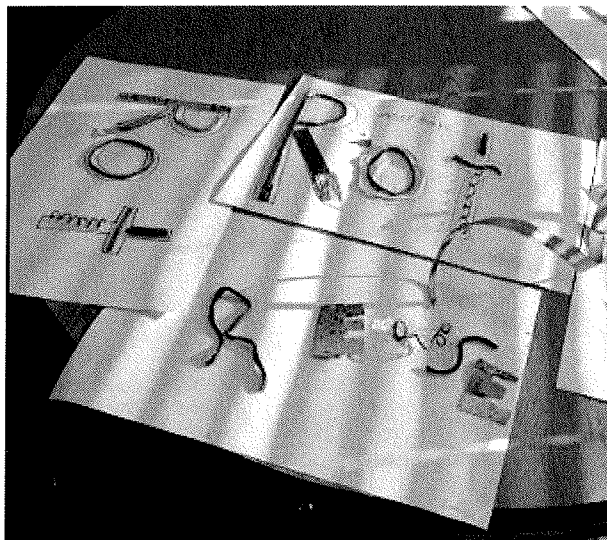
WSDOTBLOG.BLOGSPOT.COM

A tricky balancing act: Roadside litter and highway maintenance needs

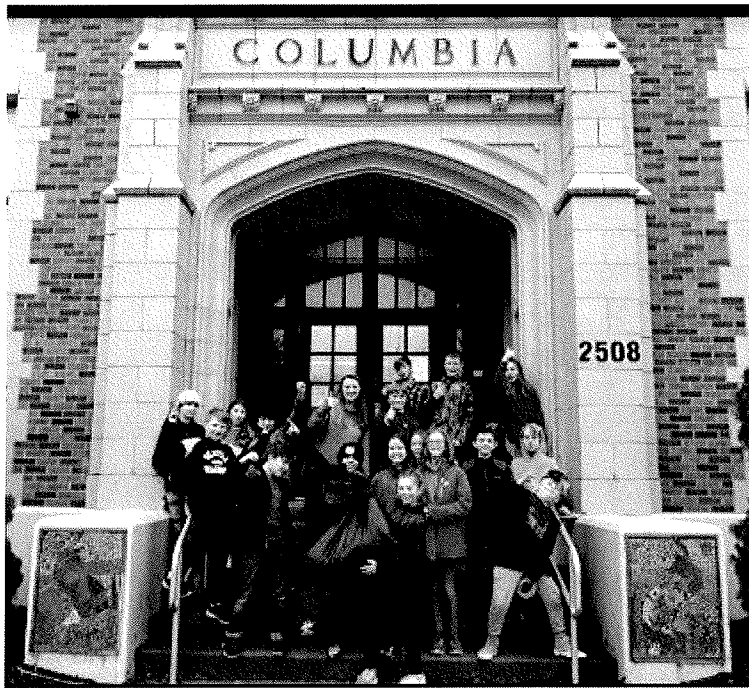
Appendix 5
Photos



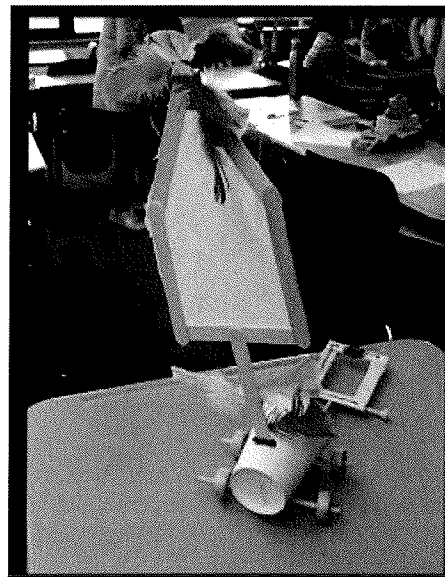
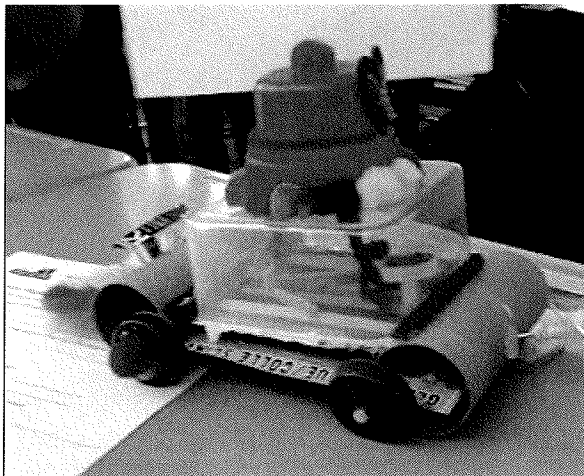
The joy of litter clean ups as seen by 1st graders at Columbia Elementary



