



**Solid Waste District of  
La Porte County**

(219) 326-0014  
(800) 483-7700

www.solidwastedistrict.com

**Spring 2012**



## District welcomes guests

The La Porte County Solid Waste District kicked off 2012 with a crowded house. Our joint open house event on January 26 with the La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District, Purdue Extension, and the Small Animal Shelter brought in about 400 residents, enabling all of us to spread the word about our programs to a wider audience.

People started streaming in even before the event started, touring the building and traveling around the conference room to visit the various displays while snacking on cake, cookies, munchies, and punch. There were also treats for pets at the Animal Shelter. Staff was on hand to answer questions and make sure everyone was enjoying their visit.



**Tom Buford, HHW Coordinator, explains his program to a very interested attendee.**

**The crowd is enjoying the food, music, and conversation while participants are being questioned at the prize wheel by Alicia Ebaugh.**

The Solid Waste District had the prize wheel out, as well as the 8-foot display with information on all of our programs. We also had samples of mulch, compost, and firewood that are available at the Westville Compost Facility. The wheel, which is available at many of our public events, provides residents with a fun way to learn more about recycling and related topics



**Joe Jokantas, Project Coordinator, talks about the mulch, compost, and firewood available at the Westville facility.**



**Solid Waste District Staff – Front Row (left to right): Nancy Gibson, Alicia Ebaugh, Pauletta Schuster, and Michelle Buford; Back Row (left to right): Tom Buford, Joe Jokantas, and Clay Turner**



**Roger Grove, Boyd Lomow, and Barb Janeczka of the La Porte County Parks Department show off their handiwork on the directional sign for the new building.**

## Solid Waste District of La Porte County

### Board Members

Councilman Matthew Bernacchi  
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Commissioner Ken Layton  
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Michelle Buford, Controller/Human Resources  
Alicia Ebaugh, Education Coordinator  
Nancy Gibson, Recycling Coordinator  
Joseph Jokantas, Project Coordinator  
Pauletta Schuster, Executive Secretary  
Clay Turner, Executive Director

with questions in several categories.

We also had prize drawings during the event. The winners of the Solid Waste District prizes were:

- Solid Waste District South Shore Poster: Debra Swider
- Paddling Association South Shore Poster: Mary Ray
- Compost (2 yards) and Mulch (2 yards) from Westville Compost Facility: George Ottersen

- Firewood (one load) from Westville Compost Facility: Craig Lile
- Indoor compost container: Barbara Kelley
- Gift bags filled with prizes: John Yates and Mary Wagoner

We'd like to thank everyone who attended for making the open house so successful. We look forward to meeting even more residents at our future events!

## New book deposit box

The La Porte County Solid Waste District has made it easier than ever to recycle your old, unwanted books! You'll find a Better World Books drop-off bin in front of our new building at 2857 W. State Road 2. Residents can deliver soft and hardcover books anytime—day or night. The Solid Waste District has partnered with Better World Books since 2008 on book recycling.

Better World Books is a Mishawaka-based company dedicated to environmental sustainability, recycling all books that cannot be sold through its online bookstore or donating them to various organizations.

More than \$10 million has been donated to literacy programs all over the world thanks to Better World Books donation programs. The District has selected the National Center for

Family Literacy as the organization to receive revenue generated from the books collected locally and sold. Unsold, usable books will be donated; all unusable books will be recycled.

Nothing is sent to a landfill.

If you are interested in having a Better World Books drop box outside of your business, call our office at 219-326-0014, call Better World Books at 888-510-7107, ext. 5128, or visit [www.betterworldbooks.com/dropbox](http://www.betterworldbooks.com/dropbox).

Remember—hardcover books should

not be placed in curbside recycling totes because of the glue on the binding. Please drop off all unwanted hardcover books. Paperback books may be recycled in your curbside tote and are also accepted in the Better World Books drop box.



## Turner Talks Trash

### from the Executive Director's Desk

We're all settled in! Our new home is always open to the public, but the Open House in January provided more than just a tour. There was a GREAT turnout with food, entertainment, and fun at the new building as La Porte County Solid Waste, together with Soil and Water, Purdue Extension, the MS4 Coordinator, and the Small Animal Shelter, welcomed residents. We estimate that between 400 and 500 visitors attended. It was great to see so many familiar faces and meet so many new friends. The public seemed genuinely pleased with the new structure and the unity of the different agencies in the building, which serve many needs in one location.

As a District, we were able to showcase the many programs we offer and to provide our current schedules to all those who stopped by. We received many compliments on our programs, as well as many wishes for continued success. Of course, we are only as successful as the people who participate in the programs! The citizens of La Porte County really make the programs happen. We are only the facilitators of *your programs* and the success of them is thanks to you. We are still surprised when we hear, "I didn't know you are the ones who do that program," or when someone asks how to dispose of some unknown item that they have had in their possession for years. Yep, we are the ones! It's such a great feeling to help someone discover how to dispose of something properly through one of our many programs.

The District staff does its best to get information to the public through the media, but sometimes residents don't have the information when they need it. If you have a special need or just want to know anything about recycling, please check out our website, [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com), or call our office. The staff can get you on the right track to becoming a super recycler.

If you missed the open house and want to find out more about what we do, stop by! We will be more than happy to show you around and make you feel like a super recycler, too.

*Clay*



"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

~ Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin and co-founder of Earth Day

# Where others see TRASH ...

## One company sees possibilities

The staff at TerraCycle was challenged by the makers of Oreo cookies to come up with a use for old cookie wrappers. Watch their brainstorming session on the National Geographic Channel on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/pQvb-MaMKHg>. In *Garbage Moguls*, which is part documentary and part reality show, the staff at TerraCycle takes on a series of such challenges. With each challenge, the staff begins with a waste product, such as old Bear Naked granola and trail mix bags, and comes up with several possible uses before developing and testing one or more. With the Bear Naked granola bags, they developed lunch sacks (pictured here), as well as other tote bags and accessories.



(Photos courtesy of TerraCycle)

The staff of TerraCycle operates out of a cool, upcycled office and warehouse facility in New Jersey. Take a look at the way waste became walls and furniture at: [earth911.com/news/2011/05/31/terracycle-office-photo-tour/](http://earth911.com/news/2011/05/31/terracycle-office-photo-tour/). You'll find additional photos at TerraCycle's website, [www.terracycle.net/en-US/our-offices](http://www.terracycle.net/en-US/our-offices).

TerraCycle upcycles and recycles traditionally non-recyclable waste, such as cookie wrappers, chip bags, and drink pouches, into new consumer products, including their popular backpacks, tote bags, and folders. These products keep waste out of landfills and contribute to a cleaner world. TerraCycle products are available at major retailers, specialty shops, and online. Learn more at [www.TerraCycle.net](http://www.TerraCycle.net).



Soda bottles and bottle trays serve as room dividers in TerraCycle's offices.

# QUOTES REQUOTED

Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed.

J. Sterling Morton, 1832-1902  
Founder of Arbor Day

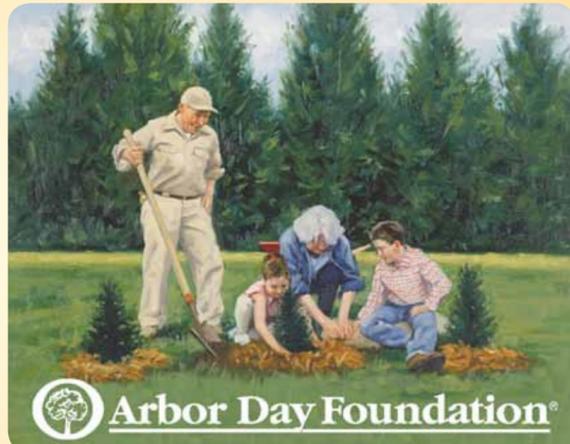


Image courtesy of National Arbor Day Foundation

# FAST FACTS

## Recycling report

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the solid waste recycling and disposal statistics for 2010. These statistics provide an annual snapshot of our nation's waste reduction, recycling, composting, and disposal habits. In 2010, Americans generated 4.43 pounds of solid waste per person per day.

Recycling rates vary from state to state and community to community, but the national recycling rate was 34.1%, which reflects almost 65 million tons of recycling and over 20 million tons of composting. This provides an annual benefit of more than 186 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced, comparable to the annual greenhouse gas emissions from over 36 million passenger vehicles. Recycling and composting more than 85 million tons of solid waste saved an amount of energy equivalent to over 229 million barrels of oil.



© J Slavy | Dreamstime.com

## Be safe, not sorry

Natural disasters can strike anyone, anywhere, at any time. When you think of being prepared, you may think about having enough food, water, and medication stored. You may have a plan for meeting up with or contacting family members. But what about your household hazardous waste? Hazardous chemicals in your house can ruin otherwise salvageable items, poison water supplies, or fuel fires.

Spring is a great time to go through your house, garage, and garden shed to gather all of your unneeded household hazardous waste and properly dispose of it. Get rid of all the items you no longer need or won't be using in the near future. If you aren't sure how or where to dispose of these items properly, contact us. Remember—hazardous waste doesn't belong in the trash. We'll be happy to provide you with all of the details you need to dispose of it properly.

Learn more about being prepared for natural disasters and other emergencies at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

## Unplug and play

Each spring, health agencies, parent-teacher organizations, and others invite children and adults to take part in "Screen-Free Week." This year, Screen-Free Week will run from April 30 through May 6. At work and school, you should still use the screens you need, of course. But in your leisure time, go screen-free, and avoid TVs, computers, tablets, iPods, cell phones, game systems, and other gadgets. Go outdoors, play with family members and friends, make up a game, plant a garden, pick up litter, or set up a compost bin—be creative and enjoy! This would also be a great week to volunteer to help an elderly neighbor with some spring yard cleanup or box up household hazardous waste in your garage for the next collection. Maybe it would be a good week to gather up the old screens (computers, TVs, or hand-held games) that you no longer use and prepare to donate or recycle them.

If your family isn't ready for a screen-free week, try a screen-free weekend instead. Who knows? You may like it!



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# Unbound



© Valérie Buess, 2011



© Guy Laramée

Although e-books are selling well, the print book isn't dead and may never be. In fact, a recent survey commissioned by the non-profit Two Sides found that about 70% of Americans, including 69% of 18- to 24-year-olds, still prefer reading information printed on paper to reading the same material from a screen. That's probably why we are still printing so much of what we find online.

Canadian artist Guy Laramée and Swiss artist Valérie Buess are turning old books into fine art. Laramée carves the books to create sculptures of landscapes and structures. Buess takes the pages from old books, twisting and wrapping them to become tentacles on creatures that look as though they have just emerged from the sea. See more of Guy Laramée's art at <http://guylaramee.com> and Valérie Buess's art at [www.valeriebuess.com](http://www.valeriebuess.com).

Other artists are turning old books into lamps, clothing, jewelry, and even e-reader cases. Clearly, our relationship with the printed book isn't over. Perhaps we are just beginning a second chapter.

# Getting schooled on recycling

As men's and women's college basketball teams hit the hardwood for tournament season, colleges and universities across America and Canada take part in another competition—RecycleMania. An annual contest sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, RecycleMania encourages eight weeks of good-natured competition around the recycling bin.

"RecycleMania's power comes from the way it taps school spirit to motivate students who may not react to a traditional environmental message," said Bill Rudy, Recycling Manager at Brigham Young University and President of RecycleMania, Inc.

Indeed, RecycleMania is about more than simply winning. It is an opportunity for schools to raise awareness about their campus recycling programs, as well as waste reduction and conservation issues in general. And, of course, it's also about recycling more. In 2011, 6.3 million students and staff members at 630 colleges and universities recovered 91 million pounds of material during the eight-week competition.

Learn more at [www.recyclemaniacs.org](http://www.recyclemaniacs.org).



If you were going to make only one change this month, we have a great idea—give up using paper towels! Each year, Americans use about 50 pounds of tissue products, including paper towels, toilet paper, and facial tissue, per person.

Paper towels are designed for a single use, followed shortly by disposal. Switching from a brand made from virgin fiber to one made from 100% recycled fiber is a good first step. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, if every household in the United States replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheets) with 100% recycled ones, we could save 544,000 trees. Paper towels made from 100% recycled content are widely available and put recovered paper to use.

However, giving up paper towels – at least at home – is an even better idea! In situations where you might typically grab a paper towel, you can use a dishcloth or dishtowel. If a drink is spilled on the floor, why use a handful of paper towels when a single dishtowel would work as well, if not better? The dishtowels and dishcloths can easily be added to your load of bath towels for the week. Once you have gotten into the habit of using reusable towels and dishcloths, you'll probably find that you prefer it. Fabric

dishtowels and dishcloths don't fall apart when they are wet, and you never have to run to the store for a roll because you ran out.

Outside the house, most Americans use up to 3,000 paper towels per person every year. In public restrooms where they are available, choose the air dryers instead of paper towels. When you look at the entire life cycle of the air dryer versus the paper towel, the air dryer is a better choice environmentally.

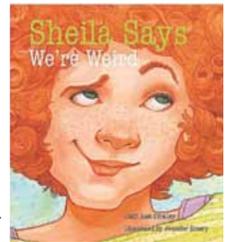
If you are a bit more ambitious, you could carry your own towel. Golf towels, which have a grommet and clip, are one option that will easily clip to a purse, backpack, or tote bag. You could also simply carry a washcloth or hand towel. One online retailer is even marketing "People Towels," designed to be carried with you and imprinted with an environmental message. People Towels were inspired by the Japanese, who have been using reusable, personal hand towels for decades.

Looking for more ideas? *Do One Green Thing: Saving the Earth Through Simple, Everyday Choices* by Mindy Pennybacker is full of "one change" ideas that will make a big difference. Look for the book at the library or your favorite used bookstore.

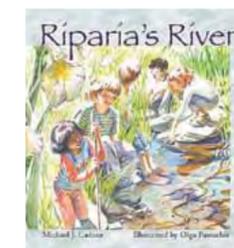
# Good reads for Earth Day

A warm spring day and a good book—does it get much better? If there are children or young adults in your life, Earth Day is a great time to share a good book with an environmental message. After all, we can all make a difference.

**Sheila Says We're Weird**, written by Ruth Ann Smalley and illustrated by Jennifer Emery – Sheila's neighbors have some odd habits—they hang out their clothes to dry, they ride their bikes to the library instead of riding in the car, they grow a garden, and they use a reel mower instead of a gas mower. Sheila doesn't know what to think! But as she gets to know them, she learns that they serve wonderful homemade food and do lots of fun things. It turns out they aren't so weird after all!



**Riparia's River**, written by Michael J. Caduto and illustrated by Olga Pastuchiv – When Gretchen, Jason, Mark, and Daphne find their favorite swimming hole filled with green slime, they are horrified. Riparia, a mysterious naturalist, helps the children understand how the water became polluted and how to restore the river to health.



**Where Do Recyclable Materials Go?**, written by Sabbithy Persad – The first book in the "Garbology Kids" series, this story follows Tiana and her family as they search for their lost dog, Bubbles.



The search leads them to the Materials Recovery Facility. Along the way, they learn how recycling works.

**Rascal and Shady Recycle and Reuse**, written by Beth Starr and illustrated by James Balkovek – Rascal and Shady are raccoons who love to play "I Spy" in the woods. Unfortunately, they spy a lot of "people droppings." They manage to get their friends to help them clean up and put the items to good use.



**The Lorax**, written by Dr. Seuss – With the movie version in theaters this spring, take advantage of the opportunity to pull out the book and read it together. Not only can you talk about the Lorax and his message, but you can also discuss how books and movies are similar and yet different.

**Trash**, written by Andy Mulligan – This book is for young adults (grade seven and up), not children. In the not-so-distant future in a Third World country, three teen boys spend their days picking through trash at the dump site. One day, they find a mysterious item—only to discover that lots of other people are looking for it, too.



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clip & save



**Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections**

**Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

**Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Saturday, June 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Saturday, August 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

**Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Saturday October 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

**Tire and Appliance Collections**

**Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Shredding Events**

**Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Electronics Collections**

**Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,**  
La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

**Need more information?**

Visit: [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com)  
Call: (219) 326-0014 or (800) 483-7700

*We want your suggestions, questions and comments!*

**Solid Waste District of La Porte County**  
2857 W. State Road 2  
La Porte, IN 46350

(219) 326-0014 • (800) 483-7700

[www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com)

[www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling](http://www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling)

[www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling](http://www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling)

[www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling](http://www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling)

Green E-Club: <http://eepurl.com/eiyHs>



**Recycling Schedule**

**LEGEND:**

Where listed below, Township means outside of City Limits.

- A City of La Porte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of 35
- B City of La Porte – North of Hwy. 2 and East of Route 35; Also, East of Hwy. 4 and South of Hwy. 2, including Kankakee Township
- C The Town of Westville; New Durham Estates Mobile Home Community; Cass Township; Dewey Township; Hanna Township; Prairie Township
- D Clinton Township; Noble Township; Scipio Township; Town of Wanatah
- E Johnson Township; Lincoln Township; Pleasant Township; Union Township; Washington Township
- F Michigan City – West of Karwick Road; Trail Creek; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park
- G Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills
- H Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates)
- I Center Township
- J Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Your totes must be out by 6:00 a.m. and placed at least 5 feet from mailboxes, light poles, shrubs, trees, and other containers.
- Additional containers must be clearly marked RECYCLING.
- If you are missed, please leave your toter out and call our office within 24 hours.
- Please contain plastic bags to prevent littering. (Bag your bags inside one bag and tie it shut.)
- Each toter is numbered and registered to the address where it was originally delivered and should remain there. If you move, DO NOT take that toter to your new address. If you do not have one, please call our office.

**Recycle these materials:**

- Glass – juice, pop, soda, and water bottles; beer and wine bottles; and food jars
- Metal Cans – tin food cans and aluminum beverage cans
- Paper – newspapers, any inserts, tabloids, or small flyers that originally came with the paper; catalogs; phone books; magazines; cardboard boxes in sizes of no more than 2' square; stationery and copy paper; and cereal boxes
- Plastic – all plastic with the recycle symbol on it, #1 through #7

Do NOT put the following materials into the recycling toter: liquids, food waste, fabrics, wood, and scrap metal (except for cans).

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	F	G	H	I	J	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	A	B	C	D	E	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	F	G	H	I	J	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	A	B	C	D	E	
29	30					
	F					

May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		G	H	I	J	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	A	B	C	D	E	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	F	G	H	I	J	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	A	B	C	D	E	
27	28	29	30	31		
	Holiday No Recycling	F	G	H		

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					I	J
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	A	B	C	D	E	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	F	G	H	I	J	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	A	B	C	D	E	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	F	G	H	I	J	

**The results are in!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the District's programs last year! It was a big year for recycling!

Here are the results for 2011:

- Curbside Recycling: 8,824 tons
  - Paper Shredding/Recycling: 16,015 pounds
  - Yard Waste Collections/Composting: 2,200.29 tons
  - Electronics Recycling: 353,283 pounds
  - Tire Recycling: 126,854 pounds
  - Appliance Recycling: 33,180 pounds
  - Book Collection: 6,439 books
  - Household Hazardous Waste: 114,109 pounds (2,220 households dropped off items at HHW collections. The top six materials collected, totaling nearly 89,250 pounds, were paint and paint-related chemicals, waste oil, auto batteries, household batteries, flammable liquids, and pesticides.)
  - Inkjet Cartridges & Cell Phones: \$542.80 donated to Leadership La Porte County
- Don't get caught later this year looking for a place to store unwanted items for several months. Our 2012 schedules are printed on this page and are also posted on our website, [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com).
- If you don't have a computer, we'll be happy to mail the 2012 schedule to you. Just call our office at (219) 326-0014 or (800) 483-7700.



**Recycle-Bowl**

Michigan City's Elston Middle School placed second in the state in Keep America Beautiful's Recycle-Bowl, according to results released recently.

"We didn't win any prizes, but I think it really helped us promote recycling at our school," said Kate Triemstra, the seventh-grade science teacher who led the competition. "We got a lot of community support and made a good connection with the La Porte County Solid Waste District, too. It was a great experience!"

Nearly 550 schools nationwide participated in Recycle-Bowl, held for the first time in 2011, said Kelley Dennings, Director of Recycling Programs and Services at Keep America Beautiful. The schools competed to see which could recycle the most pounds of school waste per student.

Elston collected more than 26,000 pounds of paper, plastic, and other materials over the four weeks of the competition. They beat 28

other schools in Indiana and were topped only by Eastern Elementary School in Greentown.

Triemstra said Recycle-Bowl has inspired the students on her Green Team, and those who are applying to be on the team this semester are asking for more competitions. The Green Team is in charge of collecting recycling from classrooms at the end of each week.

"It's good to see kids wanting to get involved," she said. "Those who are accepted for the team know their work for our school and the environment is important."

According to data supplied by Dennings, Elston students were able to recycle 31 pounds of material per student during the competition.

"If schools made that kind of effort to recycle year-round, more than 250 pounds of waste per pupil could be diverted from landfills each school year," said Alicia Ebaugh, Education and Public Outreach Coordinator for the Solid Waste District. "That could really make a difference for all of us, and even save schools money in the long run by having fewer trash pickups."

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