

TrashMasters!™
SUPERRecyclers



High School Division
Manhattan Honorable
Mention

Beacon High School

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION

2010 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to help make New York City shine.

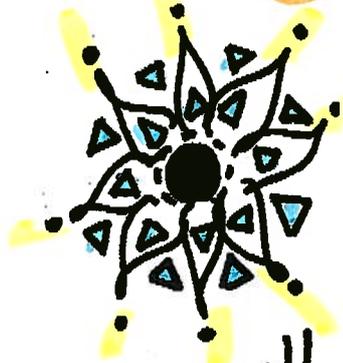
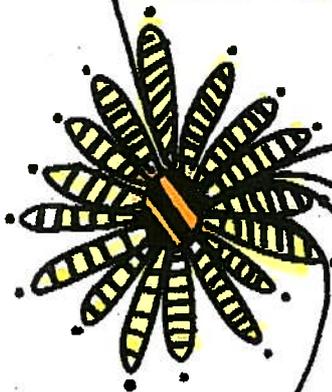


City of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, Robert Lange, Director


John J. Doherty, Commissioner
June, 2010

If we all work together we can change the things that harm the world

RECYCLING AT The BEACON SCHOOL



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Love the Earth

Be One with Nature

If you respect your self and the people around you respect Gaia Too!!

THE NEW SYSTEM

Set Up

The Beacon School's recycling system has become an extremely efficient one. Prior to our efforts, the system in play was very basic; several paper recycling bins on each floor, usually containing a mix of used tissues, other garbage and somewhere beneath it was recyclable paper. There were also very few locations to recycle plastic bottles, aluminum, glass etc. However, we've set up a new system, designing it around the lives and waste of Beacon faculty and students. There are now stations on every floor (set in areas that see the most traffic) where anyone may go and recycle their waste into designated containers. On each floor, there is a container for regular trash (landfill), plastic recycling (bottles, cans etc.), mixed paper and cardboard, bottle caps and plastic bags. As many do not know, bottle caps and plastic bags cannot be recycled with normal plastic recycling. Plastic bags get caught in the sorting machinery and the plastic used for bottle caps has a higher melting point than the plastic used in the rest of the bottle. Our plastic bottle caps are collected and once all of the containers are filled, are taken to a cosmetics company, AVEDA, where they are recycled separately into new bottle caps. Once we accumulate enough bottle caps we will bring them either to AVEDA or make a mural out of them, where we can get the art students to help out with it. We have not found a way to have plastic bags separately recycled right from our school at this point. However, at the end of each month, we take the plastic bags to a local Whole Foods or Duane Reade, where they have designated containers. Alternative uses for these ordinarily non-recyclable materials include art projects, and *plarn* (a yarn made from plastic shopping bags), which the sewing club at our school uses for different projects. One of our long term goals is to not have anything going into the landfill container, because of our recycling system and before the school year we are going to have a compost system on the roof. We are not promoting consumption, on the other hand we are promoting the slogan, reduce, reuse and recycle with what one has and if one is going to buy then buy recycled. The recycling club cares about the environment and is committed to educating the rest of the student body to care as well.

Participation of Entire School and Custodial Staff

The custodial staff has been a huge help in our recycling program. We've met and talked to the custodians on several occasions about what they could do to assist us with our new program, they are always happy to help. With their assistance, we have acquired new recycling bins and their respective stickers and labels, as well as advice from an experienced staff member. We are in the midst of getting the entire school involved and aware of how and what to recycle. Students from the club went around to different classrooms and talked to teachers and students about how to recycle and our new efforts to do so at the school. We explained the importance of it for the environment and passed out a sheet for students who were interested in joining the group, we got a list with 40 student names. The custodians have been a great help, because they do not touch the new bins (plastic bags and bottle caps), we work as a team, they collect the paper and bottles and we take care of the rest. Now that we have these new stations students are making sure that their peers are recycling and check that things are in the right place. The recycling club goes around twice a week and makes sure that people are recycling adequately, but if we are in a class and someone is about to throw away a bottle in the paper recycling we tell them politely that there are recycling stations where they can recycle bottles.

Summary

The Beacon School is a Super Recycler, because we not only have the New York recycling legal requirements, but we also recycle bottle caps and recycle plastic bags. We also educate the students about the importance of it and are welcoming to anyone who would like to join us. Though we have set up for different recycling stations all with these different containers we continue to think of projects for the school so that it can reduce the amount of waste that it produces. Every container has a label that says what can and cannot be recycled and on the walls next to the bins there is another poster that explains how to recycle. We have set up the recycling system in a way where it is easy for students to recycle so that it becomes a habit not only in school, but in their homes as well. We are super recyclers, because we were able to make this system without the

encouragement or help of adults in the school, it was a student initiative. When we were looking for bins to use for the plastic bags and bottle caps we were told that the school would order bins, but we decided that was not necessary, because that would just be creating more waste. Instead we used recycled boxes, painted them blue and then labeled them.

Description of Recycling Education Programs and Motivational efforts

Our educational and motivational efforts have consisted on the talking to teachers to reinforce recycling in their classroom which will then benefit the whole school. Announcements on the school loud speaker have been made about the recycling stations to let people know about them and what can be recycled. Students are encouraged to bring in their plastic bags from home and bottle caps from shampoo bottles, water bottles or any other product that has a plastic cap. We are not promoting consumption by doing this; our long term goal is to have no students using plastic bags or plastic water bottles. The club is committed to spreading as much knowledge as possible so that those students can learn and spread the knowledge to others. For motivation we had an event for earth day where we had a pot luck and informational meeting. At this pot luck we served lunch to interested students and at the same time had students make presentations about different topics such as, waste, deforestation, how to make *plarn* (yarn, but made out of plastic), and what products one can use that do not create large quantities of waste. In each computer room we have a box where recycled paper can be placed (If one side is blank) so that when students need paper they do not have to use a brand new sheet, but can just use the back of another one. Our future goals are to put bottle recycling in each room as well to make it easier for students.

Photos of Stations



Basement Recycling Station





First Floor Recycling Station





Second Floor Recycling Station



Third Floor Recycling Station

