

Roadmap for a Greener PWCS

The student led organization, Healthy Environments Advance Life (HEAL), in collaboration with PWCS Energy and Sustainability in the Office of Facilities Services at Prince William County Schools, established the first outdoor recycling program at Colgan High School. Recognizing the need to further conserve resources, as well as educate students on the importance of environmental sustainability and conservation, HEAL suggests the following outdoor recycling roadmap for schools throughout the Division. We hope to inspire many more schools and students to implement outdoor recycling programs using our guideline as a project-based learning opportunity.

The project steps we recommend include:

Meeting with stakeholders to discuss feasibility and planning

To successfully develop and implement a program at any school, consultation with school and School Division officials must occur at the very beginning. Set up a meeting or call with school administrators, including the principal and/or activities coordinator and representatives from Facilities Services. Plan to present a simple outline of the program's goals and anticipated outcomes. Assess the current indoor recycling program and how it may be extended to include outdoor areas. Ensure all stakeholders agree regarding program and how it will be applied to the individual school. Discuss and research potential grant opportunities to cover costs of recycling programs, such as SPARK.

Potential areas for placement of bins

Work with school administrators and Facilities Services to determine ideal placement of bins. To prevent contamination with non-recyclable materials, place recycling containers right next to existing trash containers. Use Google Earth maps to plan out exact sites for placement based on sports area facilities. Plan which materials your program will collect. Choose receptacles (type and quantity) that are appropriate.

Procurement of products

Work with the Office of Facilities Services to create a budget and obtain quotes from vendors for the required receptacles. Order the required number of containers and plan for delivery. To engage the students in the program and make recycling a part of the school spirit, consider designing artwork that incorporates the school logo on the recycling bins

Installation



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Plan for installation after deciding on a convenient date for the Office of Facilities Services and school officials. A Facilities work order will have to be prepared prior to the actual installation process. Involve students as feasible and advertise widely throughout the school.

Implementation

Educate everyone must be shown exactly how to separate waste so that only acceptable recyclable materials end up in the recycling collection containers. For teachers and staff members, a training strategy might be a presentation during weekly or monthly meetings. For students, training might occur at a school-wide presentation, morning announcements or student made flyers.

Program Monitoring and Maintenance

To ensure that the recycling program sustains itself, the school should develop a system for consistent monitoring of the program for volume of usage and contamination. This can be done by consulting with the Office of Facilities Services.

PWCS Energy & Sustainability office contact information: sustainability@pwcs.edu

Approximate cost per school \$3500