



# BCSWA School Newsletter

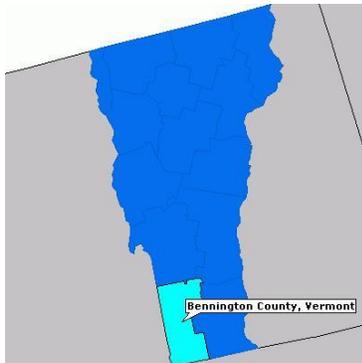


Welcome to the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance School Newsletter! Our goal is to highlight what is happening with our schools and celebrate their recycling events and activities. If your school is planning (or has held) a recycling event, please contact [TheClub@nrra.net](mailto:TheClub@nrra.net) so your story and pictures can be included in the next edition!

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## School Outreach



Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) and their School Recycling CLUB began outreach efforts in January and February by contacting all 25 of the schools in the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance region. The results of that survey were tabulated to establish which schools will be offered education and technical assistance this year.

Manchester Elementary has tentatively agreed to schedule their workshops for April 26 & 28. Two other schools have been contacted and are considering which workshops work best for them.

If your school is interested in offering recycling workshops before summer break (or even next fall), please contact [TheClub@nrra.net](mailto:TheClub@nrra.net) and we will put you on our list.

As part of the initial outreach, all 25 schools received information about Act 148-Universal Recycling, along with a School CLUB Membership Application, Benefits of Membership and Team Earth Activity Manual.

**PLEASE NOTE:** the CLUB Application must be completed and sent to [TheClub@nrra.net](mailto:TheClub@nrra.net) after which you will receive your Membership Packet.

For more information on what's happening in other schools, go to the CLUB's [Newsletter Page](#).

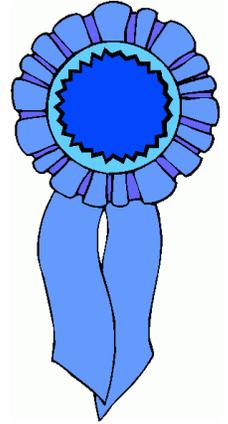
## Survey Winners!

Congratulations to the three lucky schools who won our raffle by submitting their surveys by the deadline:

- **Molly Stark,**
- **The Dorset School and**
- **Sunderland Elementary!**

Our winners will receive a free Conference Pass for the NRRRA School CLUB's Recycling Conference on May 17, at the Radisson in Nashua, NH. Confirmation emails went out on March 1 along with a Complimentary Registration Page.

If other schools are interested in attending, here is the [Conference Brochure](#) and [Online Registration](#) link.



## School Events

### Earth Day April 22, 2016

Earth Day 2016 is coming right up! Mark your calendar for Friday, April 22 to pitch in around your home, school and community. For more information, click [HERE](#).



### Green Up Day May 7, 2016

Now in its 46<sup>th</sup> year, Green Up Vermont is hosting their annual Green Up Day on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Each year they hold a Poster Contest and Writing Contest celebrating this day. To see this year's winner, click [HERE](#).

For more information about Green Up Day, go to:  
<http://www.greenupvermont.org/>

# Recycling In The News

We found this in the USDA newsletter-courtesy of the [Manchester Journal](#)

## Farm to School grows in Dorset

By Andrew McKeever

amckeever@ [manchesterjournal.com](http://manchesterjournal.com) @manjourn on Twitter

Posted: 03/16/2016 09:45:40 AM EDT



Students line up for lunch at the Dorset School last week. Val Reppin, the food service coordinator, helps serve it out as well. (Andrew McKeever — Manchester Journal)

**DORSET** — Lunchtime at The Dorset School brings the usual commotion and conversation seen in school cafeterias everywhere, but that outwardly familiar scene masks a subtle difference.

As students line up to be served their hot lunches from a cart alongside a wall in one end of the school's gymnasium, which doubles as the lunch room, many will be eating food that often comes from local farms, or even from their own gardens right at the school.

