

King County Green Schools Program

Best Practices Workshop Waste Reduction Session

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Green Schools Goal

- Build a community (including staff, custodians, students, and parents) that fully supports, understands and encourages waste reduction, recycling and conservation.

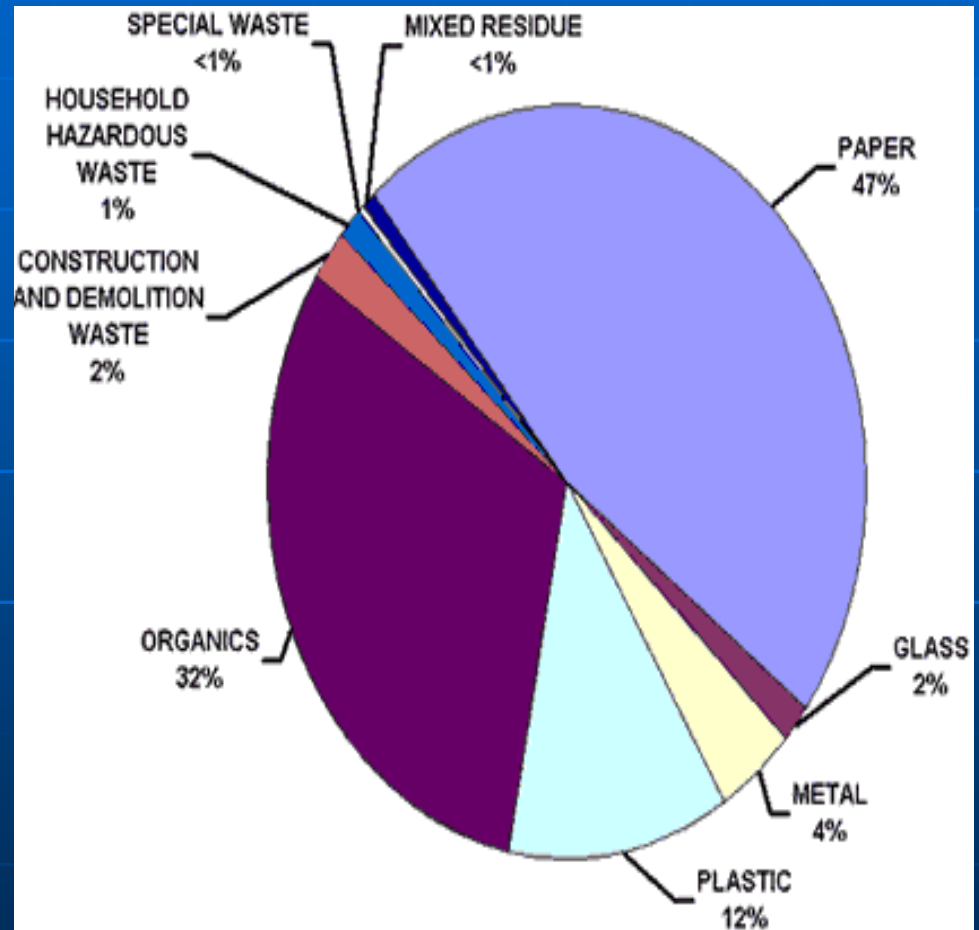
Earthward Environmental Club at Ballou High School participating in a recycling program



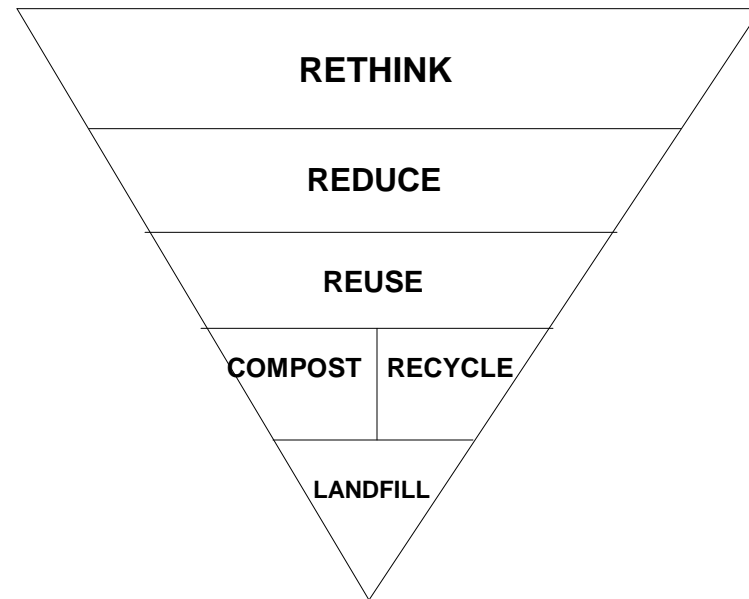
Garbage: What's In It?

