

Farmington Public Schools sees dramatic recycling increase

Farmington, Michigan—The Abitibi Collection Report & Environmental Savings for Farmington Public Schools indicates that the District's recycling efforts have increased dramatically. The report compares 2009-2010 with the first six months of the 2011-2012 fiscal year, bypassing 2010-2011 due to District reconfiguration. Abitibi Paper Retrievers are the green and yellow bins seen in school parking lots used by student green teams, as well as the communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

District staffers attribute this green escalation to an increased awareness of Farmington Public Schools' sustainability initiatives and the hard work from all the student green teams. Curbside recycling programs, led by student green teams, exist in all schools in the District, from the Alameda Pee-Wee Power Savers on up to the Farmington High School Interact Club Green Team.

Between what was recycled in the Abitibi bins and the Waste Management (WM) recycling bins, the District has noticed a decrease in regular trash leaving Farmington Public Schools and ending up in landfills. WM reported that an estimated 264.5 tons of recycling was picked up during the 44-week period of 2011 (summer month pick-up is on an on-call basis). Abitibi began keeping track of this for districts in 2011; so there is no data from 2010 to compare it to.

Recyclables placed in the WM bin at each school includes: plastics #1 - #7, polystyrene, aluminum, glass, cardboard & boxboard.

	12-Months 2009-10	6-Months 2011-12
Total Pounds Collected	592,000	654,126
Total Tons Collected	296.0	327.1
Dollars Earned	\$1,652.00	\$1,959.65
Containers Collected	450	488

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Environmental Impact based on Pounds Collected	12-Months 2009-10	6-Months 2011-12
Total pounds of paper collected	592,000	654,126
Total pounds of paper collected would be like stuffing this many elephants into an Abitibi recycling bin	49	55
Number of trees used to make an equal amount of paper	5,032	5,561
Total cubic yards of landfill space saved	888	981
Total cubic yards of landfill space saved equates to this many tractor trailers filled with paper	15	16
Amount of electricity savings vs. virgin wood fiber (kWh)	1,214,192	1,341,764
Amount of electricity saved would power this many homes for 1-month	607	671
Reduction in overall emission of air pollution (lbs)	17,760	19,626
Reduction in overall emission of air pollution (lbs) is like taking this many cars off the road for 1-day	658	727
Gallons of water spared from the manufacturing process	2,072,000	2,289,700
Water spared from the manufacturing process is equal to filling this many Olympic size swimming pools	4.1	4.6

Abitibi reports that recycling one ton of paper saves:

- 17 trees
- 3 cubic yards landfill spaces
- 4,102 kilowatt hours of electricity
- 60 pounds of air pollution
- 7,000 gallons of water...the equivalent to drinking about 130 glasses of water daily for one year!