"Farm to School," as the program is known, is not new and not limited locally to The Dorset School. A survey conducted in 2012 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that 89 percent of Vermont schools participate in some way in farm-to school activities, and state officials suspect the number is actually higher. Only one though, has a corporate executive refugee and foodie fireball like Val Reppin,

Dorset's food service manager and chef. Now in her third year wearing her hot peppers-themed chef's hat and doling out the day's lunches to a waiting line of students, she has merged art and science not only in terms of crafting enticing and unusual offerings that students of generations past would never have associated with school lunch.

The other alchemy results from blending the school's food budgets to maximize what she obtains locally and what comes in through the Department of Agriculture's school food program.

"She's become a master at using the commodity orders from the government and using them creatively by pulling in other things," said Rosanna Moran, Dorset's school principal. "She can plan on her own rather than work in a large system where everything is bulk ordered. We have an excitement with the kids — she makes tofu and the kids eat it! — roasted broccoli — she's getting them to try things they might not try at home."

Dorset already had a farm-to-school program in place when she arrived in 2013. Reppin plunged into helping it grow and evolve, she said. "I purchase as much local food as I can," she said. "I find that it's such a dance to get as much good government product as I can, to save some money over here to buy that fresh product over there." She buys products from several local farms and suppliers. Much of what comes through the conventional pipeline is also good quality food and much of it is sourced from Vermont farms, she said.

There are homemade soups and a fresh salad bar on offer each day. Friday pizza is usually a big hit. Reppin likes to talk with the students, find out what they like or would be open to trying, and keeps track of what goes over well and what doesn't work. She'll spend time with the little kids, teaching etiquette and table manners. She'll talk nutritional values with the older kids, who are also "farmers" in their own way.

A few years ago, Reppin got the "wild idea" to use some of the school's grounds to plant their own gardens to grow vegetables and flowers. At last Thanksgiving Day, the school threw a dinner for 400 members of the school community which featured home-grown potatoes, herbs and apples. Rave reviews followed. There's a small greenhouse out back, along with a couple of raised garden beds, and the flower garden. There's a therapeutic effect that may be almost, if not more valuable, than the nutritional one, she said. "If a kid's having a hard day, they can go out, pull some weeds, pick some flowers — whatever," she said. "It's therapy for them."

It also saves some money, especially when it comes to herbs, which can eat through a budget. Plus, there's another side benefit — kids are more likely to eat vegetables, if they've grown it themselves, she said. The kids have a voice in what they plant and grow. One of the science classes made a project of growing kale last year, and presented her with a bouquet of them, Reppin said. "I had one girl bring heirloom tomato seeds from Italy," she said. "When you put those on a fresh salad and a kid can try something that exotic, they get it."

Kids can opt in or out of the school lunch program, one day at a time. If they sign up for school lunch, it's \$3.25; \$4 for adults. Reppin gets a count of the number of students who've indicated they'll be customers of the school's lunch program that day, and prepares the volume needed. It varies from one day to the next, and the day's offerings often influence the decision-making. But business is on an upswing. She averages about 150-170 lunches served per day, up from around 100 served up three

years ago. Students can bring their own lunches whenever they want. Many who bring their own lunches do so because they are vegan or vegetarian.

In response, she has tried to create options for those students, she said. And she tries to discuss healthy options and good food versus not-so-good food choices. It may take a couple of tries before they are willing to bite on something new and unfamiliar, she said. Sometimes just having the food out there will tempt one student to try it, and when word gets back to the others that it's not so bad, others will dive in. "I've found lately that peer pressure is a good thing in the lunchroom," she said with a laugh.

For Dorset's school board chairman, David Chandler, the personalized food service program led by Reppin, with its emphasis on buying local produce as much as possible, and the educational component of nutrition and being tuned in to what the kids want, or are willing to try, is an example of local initiatives that hopefully will not be lost or downgraded as school districts move along the track of consolidation under Act 46. That's the legislation that is encouraging school districts to hold conversations with neighboring districts with an eye towards merging them into one larger governance unit. Dorset is taking part in such a discussion with Manchester, Sunderland, Danby, Mt. Tabor and the Mountain Towns RED. "I think when you're pushing economies of scale, a lot of the individual stuff gets forgotten," he said.