n What is generated by schools?

n Paper	47%
n Organics	32%
n Plastics	12%
n Metal	4%
n Glass	2%
n Other	3%



Rethinking Resource Use

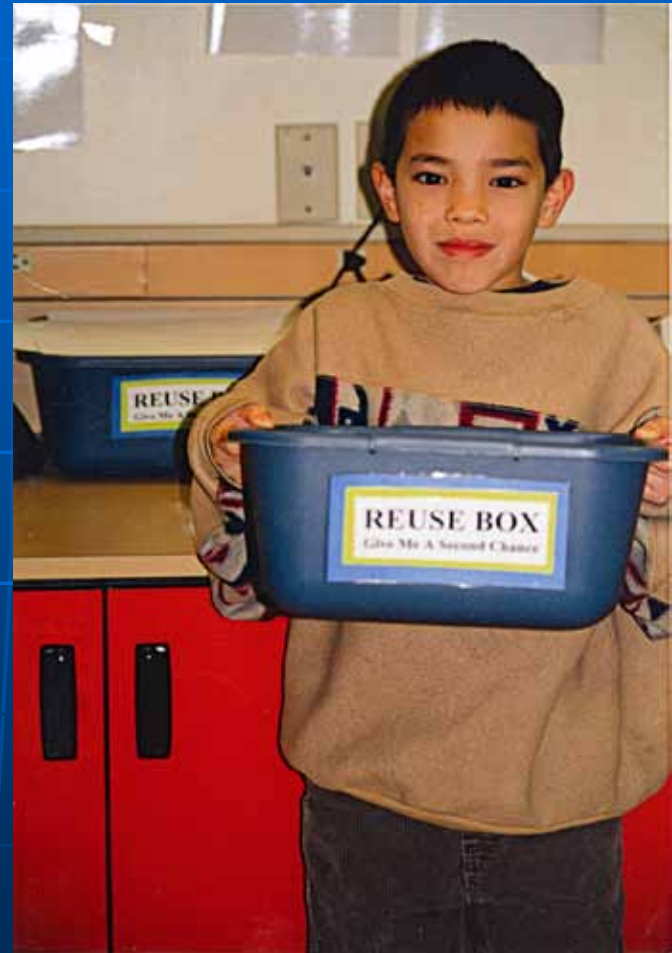


Waste Reduction: Things to Ponder

- 80% of everything that ends up in the landfill could have been reused, composted, or recycled.
- King County throws away enough Styrofoam trays annually to fill the Smith Tower 2.5 times
- A typical elementary school of 350 students used 500,000 paper towels during a school year.

Waste Reduction Choices

- RETHINKING is the first step
 - Printing agendas and Powerpoint slides for today
 - Creating a durable Green Schools banner
- Thinking outside the box:
 - Recess before lunch policies



Waste Reduction Questions or “Thinking Twice”

- n Do I need this?
- n Do I know what materials were used to make this product?
- n How long will I have this?
- n How can I extend the life of this product?
- n What will I do with it when I'm done?

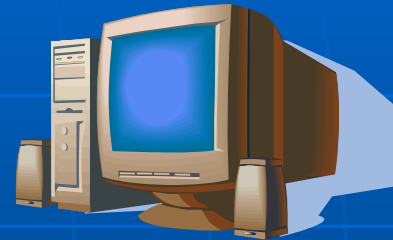


Waste Reduction Key Topics

1. Reduction of paper use
2. Eliminating Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and single use items
3. Continual "rethinking" and maintaining your waste reduction program
4. Environmental education and student involvement in waste reduction

Paper Use: How can I rethink?

