

PARKVIEW CENTER SCHOOL

Parkview Center School (PCS) is a kindergarten through 8th grade school in the Roseville Area Schools District 623. It serves 735 students and employs over 100 faculty and staff. In fall 2008, PCS embarked on a pilot paper, can and bottle recycling program, starting with grades 6-8.

Prior to implementing a comprehensive recycling program:

- PCS had some recycling bins throughout the school in inconsistent locations.
- There were no labels or signs near recycling bins to identify acceptable materials.
- The recycling vendor provided single-stream recycling (i.e. paper, bottles and cans are collected in the same bin), but the materials accepted were unclear.

PCS has a policy banning pop and juice from classrooms. Therefore, to further enforce the classroom policy and provide a cleaner recycling stream, the school decided to implement a two-sort recycling system for students and staff. In a two-sort system, paper is collection in a separate bin from bottles and cans. In classrooms, recycling bins for paper were placed next to the classroom trash bins. Collecting only paper recycling in classrooms allows the custodial staff to leave the bins unlined or change the plastic liner less frequently.

PCS had previously participated in a food-to-livestock program, but discontinued due to vendor problems. The school was interested in restarting a food waste recycling program. Due to past concerns, a thoughtful and open planning process was needed.

The pilot recycling program with grades 6-8 demonstrated the effectiveness of increased paper, bottle and can recycling, as well as cost savings and increased environmental awareness. In winter 2009, the program was expanded to the rest of the school. By late winter, PCS saw a decrease in their garbage volume as a result of increased paper, bottle and can recycling, in conjunction with school-wide food-to-livestock program. In addition, students started stacking their Styrofoam lunch trays to decrease garbage volume.

The following changes were made after implementing a school-wide recycling and food-to-livestock program:

- PCS increased 8 yd recycling dumpster to 2x/week pick-ups (up from 1x/week pick-ups)
- PCS decreased 8 yd garbage dumpster to 4x/week pick-ups (down from 5x/week pick-ups)

By the end of 2009, approximately 700 of students and 50 faculty and staff were trained in recycling procedures. They will help continue the program from year-to-year. PCS leadership recognizes the need for continued educational efforts for the 2009-10 school year. The school plans to:

- Include recycling information in student handbooks
- Present information at faculty and staff in-service
- Provide information to new families
- Remind students and staff of the importance of recycling at the start of each new school year