The school board had one of its best showings of parents and residents at a board meeting last year where the food program was part of the agenda. The food service fits in closely with other programs, like recycling, that are reducing costs and offer teachable moments, which are important to preserve in the post-Act 46 world, he said. "I always worry about knee-jerk decisions as opposed to carefully thought through decisions, and when you're in a big situation you don't always have the time to pay attention to what is happening in a small part of one of the many big decisions that are faced. And that can have a big impact on the experience of the local community," he said.

Plus, the food is darn good, he added.

*(If your school is doing something newsworthy, we'd love to put you in the next quarterly newsletter. Contact us at [TheClub@nrra.net](mailto:TheClub@nrra.net)!)*



From our friends at [Plastics News](#)

## Using plastic to save trees

January 8, 2016

By Catherine Kavanaugh



Terrecon Inc. Terrewalk pavers made from recycled low density polyethylene allow Culver City, Calif., to trim back the roots and save the tree.

Large old trees give so much. They provide beauty and shade, raise property values, remove pollutants, and have even been shown to bolster mental health. However, their sprawling roots tilt up concrete sidewalks, posing physical risks in the form of tripping hazards that can open cities to costly lawsuits.

What's an environmentally conscious and legally liable community with mature trees to do?

In Logan, Utah, they are looking beyond the age-old solution of getting out the chainsaws. Instead, they have replaced some buckling slabs of cement with paving tiles made from 100 percent recycled low density polyethylene. Called

Terrewalks, the 24-inch-by-30-inch tiles are 35 pounds each and can be easily removed to trim tree roots and then set back in place.

Not only have Terrewalks saved trees in at least 200 U.S and Canadian cities, the raw materials for the synthetic squares come from some of the lowest grades of LDPE. We're talking dirty agricultural film that previously had little if any demand, as well as by-products from composite wood deck maker Trex Co. Inc. And, that solves another issue of what to do with some problematic post-consumer waste. Terrewalks are sold by Terrecon Inc., which is based in Fountain Valley, Calif. CEO and founder Lindsay Smith got the idea for the business in 2001 after seeing red Xs painted on 26 ficus trees marked for removal in her California neighborhood. Her company started out using rubber for the flexible sidewalks but added recycled plastic in 2007. The raw materials, such as plastic wrap used to bale hay for dairy cows, are converted into Terrewalk tiles through a process called thermo-kinetic technology, which, unlike injection and extrusion molding, does not require plastic to be clean, sorted or pelletized.

"It's a form of compression molding that allows the plastic to be coarse and diverse," Smith said in an email. "This contributes to the concrete-like appearance of Terrewalks." Terrecon has partnered with three different manufacturers in the western United States to date. But starting in April, Lehman & Sons Enterprise LLC of Bristol, Ind., will exclusively handle production. Smith said a central location is needed as plastic sidewalks make inroads across North America.

"This is part of the evolution of the company and a desire to lower costs of the products," she said. "Being in the central U.S. will reduce the cost of shipping, but most importantly, it's because there is so much ag plastic in the Midwest. Before, we were spending a lot on moving plastic."



Terrecon Inc. Installing Terrewalk pavers in Buellton, Calif.

### Root of the problem

Logan, a college town in northern Utah, has won Tree City USA awards for 28 years and counting, so when some giant willows, cottonwoods and London planetrees were facing the ax in 12 residential and high-traffic areas, some people cringed. “Public safety is at the top of the list for the city of Logan, so the tree often loses out when these conflicts arise,” Megan Dettenmaier, the forestry extension educator at Utah State University, said in an email.

She and her colleague had heard about plastic sidewalks being used to leave problem trees in place and they checked into it. Dettenmaier talked to local officials in Alaska and

Wisconsin and after getting positive reviews she applied for and received an \$8,000 state grant to try Terrewalks in Logan. The city matched the grant with \$10,000 and provided the labor to install the tiles. “Trees in Logan will be spared, and if they become a problem again, the tiles can be uplifted, problem roots can be trimmed, and the same tiles can be re-laid,” Dettenmaier said in an email. “This is a unique product that reduces waste, helps cities retain mature trees, and creates safe walkable sidewalks. And, even better, the construction can usually be completed in a day.”

Plastic sidewalks are more expensive than concrete — initially, she added. “But there are high costs associated with the business-as-usual model, where trees that have buckled sidewalks are removed, new sidewalks are poured and new trees are planted, only to have the cycle repeated in the future when that new tree becomes a problem again.”