- n Email or on-line forms
- n Technology:
 - Use of "smartboards"
 - Websites such as www.noodletools.com
- n Re-use packets
- n Review the "Thinking Twice" questions

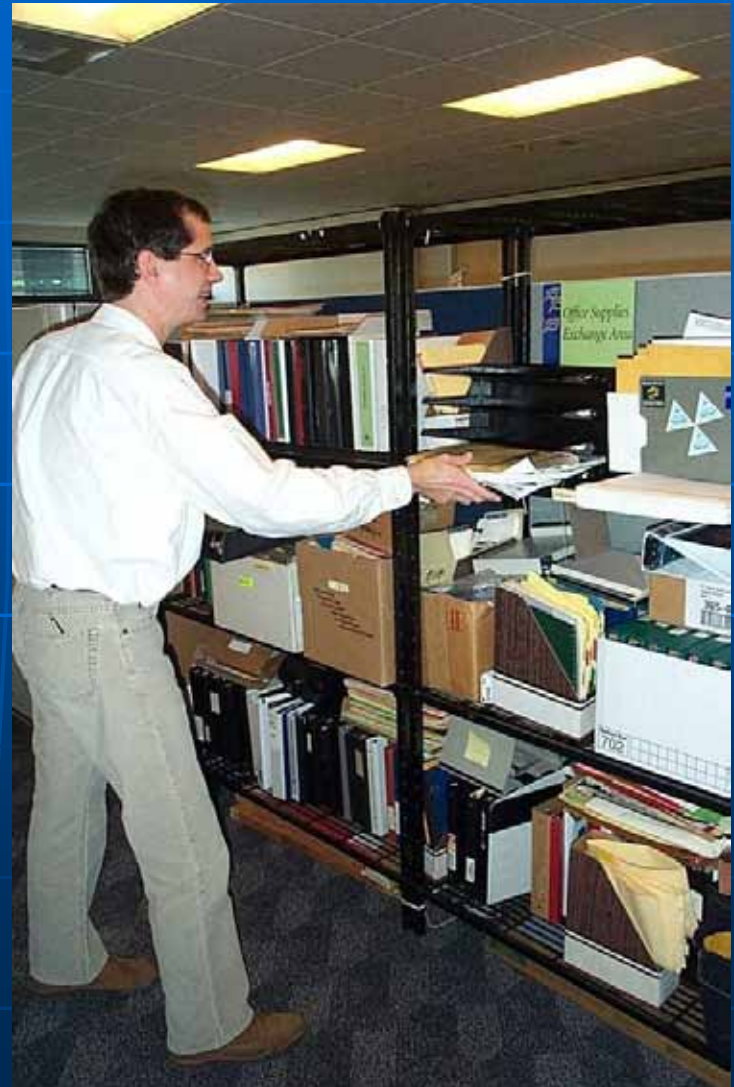


Office and Classroom

- n Paper reuse trays (GOOS Paper)
- n Double-sided printing and copying
- n Reuse of office supplies
- n Get off of mailing lists

www.newdream.org/junkmail

- n Buy some/all paper products made from recycled paper
- n Paper use policies



Why Eliminate Styrofoam?

(also known as Expanded Polystyrene or EPS)

- Environmental impact
- Health implications
- Volume in landfills



Steps to Eliminating Styrofoam

- n District buy-in is critical
- n Gather baseline data
- n Research alternatives appropriate to your school situation (cost, product types)
- n Enlist "champions" (parents especially)
- n Educate school community
- n Celebrate success!



Comparing Options

- Durable Trays
- Durable Baskets with Liners
- Compostable Trays
- No Trays

Remember, there is
no single best
alternative!



Costs to Consider

- Up-front costs (dishwasher, durable trays)
- Ongoing costs (purchasing, labor, water/energy)
- Disposal costs (compost collection, garbage collection, neither)
- Environmental choice vs. Budget choice

Rethinking: Single Use Items

- Condiments: Packets vs. cups vs. putting directly on tray
- Bowls (Durable, compostable, Styrofoam)
- Plastic utensils (pre-packaged set to individual, loose utensils). The infamous spork!
- Water bottles/durable bottle campaign



Rethinking: End of Year Opportunities

- Zero Waste Locker/Cubby Clean Out
- Materials Exchanges
- End-of-Year Checklists
- So many ways to rethink and reduce all throughout the year.

