



Audrey Fox, first grader at Tri-County North recycles after breakfast is served.



X-frame recycling container holding 58 gallon bag was gotten by TCN with the help of Preble County Solid Waste District.



Cindy Statzer, custodian, encourages Tri-County North students to recycle.

Simply Green



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Tri-County North School District Has A Strong School-wide Recycling Program They Are Proud Of...

About two years ago, Tri-County North School District began expanding their recycling program to include the recycling of materials from their cafeteria as well as strengthening their existing collection of paper from their building's classrooms. Brenda Gullickson, a cafeteria worker requested assistance with cafeteria recycling in 2014 and the school was able to acquire two x-frame recycling containers from the Preble County Solid Waste District. Gullickson, Lisa League the head cook, and other cafeteria staff began encouraging students in grades K-12 to place recyclable items in the containers after they finished their lunch. Cafeteria personnel empty the containers at the end of everyday to be collected by Rumpke. The cafeteria staff are able to fill four 58 gallon bags of recyclables every week over the 36 weeks of schools which equals 8,352 gallons annually. Items they recycle daily typically include milk cartons, as well as aluminum cans from the teaching staff and cardboard from the food preparation areas and the classrooms. A group of high school students under the direction of band teacher Mrs. Moniaci volunteers their time after school to empty recyclable items from each classroom's 18 gallon toter and put them in the school's two large outdoor 8 yard containers to be picked up by Rumpke. The recycling conscious students along with all the teachers and maintenance/cafeteria staff are able to recycle about 20.80 tons of recyclables annually.

I visited the school on March 9, 2016 and asked students and staff about their school recycling program in order to share my findings with the public. Mrs. Moniaci, when asked about the importance of recycling in the schools said that, "In the future my grandchildren will need a clean place to live. Recycling helps keep our planet clean." Brenda Gullickson, when asked about what Tri-County North could do to improve their recycling efforts stated that, "The hardest part is changing people's minds about recycling and not just throwing everything away. The trick is getting students really involved because some students still resist the idea of recycling even when encouraged to do so." Lisa League, stated that Tri-County North's overall recycling program has benefitted the entire school by lowering their trash bills and saving the school money, while saving landfill space. We would like the public to know that Tri-County North Schools has a strong recycling program in place."

There are students who have been on board with the recycling program since the very beginning and who have been talking to their friends spreading the word about the importance of school recycling. (Article continued on back...)

Tri-County North's Recycling Program Continued...



Brenda Gullickson, cafeteria worker and Logan Farler, fifth grader at Tri-County North spread the good message about the benefits of recycling everyday at lunch.

Logan Farler, Tri-County North fifth-grader, has been a star recycler since the program's inception. He talks to friends daily and encourages them to recycle, spreading the good message about recycling school-wide. He said, "I have at least half of the fifth grade recycling everyday now and I'm moving on to encouraging the sixth graders to recycle as well." He said he started recycling when he noticed the school's posters about recycling prominently displayed in the cafeteria and the hallways. Mr. Derringer, Superintendent of Tri-County North Schools had good things to say about the recycling at Tri-County North, "I am very happy with the staff and students that support the recycling program here at the school. Tri-County North intends to continue its recycling efforts well into the future."

The Preble County Solid Waste District supports recycling efforts in all Preble County schools. The public can help in those efforts as well. The Tri-County North Schools would appreciate donations of 58 gallon clear recycling bags to use with their cafeteria recycling containers. A monetary donation for these items or boxes of these types of bags which can be purchased at Lowe's or Home Depot can be accepted on the school's behalf by contacting Brenda Gullickson at 962-4751. The Preble County Solid Waste District reminds everyone to recycle.

Recycling Facts-

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

Americans throw away enough steel every year to build all the new cars made in America each year.

Preble County Solid Waste District-
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Eaton, Ohio 45320

937-456-6880

Director: Randy Gilbert
Assistant Director:
Beth Wright

Visit our website:
www.preblecountycycles.org for more information about recycling!

1. Reuse plastic bags. Often plastic shopping bags get used once and thrown away, but

Top 10 Tips For Kids Who Want to Learn to Recycle:

- that bag can be used for future groceries or as a garbage bag.
2. Buy rechargeable batteries. Batteries are filled with toxic materials that are terrible for the environment, so go green by buying batteries that you can recharge. There are also special companies that will collect your old batteries and recycle them safely.
3. Recycling at school is important. It's easy to remember to recycle at home, but what about school? If your school doesn't already have recycling bins, ask your teacher or administrator if they can get them or make one yourself – in fact, recycling can be a great project for the whole class.
4. Spending "green". Support eco-friendly companies by buying products made from recycled material. This could be anything from pencils and paper to wallets and clothing!
5. Electronics and the Earth. Don't just toss your old cell phone in the trash, many cell-phone providers will recycle your phone for you when you get a new one and if not, take your electronics to the Preble County Landfill's HHW trailer where they can be recycled for free. They can recycle everything from laptops to phones!
6. Compost the most. Ask your parents or your school to start a compost. All your biodegradable food garbage – like egg shells and banana peels – will soon turn to soil that is great for planting.
7. Sheets, towels, and clothing. Old sheets, towels and clothing can be donated to charities, thrift stores, and even to the pet shelter for animal bedding.
8. Get crafty! Use recyclable materials like jars to make art supply organizers or reuse your old newspapers to make a nifty piñata. Magazine images make handsome collages.
9. Green thumb. For gardening, you might want to try using empty plastic 2 liter bottles as planters for young seedlings.
10. Recycle everyday! Make it a habit and remind all your friends and family to recycle.