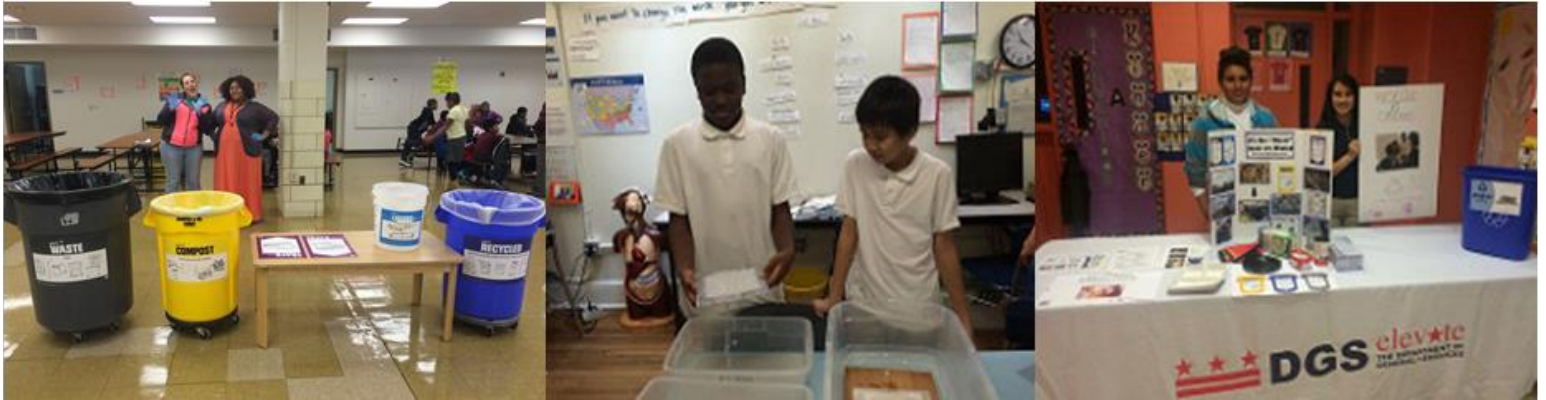




DCPS Recycles! Program NEWSLETTER | January 2016



Happy New Year!

Celebrating and Expanding on Last Year's Success

Take Action in the New Year:

Give feedback! Fill out this [feedback form](#) by Friday, January 22 to help improve the DCPS Recycles! program.

Apply for recognition! Fill out the [DCPS Recycles Honor Roll 2016 Application](#) by Friday, February 19 to get your school recognized on Earth Day.

Sign up to reduce food waste! Sign up for the D.C. Reduce First Challenge – Lunch Edition – taking place in February 2016 to reduce food waste in DCPS cafeterias. [Read more](#) and [sign up](#) by Friday, January 22!

Check services! Check the [updated list](#) of schools participating in organics recycling. Read an update on the organics recycling program below.

Look out for supplies! Schools that ordered supplies in November 2015 should expect supplies by February 2016.

Request a school walkthrough! For those schools that did not submit the supply order form in November, request a school walkthrough to identify exactly what recycling supplies you need—email cara.blumenthal@dc.gov.

Share photos! Share photos on social media that celebrate recycling in your school - #DCPSRecycles @DCDGS. You can also send us your pictures to share on our new [Flickr page](#).

2015 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Composting Facility Tour

DCPS maintenance staff toured the Western Branch Composting Facility in Upper Marlboro, MD where DCPS sends its organic waste. [Check out pictures from the tour.](#)



DC Recycle Right Competition

Congratulations to the 21 schools that participated in the first-ever districtwide recycling competition. Participating schools improved classroom recycling bin “correctness” by 9 percentage points while applying 21st century math and science knowledge and practicing invaluable interpersonal skills. [Share the press release and check out pictures.](#)

Connect with us!



Sign Up for the D.C. Reduce First Challenge – Lunch Edition

Did you know that 20-30% of waste from DCPS cafeterias and kitchens is perfectly good, uneaten and unopened items? Inspired by the success of the Recycle Right! Competition, DCPS Recycles! is excited to launch its next challenge, the Reduce First Challenge, in February 2016. While the Recycle Right! Competition focused on paper recycling in school classrooms, this challenge focuses on reducing food waste from lunchrooms. [Learn more and sign up for the competition.](#) The deadline to sign up is **Friday, January 22**. Also, [mark your calendars for a teacher training on the competition on Tuesday, January 26.](#)

Organics Recycling Update

Congratulations to the 39 schools with active organics recycling programs in school cafeterias &/or kitchens & to the 10 schools with implementation plans to launch organics recycling this school year. For example, **Garfield Elementary School (Ward 8)** and **C.W. Harris Elementary School (Ward 7)** re-launched their organics programs & continue to lead in best practices. Due to issues with missing containers, unreliable pick up schedules, & new capacity limits at the composting facility, only schools that have established programs or have started implementation will remain on the list. This spring, DGS will work out these issues before expanding the program to new schools in SY16-17. [See the updated list of schools participating in organics recycling.](#)

Replicate Success – Schools’ Best Practices

During the Recycle Right Competition, **Cardozo Education Campus (Ward 1)** students made **“PAPER ONLY” lids** for classroom recycling bins. The lids have cut down on classroom bin contamination. One of Cardozo’s custodians, Ms. Rhonda Keith, also presented to classrooms to emphasize the importance of recycling right.