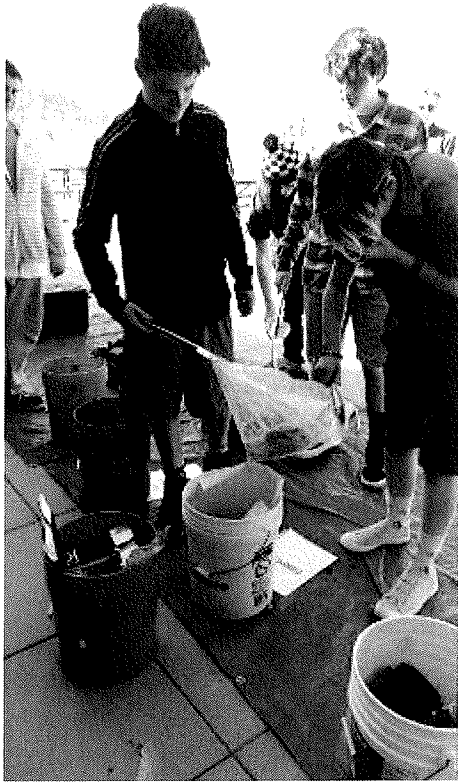
Upcycling education posters made by students at Irene Reither



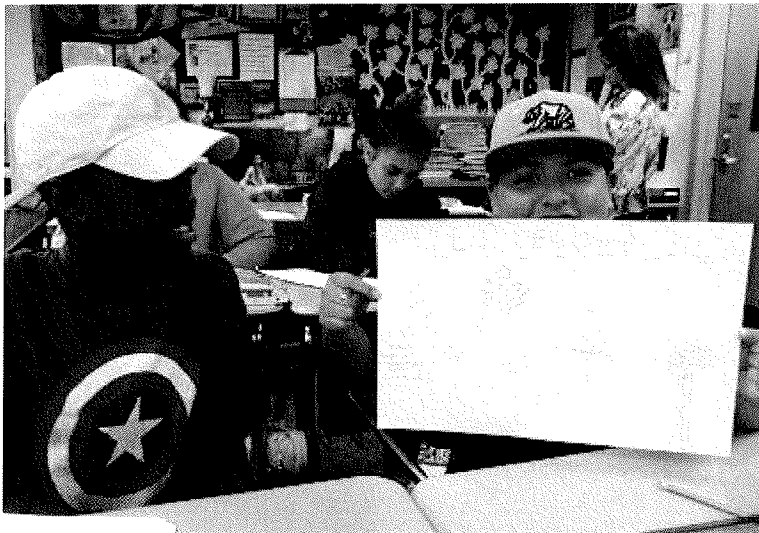
Triumphant 5th graders after litter pick up on campus!



