



THE SCHOOL ZERO WASTE CORNER

from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

Your guide to a sustainable, zero waste lifestyle in school and at home!

Volume 1, Edition 1

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Dear School Communities:

We sincerely hope this first edition of The School Zero Waste Corner finds you doing well, particularly in light of the continuing challenges presented by the pandemic.

This newsletter will feature information on practical ways to engage, in your day-to-day lives, in the waste reduction practices of recycling, reducing, repurposing, rethinking, etc.

Everyone is invited to engage, ask questions, and suggest topics for coverage in future editions.

Remote Programming & Support is Available:

- * Virtual book readings for primary grades
- * Classroom waste separation check-ins
- * Webinars, including tailored presentations
- * Support for individual student projects & group initiatives
- * Support for sustainability program development

Visit the [CVSWMD School Program Remote Learning page](#) for more information, and contact John Jose, School Zero Waste Coordinator, with any questions or to book a program.

Student Support is Available:

Support is available for individual students, Green Teams, and other groups working on initiatives to better manage recyclables, trash, and food scraps. Please reach out anytime to John Jose with questions or to request support.

Pictured to the right are members of the 2021-22 Montpelier High School Earth Group. The students supported the work of the CVSWMD [Additional Recycling Collection Center \(ARCC\)](#) by disassembling VHS tapes turned into the ARCC for recycling.

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The School Zero Waste Spotlight: The Main Street Middle School Sustainability Program

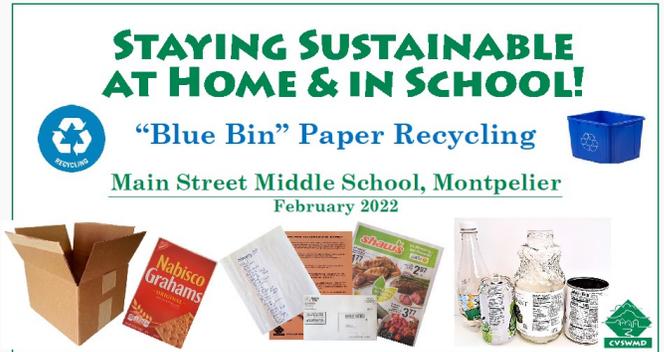
CVSWMD, as a **community partner**, continues its work with Don Taylor, Sustainability teacher at Main Street Middle School (MSMS) in Montpelier. Most recently, School Zero Waste Coordinator John Jose made virtual visits to a 5th-grade and 6th-grade class participating in the MSMS Sustainability Program. Each class was provided with three **interactive programs on “blue bin” recycling and other sustainability practices** (repurposing, reusing, rethinking, etc.) that can be engaged in at home and in school.

UN Sustainable Development Goals and what it means to **practice good citizenship** - by minimizing and properly disposing of the waste we generate in our lives (and the importance of doing so) - were incorporated into this learning opportunity for the students.

Don Taylor followed up each presentation with a **review**, including a Kahoot game, before the students took a **brief assessment** to gauge their acquired knowledge and proficiency on the topic. Each student earned **certificates of recognition** for their participation, which were posted on the evidence pages of their Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs). Lastly, a **take-home letter** was provided for parents/guardians.

All the students did an excellent job, not only in demonstrating their proficiency in blue bin recycling, but also in the thoughtful questions they asked and the insights they offered, during discussions on living sustainably!

CVSWMD greatly appreciates the **productive partnership** developed between the CVSWMD School Zero Waste Program and the MSMS Sustainability Program, and **we are always interested in developing similar cooperative learning experiences with our member schools.**



This series on blue bin recycling is broken out into 3 presentations: recycling paper, plastic, and glass/metal combined.

“Working with CVSWMD's School Zero Waste Program has been an instrumental part of Main Street Middle School's sustainability efforts. In coordination with John Jose, we have developed curriculum around sustainability issues, implemented that curriculum across the middle level and continued to work with students to reduce our school's waste stream. John and the CVSWMD team are a key community partner and we look forward to continuing that relationship and building a more sustainable community.”

Don Taylor, Sustainability Program Teacher, Main Street Middle School, Montpelier



Students earned a **certificate of recognition** for each of the 3 presentations they participated in, which were posted on the evidence pages of their Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs).



Zero Waste Topic:

[TerraCycle](#) defines itself as “...a social enterprise Eliminating the Idea of Waste®.” They offer the opportunity to recycle many items that are not suitable for **“blue bin” recycling**, the recycling we practice in our day-to-day lives.

At school, TerraCycle [Zero Waste Box programs](#) can capture non-blue bin recyclables, like [candy and snack wrappers](#). For schools where students continue to eat lunch in classrooms, due to the pandemic, **the right Zero Waste Box can capture at least some of the additional lunchtime waste being produced**, including plastic eating utensils and single-use, black plastic meal trays, neither of which are suitable for blue bin recycling.

Through a TerraCycle Zero Waste Box collection initiative, **students are engaged in a very worthwhile project, with measurable, tangible results**, while gaining first-hand experience in how to keep harder-to-recycle materials out of the landfill.

TerraCycle Zero Waste Boxes come with a fee, which depends on the size of box purchased. The fee covers shipping for the box and the cost of recycling the materials collected. If school funds are not available, **a grant application, requesting funding to purchase of one or more boxes, can be submitted through our [School Zero Waste Grant Program](#)**. Support is available to complete a grant application; contact John Jose if you need assistance.

This [YouTube video](#) by Lucy Biggers of “[Now This Earth](#)” provides an excellent overview of what TerraCycle is about and how their Zero Waste Box program works.



Plastic eating utensils and single-use, black plastic meal trays, which may be a part of lunchtime waste in classrooms, are not blue bin recyclable, but they can be captured for recycling with the right TerraCycle Zero Waste Box. Contact John Jose for help selecting a box.



Items that can be captured for recycling with the TerraCycle Zero Waste Box for Candy & Snack Wrappers.

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School Community Zero Waste Tip: Time to Prep for Upcoming 2022 HHW Collection Events



CVSWMD's 2022 HHW (household hazardous waste) collection events will start in April and run through the fall.

Five collection events will be hosted by five different municipalities, spread out through our solid waste district, to give schools, residents, and businesses the opportunity to properly dispose of HHW. **Details, including dates and locations of collection events, will be made available soon.**

In the meantime, you can **visit our [HHW page](#) to learn what constitutes HHW, then conduct an inventory of what you have for disposal** at an upcoming event. You can also find information on **reducing toxins at home [here](#).**

For more information, please email operations@cvswmd.org



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