

2014 Recycling Awards – School Category

Ocosta High School Winner – Partnership

Location: Westport, Wash.

Amount of paper and paper-based packaging recovered in 2013: 24 tons

School population: 621

Amount collected per student: 60 pounds

Partnership

Ocosta High School's recycling program includes the wider community. When the Port of Grays Harbor's recycling program closed down, Ocosta High offered to direct all their materials to their school. They also advertise and put articles in the local newspaper welcoming all local businesses to bring in corrugated cardboard. The response from the community has been positive, and the school added a third bin to keep up with the incoming supply.

Background

Ocosta High School established a paper recycling program in 1992. In the twenty plus years since, their program evolved from complete commingled to having corrugated cardboard and mixed paper separated and baled. The school's recycling program is a district-wide group effort with students at all grade levels, local businesses and the wider community participating.

Program

Ocosta High continually educates students and the broader community about the importance of recycling, and paper recycling is incorporated into the curriculum in many ways. Specifically, the high school biology and natural resources programs have sections comparing and contrasting recycling paper versus throwing it in the trash. The natural resources class oversees the recycling program and does final collection and baling. The school has a baling machine that makes 1000 lb. bales, which they count to measure the success of their program and compare amounts of recycled paper with past records.

More information

To learn more about Ocosta High School, visit http://www.edline.net/pages/Ocosta_Jr-Sr_HS.