



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hazelwood School District recycles more than 1.6 million pounds of waste

The Hazelwood School District recycled more than 1.6 million pounds of waste from June 2012 to March 2013.

Since HSD expanded its recycling program in 2011 with Allied Waste, a Republic Services Company, the program has grown year-over-year. The program expansion involved the District moving to a single-stream method where all recycling items are placed into a single container. This is the only waste container in classrooms.

There are blue Republic Services recycling dumpsters on every campus which are used to collect items such as: glass, cardboard, plastic and steel. These dumpsters are available to the entire community.

“We have dedicated a tremendous effort to reduce our carbon footprint as a District,” said Kevin Cross, director of purchasing and supplier diversity. “Our recycling numbers are reflective of the effort we make individually--our students, teachers and administrators. This number is also reflective of our commitment to being environmentally conscientious as a District.

“In fact, earlier this year, we expanded our partnership with Republic Services Company and invited the entire community to join us in an electronic waste (E-waste) recycling drive. To make recycling accessible for members of the community, the event took place on three different dates, at three different HSD locations. Together, we collected 34,803 pounds of E-waste—it was a huge success,” he said.

HSD’s initial *Going Green* efforts began with training different employee groups. It included installing energy-efficient interior lighting, using green seal certified chemicals and cleaners which, also incorporate recycled and post-consumer materials in their packaging. It also included adding biodegradable hand soap in District restrooms.

Another important aspect of the program is using clear trash liners so custodial staff can easily tell what each liner holds – trash or recyclables. Containers are lined with a clear liner and emptied daily into the blue Republic Services Recycling dumpster for recycling.



“It’s about doing the right thing for our environment--recycling instead of throwing recyclables in the trash, which ultimately ends up in landfills. Recycling has now become a part of the District’s fabric. I am proud to say, it appears that everyone participates in our program; including members of our community,” said Cross.

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The Hazelwood School District serves more than 18,000 students and is the second largest district in St. Louis County. Communities in the district include Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, a large section of Florissant, portions of Bridgeton, Bellefontaine Neighbors and Ferguson, and several square miles of unincorporated St. Louis County. The mission of the Hazelwood School District is to launch learners on a quest for high standards, fairness and distinguished achievement.