



The Space for Zero Waste

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management School News, Back to School 2017

Welcome to the Space for Zero Waste, back to school 2017 edition. Inside you'll find success stories and initiatives from last year to inspire your school to reduce your waste from the inside out. Our School Zero Waste Coordinators partnered with some amazing students and staff across district schools to increase composting/recycling efforts, take control of waste streams, and even bring composting back into school gardens. Everything you see in this issue can be done at your school!

Caring about Composting

Students are putting in work to maximize composting at their schools! **Berlin Elementary** has a brand new 3-bin composting unit to begin composting their paper towels and some cafeteria waste this fall. The unit was built by the Natural Resources class at the **Central Vermont Career Center** using supplies funded by CVSWMD's [School Zero Waste Grant](#). Berlin Elementary has been so successful, Secretary of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources, Julie Moore, came to visit the school and honor its composting prowess. Check out these [composting kids!](#) Read more [here](#)...



Waste Stream Audits: Determining your School's Impact



Is your school having trouble sorting? Wondering how much trash contaminates the recycling bin at your school? Aren't sure if students are actually recycling bottles, cans, and paper? A waste stream audit may be the answer. Students dig deep to re-separate their schools trash and recycling collected over one day. CVSWMD's school coordinator, John Jose, created [this video](#) of a **Calais Elementary** waste audit with all the dirty details.

Sorting it Out

Students will see a new cafeteria sorting station at **East Montpelier Elementary School**. School Zero Waste Coordinator, John Jose, worked with EMES's Food Service Director, Susan Olander, and Head of Maintenance, Todd Hill, and [Another Way's](#) Woodshop Manager, Forrest Gilruth to design and build a sort station that will meet the school's needs. The sorting station will much more effectively support staff and students in separating trash, recyclables, and food waste in the cafeteria.



Beads & Bubbles



You may have seen CVSWMD school staff tabling at some events around the district last school year. At the [Youth Rally for the Planet](#) on the Montpelier State House Lawn, students from around Vermont pledged their dedication to compost with our homemade compost pins. They used repurposed materials to make huge bubbles with our [zero waste bubble solution](#). These middle and high school students learned that food scraps, if landfilled, produce methane, a greenhouse gas that is 75 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Students got creative with repurposed materials all over the district. Old magazines were reused to make paper beads fashioned into bracelets, headbands, and necklaces (even one pretend mustache). Shredded office paper from CVSWMD was used to make new paper in classrooms and afterschool programs across the district to demonstrate the paper recycling process. Students experimented with different colored paper, glitter, and dried herbs.

Additional Resources and Available Grants

CVSWMD School Program staff are here to help! Loving the new sort station at EMES? Thinking about onsite composting? Need some help educating students about waste reduction? We would love to support you! CVSWMD is here to help schools transition to fully diverting all food scraps and recycling

possible from the landfill, while inspiring and educating students to manage their waste responsibly. Anything you see in our newsletter can be done at your school!

Feeling inspired? Check out some local resources to fund waste reduction at your school!

[CVSWMD's School Zero Waste Grant](#)

[Garden Grants from VCGN](#)

[Vermont Community Foundation Grants](#)

[Vermont FEED Links to Grants](#)

Want to see how your school measures up? [Complete the School Zero Waste Wishlist](#) Send it back to us to learn how you can improve!

Want More Info?

Contact a School Zero Waste Coordinator at 802-229-9383, or email [Brenna](#) or [John](#) to find out how we can work with you in your school.

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