

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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Franklin High School Expands Recycling

The Member

Franklin High School (9-12) was established in 1910. Our school moved to a new building in January 2000. Located in Middle Tennessee in Williamson County, Franklin High School has a student population of just over 1800. Williamson County still has a large agricultural presence and prides itself on maintaining green space in the urban areas. Environmental Education has been growing at Franklin High. Currently there are 10 sections of ecology classes and 2 sections of Advanced Placement Environmental Science. Students can also participate in the Environmental Science Club and Friends of the Harpeth.

The Story

Franklin High School has been collecting paper and recycling cardboard for several years, but large volumes of plastic drink bottles and aluminum cans were still going out with the trash. To be better environmental stewards, we wanted to collect the drink containers for recycling.

We implemented our program expansion through the following steps:

- Williamson County Recycles was contacted to bring a dumpster to the campus that can accept plastic and aluminum.
- Two types of large trashcans were purchased to be placed in various locations throughout the school, and holes were cut into the lids for cans and plastic bottles to easily be placed in the container.
- Students helped to paint "Cans" on one type of trashcan and "Plastic" on the other type.
- Students placed labels on lids to remind everyone to place empty containers in the recycle bins.

- Speakers from Williamson County Recycles came to the ecology classes in October 2007 to explain the importance of recycling.
- A school wide announcement was made to broadcast the kick-off for our new collection.
- Students from the ecology classes collect the recyclable material weekly.

The Success

We were successful in increasing the amount of material collected for recycling during the 2007-08 school year, compared with the previous year. Office paper collected for 2006-07 school year was 36,075 lbs (18.04 tons), which increased by 1.01 tons in 2007-08 school year.

The Pollution Prevented

We started collecting plastic and aluminum November 1, 2007. Through May 2008, we recycled 200 lbs of aluminum and 3,226 lbs of plastic. Cardboard recycled was 2.97 tons and office paper recycled was 19.05 tons for the school year 2007-08.

Acknowledgements

Many people in our community helped to make this program a success. We would like to recognize and thank the Franklin High School students, administration, faculty, and staff, as well as Williamson County Recycles and Williamson County Solid Waste Department.