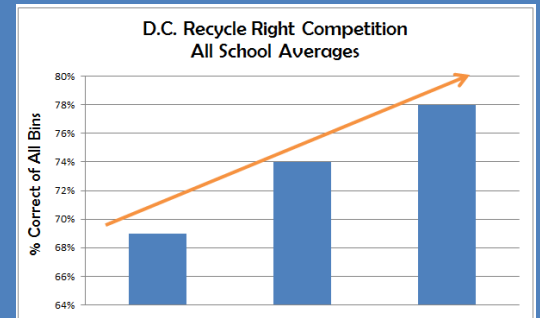
With support from administrative, operational, and educational staff, **Langdon Elementary School (Ward 5)**, **Seaton Elementary School (Ward 6)**, **Oyster Adams Bilingual School (Adams campus) (Ward 3)** launched their cafeteria recycling programs. Langdon’s **student green team** helped to train their peers about what items to sort into which bins.

Students from **Walker-Jones Education Campus (Ward 6)**, **Langley Elementary School (Ward 5)**, **Powell Elementary School (Ward 4)**, and **H.D. Cooke Elementary School (Ward 1)** participated in the **FIRST LEGO League 2015 Trash Trek Challenge**. Both Langley ES and Walker-Jones EC made it to Nationals! As part of the challenge, H.D. Cooke ES and Powell ES invited **“recycling experts”** to their classes. Beth Gingold from DCPS Recycles!



visited H.D. Cooke students & Ms. Luckey, Powell’s head custodian, spoke to Powell students. Remember, the custodial staff is a great resource on recycling! Let us know if you would like a recycling expert to visit your school.

Special congratulations go to **Benjamin Banneker High School (Ward 1)** (Highest Performance) and **School Without Walls @ Francis-Stevens (Ward 2)** (Most Improved). After the competition ended, **Burroughs Elementary School (Ward 5)** continued with an internal competition that pitted classroom against classroom. You can participate in the competition activity at any time! [Find competition instructions here.](#)

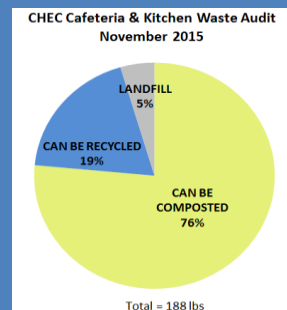


Managing Waste at DCPS Events

In 2015, we helped to manage waste at DCPS events, both at **Key Elementary School’s (Ward 3)** back-to-school picnic sponsored by the PTA and **Bruce-Monroe Elementary School’s (Ward 1)** STEM Fair. The STEM Fair achieved a 98% diversion rate making it a virtually zero waste event! [Check out our best practices guide to recycle at your next school event.](#)

Waste Audits

So far in SY15-16, we conducted waste audits at **River Terrace Education Campus (Ward 7)**, part of USGBC’s Green Apple Day of Service, **Dunbar High School (Ward 5)**, with the help of American University students, and **Columbia Heights Education Campus (Ward 1)**.



Would you like to conduct a waste audit at your school? Just let us know and we can help!

Walker-Jones Education Campus's (Ward 6) Trash Trek Challenge committee also managed food waste by using their **outdoor compost bin** and making **smoothies with leftover fruit** from the cafeteria with their FoodCorps member, Maya Nixon from [DC Greens](#). Your school can reduce food waste by participating in the [D.C. Reduce First Challenge](#) in February.

Langley Elementary School's (Ward 5) FIRST LEGO League team **repurposed plastic** water bottles and LEGOs into baby rattles, pep rally noise-makers, hourglass timers & more. Langley's active STEM program features all sorts of **hands-on environmental education activities**, including a weather monitoring station and growing carrots in refurbished fish tanks.

Houston Elementary School (Ward 7) early education teachers use the **Creative Curriculum** to teach pre-K students about recycling. They outfitted their classrooms with "thrift stores" to teach students about reusing everyday household items (picture to the right). Check out [pictures](#) of their pre-K classrooms.

Resources

[Best Practices Guide to Recycling at School Events](#) – Recycle at your next school sporting event, science fair, or end-of-year celebration!
<http://dgs.dc.gov/node/1133903>

[Resources for the Creative Curriculum® Recycling Unit](#) – Scroll through ideas and resources for teaching recycling to young students.
<http://dgs.dc.gov/node/1133908>

Partner Resource: DCPS School Based Wellness Council (SBWC) Implementation Guide - A SBWC is an advisory group focused on improving the physical, emotional, social, and environmental health of students and staff. SBWCs can also influence the creation of school health and wellness initiatives that address the whole child to improve their academic success. DCPS Central Office's Wellness Advisory Committee created the SBWC Implementation Guide to aid your school with the creation, implementation and enhancement of your school-based wellness council (SBWC). For a copy of the SBWC Implementation Guide and/or more information on how to create a SBWC at your school, please contact Tanisha Douglas at Tanisha.douglas2@dc.gov or 202-576-8654.

PD for Early Education Teachers

The Creative Curriculum®, used for pre-K classes in about 20 DCPS schools, has a recycling unit. The DCPS Recycles! team held a Professional Development (PD) training for early education teachers about where DCPS waste goes and the importance of *actually* recycling when *teaching* about recycling.

[Check out](#) our new support resource, **Resources for Creative Curriculum® Recycling Unit**.

NEWS



Foam Free DC – As of January 1, 2016, the use of food service products made of expanded polystyrene is banned in D.C. DCPS food vendors must abide by the law.

USDA & EPA Set First-Ever National Food Waste Reduction Goals – The national goal, set in September 2015, calls for a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030.



Houston Elementary early education classroom

Contact Us! Beth Gingold, Schools Conservation Coordinator
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