



## 2020 Program Results

### School Waste Prevention & Recycling Grants

#### Funding Highlights

- \$90,170 awarded to 14 schools to reduce waste and improve recycling and organics collection
- Reusable utensils were implemented to replace disposal plastic utensils at five schools
- Outdoor recycling containers were added at nine schools
- Updated food-share tables were added to cafeterias at nine schools
- Piloted reusable clamshells and baskets for meals in the classroom

#### 2020 Grant recipients

Public schools and charter schools

- Central Square Community Center (South St. Paul)
- Cherry View Elementary (Lakeville)
- Discovery Charter School (Inver Grove Heights)
- Echo Park Elementary (Burnsville)
- FIT Academy (Apple Valley)
- Garlough Environmental Magnet School (West St. Paul)
- Kaposia Education Center (South St. Paul)
- Moreland Arts & Health Sciences Magnet School (West St. Paul)
- Pine Bend Elementary (Inver Grove Heights)
- School of Environmental Studies (Apple Valley)
- Somerset Elementary (Mendota Heights)

Non-public schools

- All Saints Catholic School (Lakeville)
- Holy Trinity Catholic School (South St. Paul)
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School (Hastings)

#### Covid-19 Protocols

Project meetings were hosted virtually and container placement and labeling was accomplished when students were not in the building.

#### School Green Team Focus

Dakota County provided support for all large project grants to start or engage a student Green Team including a staff stipend, funds for purchasing Green Team resources, consultant support to build a Green Team plan and educational materials. Two Green Team leader learning sessions were held, and schools were required to submit a Green Team plan focusing educational efforts on back-to-basics recycling and wasted food prevention. Final project reports were developed and presented virtually to schools on project successes along with developed recognition materials. A survey following the program indicated 96 percent of participants felt projects completed through the grant were valuable to their school or district and 100 percent felt the project helped students learn how to better recycle and/or reduce waste.

## Large Project Grants

Ten large project grants of more than \$1,000 each.

### Central Square Community Center

ISD 6, South St. Paul, \$8,500

Purchased five sets of paired outdoor trash and recycling containers to replace solo trash barrels.



*New durable outdoor containers.*

### Cherry View Elementary

ISD 194, Lakeville, \$10,000

- Improved collection process with a cafeteria stainless steel sorting table and labeled liquid, recycling, trash and organics containers.
- Purchased reusable utensils to replace an estimated 66,000 disposable plastic utensils purchased annually.
- Updated the cafeteria food share table to prevent wasted food.
- Added outdoor recycling containers for the entrance, playground and athletic fields to pair with all existing outdoor trash containers.
- Provided reusable vests for Green Team students to assist at the cafeteria waste station.



*Improved cafeteria sorting station.*

### Discovery Charter School

Charter school, Inver Grove Heights, \$10,000

- Added over 100 color-coded containers for the school and labeled new and existing containers.
- Began recycling in the cafeteria and outdoor recycling containers were added for the entrance and playground to pair with all existing outdoor trash containers.
- Updated cafeteria food share table to prevent wasted food and implemented condiment dispensers to replace condiment packets.
- Invested in reusable trays, bowls and utensils to replace about 29,000 single-use trays, 6,000 disposable bowls and 13,500 plastic utensils used annually.
- Supported the Green Team with new recycling books for classroom education, reusable vests for students helping at the cafeteria waste station and a hand scale to weigh materials and share results.



*Long-lasting cafeteria trays and bowls.*

## Echo Park Elementary

ISD 196, Burnsville, \$10,000

- Added over 85 color-coded containers for the school and labeled new and existing containers.
- Improved recycling on the playground with outdoor recycling containers to pair with existing trash containers.
- Added an outdoor compost bin for classroom composting education.
- Implemented recycling and liquid collection containers for breakfast-in-the-classroom hallway stations.
- Updated food share table in the cafeteria to prevent wasted food.
- Purchased reusable metal spoons and forks to replace about 107,000 disposable plastic spoons used annually.
- Supported the Green Team with new waste reduction and recycling books for classroom education, reusable vests for students helping at the cafeteria waste station and hooks to hang the new vests.



*Breakfast-in-the-Classroom hallway waste station.*

## FIT Academy Charter School

Charter school, Apple Valley, \$8,900

- Added over 80 color-coded containers for the school and labeled new and existing containers.
- Improved playground recycling with paired outdoor recycling and trash containers and began using a recycling tilt cart to easily transport recycling.
- Purchased a food share table, a flavor station and a mini fridge to increase student food consumption.
- Provided reusable magnetic “Green Scout” badges for elementary school teachers to elect students each month for special recycling roles in the classroom.
- Supported the Green Team with new waste reduction and recycling books for classroom education, reusable vests for student helpers at a cafeteria waste station and adjustable hats with the club’s logo.