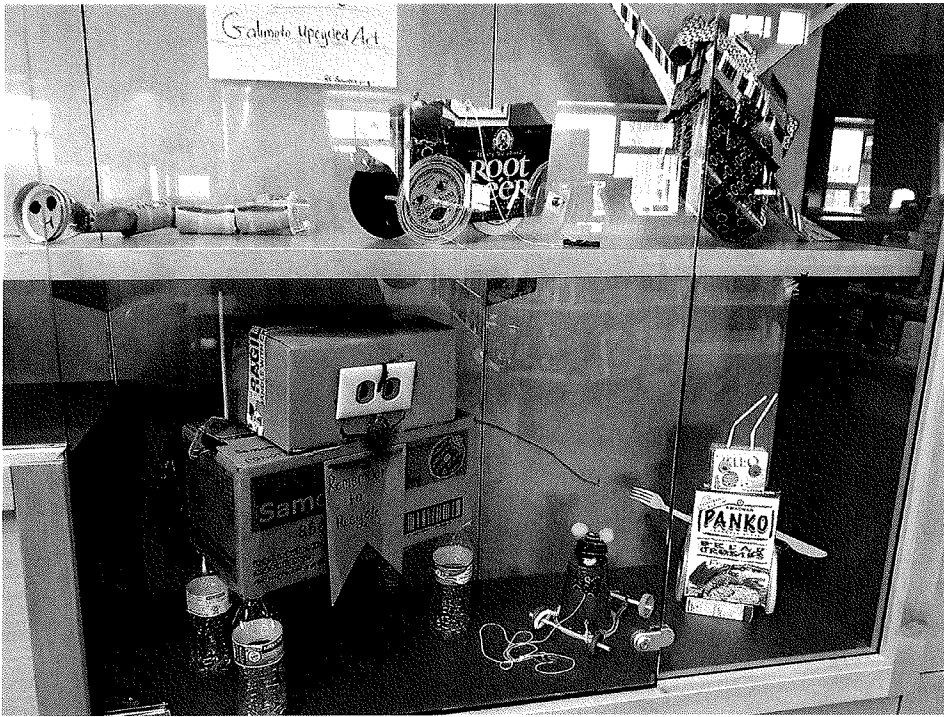
Upcycling vehicles (*Galimoto*) from Cascadia Elementary



Options High School students discover the joys of a waste audit



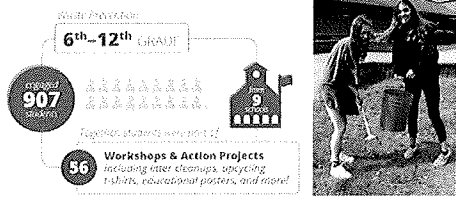
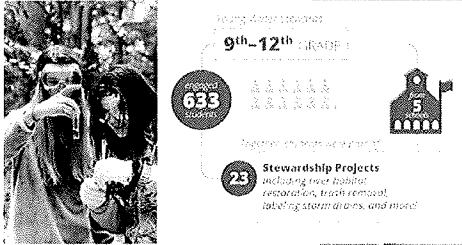
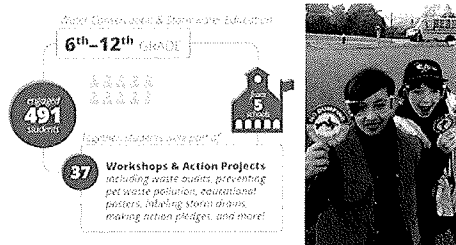
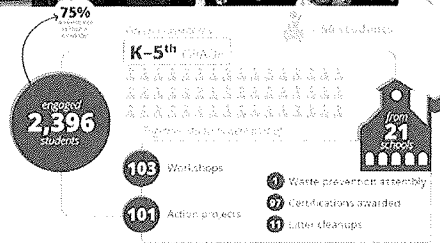
Blaine Middle schoolers educate others!



Cascadia students' upcycled creations at the Ferndale library



Columbia Elementary students after collecting over 100 pounds of trash!



A FEW COMMUNITY IMPACTS

- Helped provide **43** teachers with 16 hours of training to better teach climate science.
- Kept **550** lbs. of textiles from landfills through clothing drives.
- Kept **200** lbs. of trash.
- Labelled **27** storm drains.
- Distributed **80** "We Scoop" kits to new dog owners.
- 12** students in Youth for the Environment and People (YEP) designed and painted a mural as part of the advocacy, empowerment, and leadership skills program.

RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES