

2014 Recycling Awards – School Category

Greenhill School Winner – Creativity

Location: Addison, Texas

Amount of paper and paper-based packaging recovered in 2013: 36 tons

School population: 1244

Amount collected per student: 40 pounds

Creativity

Greenhill School made videos featuring kindergarten students to educate the school community on what can and cannot be recycled. Students lead assemblies with question and answer sessions on recycling and create posters that are hung around the school buildings with concise information regarding recycling and what is accepted. Any money collected as a result of recycling is used for the school's Green Team initiatives, which include maintaining a community garden and hosting speakers for neighboring schools to promote recycling.

Background

Greenhill School started a small recycling program fifteen years ago collecting only white office paper. After realizing how many other types of paper they were using, they expanded the program to collect all types of paper, including newspaper, magazines and corrugated cardboard. To meet the overwhelming response they received, they now have a single stream recycling process.

Program

Greenhill School's recycling program is a campus-wide endeavor with recycling bins in every office and classroom. Fourth grade students collect recovered paper one day per week throughout the lower school and the maintenance crew collect it on the other days. To improve their program, Greenhill did a trash audit with help from their waste management company. The company collected one day's worth of trash and one week's worth of recycling, sorted and weighed the items, and gave exact weights of trash and recycling. This enabled them to determine what percentage (on average) of trash wound up in the recycling bin and what percentage of recyclables ended up in the trash.

More information

To learn more about Greenhill School, visit www.greenhill.org.