4 steps to keep your program going and growing

Step #1

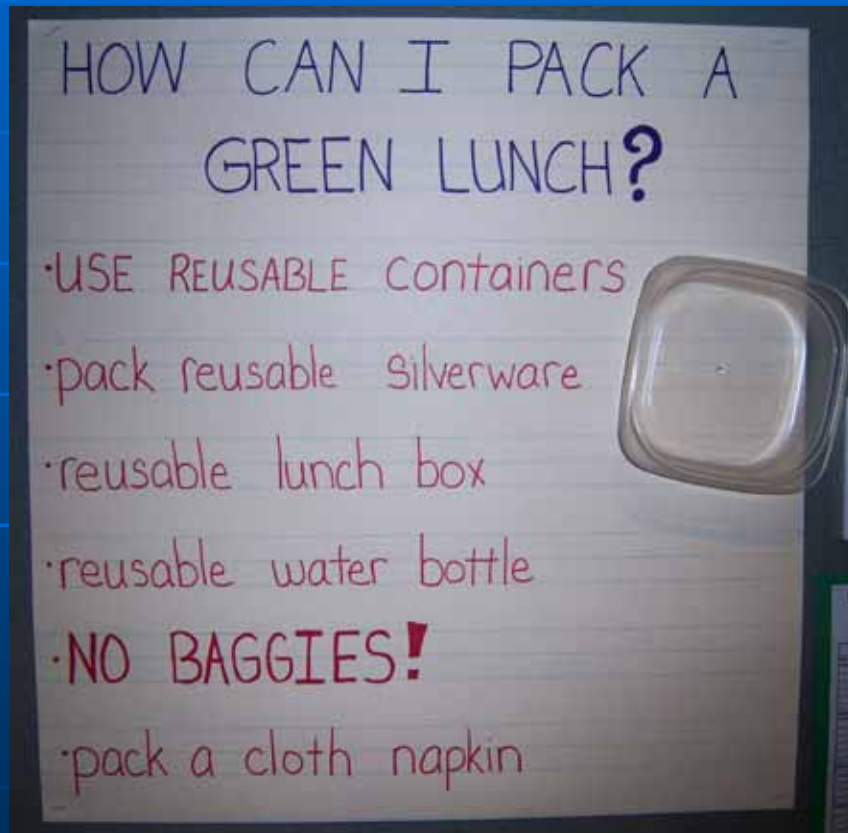
ASK

How can we rethink ?

Step #2

Educate

- Educate students about the "new" way of doing things. Challenge your school to come up with 3 new WR practices each year and share them with the school
- Have weekly student monitors (pairs especially)
- Have parent volunteers come in for monthly check-ins



Step #3

Communicate

Tell faculty, staff,
parents, students
about success!

- Monthly announcements
- Sharing with local media
- Weekly green fact in bulletin



CELEBRATE!!!!

- n Announcements and Bulletin boards
- n Press releases
- n Earth Hero awards
- n School board meetings
- n School and District websites



Successes in Reducing Waste

- n Islander Middle School eliminated Styrofoam trays from the lunchroom
- n Snoqualmie Elementary School: Waste Free Wednesday (reduced garbage by 75% on those days)
- n Paper use success (Overlake, Cascade View)
- n Renton School District: Recess before Lunch

You can do it too!

Case Study

Issaquah School District

- Switched from Styrofoam to compostable paper lunch trays
- Starting to compost in some schools
- Cost doubled but the district is committed to using nontoxic and more environmentally responsible products.

Case Study

Islander Middle School

- Food Tray Cost Analysis
- Support from school and district maintenance staff
- Grant funding for upfront costs
- Two-week Conservation Awareness Campaign
- Celebrate successes:
Earth Hero!



Case Study

Twin Falls Middle School

- Trouble with throwing away forks
- Solutions:
 - Monitor closely.
 - Soak station for silverware at the front of the line.
 - Multiple soak stations to reduce lines at dismissal
 - Table by table collection

Case Studies

The Overlake School/Two Rivers

- Online forms for parents and students
- Student assignments: online turn in
- Re-use packets



Incorporation of Environmental Education

- n Writing class does weekly announcement
- n Math class computing
- n Recycling rates
- n Health classes reviewing effects of Styrofoam
- n "Recycling" Science Fair (Evergreen)
- n Robotics Club
- n Economics class calculates the money saved by reducing trash bin size



Best Practices Discussion

Take a moment for individual reflection.

What does your school do to effectively reduce waste?

What new ideas can we share or generate?

How can we overcome our school challenges?