*Student Green Team members.*

## Holy Trinity Catholic School

Private school, South St. Paul, \$8,100

- Added 75 color-coded containers for the school and for use at events and labeled new and existing containers.
- Began recycling in the cafeteria and added a food share table and flavor station to prevent wasted food.
- Cut down on waste in the cafeteria with new bulk condiment and napkin dispensers and reusable utensils to replace plastic utensils.
- Piloted washable clamshell containers to replace disposable foam clamshells for lunches in the classroom.
- Added an outdoor compost bin for classroom composting education.
- Purchased supplies to create Green Team masks and t-shirts, reusable vests for students helping at the cafeteria waste station, new recycling books for classroom education and a hand scale to weigh materials and share results with the school.



*More recycling collection schoolwide.*

## Kaposia Education Center

ISD 6, South St. Paul, \$10,000

- Launched a new hallway container standard with 15 sets of paired color-coded and labeled trash and recycling containers with a way to capture liquids from breakfast-in-the-classroom leftovers.
- Implemented reusable baskets to reduce use of single-use plastic bags and paper boats for breakfast and lunch and continued Trex recycling program for remaining plastic bags.
- Updated cafeteria food share table to prevent wasted food.
- Purchased reusable utensils to replace about 137,000 disposable plastic utensils used each year.
- Added outdoor recycling containers for entrance, playground and athletic fields to pair with existing trash containers.
- Provided reusable vests for students helping at the cafeteria and hallway waste stations as well as hooks to hang the vests.



Hallway collection with liquids capture.

## Pine Bend Elementary

ISD 199, Inver Grove Heights, \$9,100

- Added over 50 new color-coded containers for the school and labeled new and existing containers, including outdoor recycling containers for the playgrounds and entrance.
- Started using a recycling tilt cart to easily transport recycling.
- Implemented organics containers for grades 3-5 to support food scraps collection in the classroom.
- Updated the cafeteria food share table to prevent wasted food and purchased a permanent water bottle filling station.
- Supported the Green Team with new waste reduction and recycling books for classroom education and hand scales to weigh materials and share results with the school. The Green Team already had reusable vests for cafeteria waste station helpers.



Classroom food scraps collection.

## School of Environmental Studies

ISD 196, Apple Valley, \$6,400

- Added over 60 new color-coded containers for the school and labeled new and existing containers. This included an outdoor recycling container for the entrance.
- Updated the cafeteria food share table and continued use of bulk milk dispenser, condiment dispensers and flavor station to prevent wasted food.
- Created a waste reduction and recycling strategic plan and action steps for the school through a working group of administration, teachers, the head custodian, the head of food service and student advisors. The plan includes changing school culture to prioritize waste reduction and recycling efforts and will be reviewed and revised by a building Green Team annually.
- Supported the student Green Team with member t-shirts.



New cafeteria share table.



## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School

Private school, Hastings, \$5,200

- Added over 90 color-coded containers for the school and labeled new and existing containers.
- Improved recycling on the playground with an outdoor recycling container to pair with the existing trash container.
- Purchased a cafeteria food share table and flavor station to prevent wasted food.
- Replaced disposable cups used for water with reusable cups.
- Supported the Green Team with new recycling books for classroom education, reusable vests for students helping at the cafeteria waste station and member t-shirts.



Smaller trash bins to reduce bag use.

## Mini Grants

Four projects needing less than \$1,000.

### All Saints Catholic School

Private school, Lakeville, \$1,000

Expanded recycling and organics collection containers, including liquids disposal, to accommodate students eating in the classroom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Moreland Arts & Health Sciences Magnet School

ISD 197, West St. Paul, \$1,000

Added portable hallway waste stations to collect liquids, recycling, trash and organics for students eating outside of the cafeteria.

### Garlough Environmental Magnet School

ISD 197, West St. Paul, \$970

Added portable hallway waste stations to collect liquids, recycling, trash and organics for students eating outside of the cafeteria.

### Somerset Elementary School

ISD 197, Mendota Heights, \$1,000

Added portable hallway waste stations to collect liquids, recycling, trash and organics for students eating outside of the cafeteria. Improved organics collection in the kitchen.

## Container Labeling Project

### School Districts 191, 192 and 194

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Schools (ISD 191), Farmington Area Public Schools (ISD 192) and Lakeville Area Public Schools (ISD 194) partnered with Dakota County to improve recycling districtwide by pairing all trash and recycling containers and updating container labels to meet new [recycling requirements for schools](#).

Dakota County presented recommendations to update containers, lids, labels and bin liners. Each district received funds to purchase necessary recycling containers. Volunteers donated 466 hours to help County staff update approximately 8,400 recycling, trash and organics containers with new labels in every school in the three districts.



Volunteers labeled many bins.