Terrewalk pavers, which have a 20-year warranty, were installed in Logan last summer and are being monitored as to how they hold up to heat, harsh winters and different snow removal methods. “Weather is the biggest unknown at this time,” Dettenmaier said.

### Branching out

While some municipalities consider themselves in the test stage for Terrewalks, Smith said the product is “tried and true” and gaining popularity for commercial, corporate and university applications. The plastic tiles can replicate the look of granite, marble and stone and they are promoted as slip-resistant and compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. “They’ve been installed throughout the country since 2008,” Smith said. “They are unbreakable — even when they are frozen solid. They’re long lasting and pretty much indestructible. ... They are also safer and more comfortable to walk or run — or fall — on.”

Terrecon recently announced that its paving tiles also will be specified for tee pads by Houck Designs, which it says is the No. 1 disc golf designer in the world, because they are easy to install, durable and cleanable.

The paving tiles also qualify for green building credits because they are made of recycled material and resist sunlight, which reduces the heat-island effect brought on by cement. In addition, the polymer pathways can play a role in storm water management. The bottom sides of Terrewalks have channels

that serve as reservoirs and can hold 2.3 gallons of rain per paver. That allows storm water to slowly percolate to the soil below.

“Certainly preserving and maintaining the urban forest is its main benefit, but capturing storm water is a very big consideration these days,” Smith said. Terrewalks also are good for construction sites, where they can’t be marred by heavy equipment like poured concrete, she added.

With the benefits plastic sidewalks offer, Terrecon is on the path to wider acceptance but will it change our landscape underfoot? Smith said displacing concrete as the main material for sidewalks will take a paradigm shift.

“The greatest challenge is overcoming the habitual use of concrete for sidewalks,” she said. “The infrastructure for concrete is highly evolved with contractors, installers, internal and external relationships, and red tape. Change meets resistance — even when everyone knows that concrete breaks, causing trip hazards and lawsuits, and it cannot coexist with the urban forest.”

## Contests, Scholarships & Fundraisers

### Sunoco Rewards Scholarships

Sunoco is now accepting applications for our 2016 Sunoco Rewards scholarships. This year, Sunoco is offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to two future marketers.

#### Creative Design Scholarship

One of the ways that we communicate with our customers at our Sunoco stations is through point-of-purchase (POP) signage.

Two of our highly visible POP are the Perimeter Pole Sign (PPS) and the Pump Topper Sign (PTS). The PPS is placed in large frames along the exterior of our station lots. The PTS sits in a frame on every pump at many of our stations.

As future graphic designers, we would like to see what type of creative concepts you can develop for our retail POP around our high quality fuels.

Learn more about our [creative design scholarship](#).

#### Digital Marketing Scholarship

With nearly 75% of adults in the United States using sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest, it is no surprise that Social Media has become an integral part of brand marketing. Marketers around the world continue to grapple with how best to use these evolving networks to reach the markets where they operate daily.



Digital Marketers are always looking for new tactics and platforms to help them connect and communicate with consumers. We would like to see a digital marketing campaign that could be implemented for Sunoco Racing.

Learn more about our [digital marketing scholarship](#).

**The deadline for both scholarships is May 31st, 2016.**

If you have any questions, please contact us at [scholarships@sunocoinc.com](mailto:scholarships@sunocoinc.com).

Here is the link to the [Sunoco Scholarship](#) page.

## Activity

### Organize Your Cords



January 22, 2013 By [Vanessa Barker](#)

Using toilet paper rolls, I wrapped the darker spots (where the tacky stuff holds on the paper) with washi tape. I did find out that the tape didn't hold extremely well on the cardboard, so I used some scotch tape to hold the two ends together.

Then after rolling up the cords, I stuffed them into the roll and marked them a with a little piece of tape as to what the cord belongs to.

Now, they are neatly placed into a tub, where there's no untangling, and we know what they belong to (well most of them...we still haven't figured out a few!).

Alliance Webpage: <http://www.bcswavt.org/>

NRRA Outreach Page: <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/nrra-outreach-program/>

