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Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

www.bcswavt.org

School WASTE NOT E-Newsletter

March 2018

WASTE NOT Champion School of the Quarter

Stamford Elementary School initiated food waste composting on the first day of school in August. BCSWA representatives met with school administration and made a presentation on school cafeteria food scrap collection and diversion to the school's teachers. Sample signage, supplies list, and images for a food scrap "collection table" were provided, along with training and assistance for start-up of food waste collection for student lunches.

In October BCSWA returned to the school to conduct a school-wide waste sort. The event, also known as "Trash on Lawn Day", started with the collection (by the school custodian) of school recyclables, separated food scraps (destined for composting), and remaining trash. Recyclables and trash were sorted and weighed; the sorted materials were placed on tarps to be displayed. BCSWA reviewed the weights of the sorted items and discussed opportunities for additional waste reduction and recycling with the students, teachers, and staff.

The school has an excellent diversion rate of 62%. It was observed that a significant portion of the remaining trash was juice boxes, chip bags, and other single-portion packaging that is not recyclable. As a result, the school principal put together a flier with ideas on reusable packaging that students could use for snacks and lunches. The flier was sent to all parents.

BCSWA School Recycling and Food Scraps Diversion Assistance

We want to hear from You! BCSWA sent waste and recycling surveys to all public and private schools in the region earlier this year. These surveys help the Alliance see what area schools are doing to reduce waste and where schools may need assistance. If you didn't receive your school survey, please contact BCSWA at mbatcher@bcrcvt.org or 802-442-0713 x 2.

Technical Assistance available through BCSWA:

- Waste reduction and reuse: strategies & tips.
- Recycling: program strategies; tips for success; container & signage recommendations; hauler contacts; staff & student training; promotion; and, more.

- Food waste: program strategies for reduction, food recovery, food diversion to animals, composting; tips for success; container & signage recommendations; hauler contacts; staff & student training; promotion; and, more.
- Proper disposal: Strategies for collection and proper disposal of fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, paint, lab chemicals, and other materials.
- School Green Teams: We can help you organize a school green team or waste reduction team.
- Special activities: Trash on Lawn Day/schoolwide waste assessment; recycling and composting presentations and trainings.

Got Toxics? Schools may bring leftover pesticides, lab chemicals, and other toxic materials can bring small amounts to upcoming BCSWA Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. *Schools MUST register in advance to let us know what you are bringing.* Contact: 802-442-0713 x 2 or mbatcher@bcrcvt.org.

[Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event](#)

May 12, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Bennington Transfer Station