



Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

School Education & Outreach Program

January 2010



Presented by:



School Program Overview

- School program started in FY 1999-2000
- Expanded to 46 schools within jurisdiction – K-12, now including private schools
- Provides multiple resources and technical assistance
- Program has generated increased diversion & awareness of 4Rs



School Program Objectives

- Institutionalize recycling and source reduction practices
- Increase diversion of waste and save money
- Provide meaningful educational resources to principals, teachers, students, custodians and parents
- Provide sufficient resources so programs are sustainable



School Program Resources

- Hands–on recycling experiences: PRR tour, school waste sorting activities
- Containers, signage & posters at no cost
- Assemblies, & classroom presentations
- Technical assistance with collection systems, composting, and lunchtime waste reduction
- 4rs' newsletter emailed to all principals & teachers
- Website resources and on call assistance



Wastebusters Program

- Rewards schools that reduce waste & increase recycling plus maintains other activities
- To date 26 schools have certified, many for 3+ years
- Two levels of awards – WB-Winners and WB Leadership Circle



New Programs for 2009/2010

- Planning a teacher afternoon “tea” to share successes
- Working directly with schools’ facilities & maintenance management to focus on decreasing trash costs
- Organizing Earth Day Challenge with middle & high schools



Materials Recovery Facility Field Trip

- Worked with Pacific Rim Recycling and Rheem Elementary to develop presentation
- Steve Moore sings!
- Feedback is very positive from teachers, students and parents
- Field trip helps reinforce why recycling is so important



Food Waste Pilot Program

- Conducted at Buena Vista in Walnut Creek
- Participating for a second year
- S.W.A.T. Team ensures quality control by instructing students and separating if necessary



April Earth Day Challenge

- Co-sponsored by Wastebusters & Earth Team
- Working with three middle & two high schools
- Joint meetings with enviro clubs to heighten awareness and competitions for best source reduction
- Waste audits, water bottle reduction, relay races, prizes!
- Week-long activities at each school



Challenges Facing Schools

- Maintenance staff has been cut so recycling is a lower priority
- Teachers & administrative staff stretched to the limit – need to do more to keep them involved
- Trash rates continue to increase as school budgets get tighter
- Middle/high schools need to improve green waste service to help cut costs
- Wastebusters awards & resources are increasingly more important



School Program Results

26 schools are now
Wastebusters-certified...
an increase of nearly

37 %
from the previous year





School Program Results

In the

Moraga,

Lafayette &

Walnut Creek

school districts,

EVERY

school is certified.



School Program Results

In the first year of eligibility,

3 San Ramon Valley schools
certified,
and others are participating.



School Program Results

More **students** are involved in sorting,
collection, and transport , and more **parent**
involvement is helping to increase activity at schools



School Program Results

Schools are making **constant improvements**

26 are participating in
lunchtime recycling

&

15 are
composting



Walnut Creek School District

	Trash	Recycling	Green Waste	Cost
Baseline	866 tons	4.7 tons	0	\$ 75,415
Current	329 tons	65 tons	25.7 tons	\$ 46,982
Change	- 537 tons	+60.3 tons	+ 25.7 tons	- \$ 28,433
	62 % decrease	1283% increase	2600% increase	62 % decrease



Wastebusters is working!

- Schools have many challenges and CCCSWA resources allow them to maintain recycling programs
- Considering dwindling resources, Wastebusters is increasingly important to schools
- Teaching the next generation about 4Rs is crucial to future improvements in waste diversion

