



ROUND TEN FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

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Table of Contents	Page
Executive Summary	1
Project Summaries	2
Project Highlights: People Taking Action to Reduce Waste	6
Ways Waste Reduction Messages Are Shared	9
How Projects Will Be Sustained	12

Executive Summary

Eighteen community organizations and schools received a Community POWER grant in the tenth round. Projects lasted 12 months from August 2010 to August 2011. Seven of the projects were funded by SWMCB, while 11 were funded through individual county allocations to the program. Individual allocations included five projects in Hennepin County, four projects in Ramsey County, and two projects in Dakota County. The maximum grant amount was \$12,000.

All projects educated residents, engaged them in waste reduction activities, and promoted long-term lifestyle changes. Typical projects included helping residents start to recycle, learning about proper disposal of hazardous materials, getting off junk mail lists, preventing waste, reusing instead of throwing away items, or starting to compost.

10,041 residents of the metro area were engaged in active waste reduction activities through Round Ten Community POWER projects.

Follow up surveys with over 2,000 people who participated in these projects show that more than half of them documented at least one long-term waste or toxicity reduction behavior change because of the project, and many made more than one change.

An additional 95,000 people were reached with waste reduction messages through the marketing and communication efforts of grantees. Most of these messages included the Rethink Recycling and/or RethinkRecycling.com. These messages were shared through newsletters, newspapers, email, radio ads, websites, presentations, and community newspapers.

All of the projects contain elements that will be sustained beyond the grant year, and grantees' replicable resources have been posted online at www.rethinkrecycling.com.

In addition to grant money, Community POWER helps community organizations create and implement high-quality waste and toxicity reduction projects by providing:

- Grantee training meetings that offer technical information on waste reduction, plus networking opportunities for community groups.
- Individual meetings with grantees to offer resources and plan projects.
- Workshops and presentations by county staff.
- Email distribution lists linking grantees, county staff, and interested groups.
- Evaluation of long-term outcomes experienced by past grantees to uncover sustainability strategies.
- An expanded website showcasing outcomes of each grantee project and disseminating grantee-created resources.

Long-Term Behavior Change

For the past six years, Community POWER grantees have been required to follow up with a select number of participants in their projects to determine if Community POWER projects result in sustained lifestyle changes. The number of grantees who successfully complete these follow-up activities has risen each year. This year, all of the grantees submitted data on 2,041 people.

The data show that 56 percent of the people studied reported making at least one sustained behavior change due to information learned through a Community POWER project. Most people reported making more than one change.

Grantees may evaluate up to 18 different ways the participants in their projects have made lifestyle changes. The following chart shows the most typical actions promoted through grantee projects, and the percentage of grantee projects that educated people about each issue.

Behavior Change Action	% grantees who focused on each topic
Begin or increase residential recycling	67%
Pack lunches in reusable containers to reduce packaging waste	56%
Buy in bulk and using refillable containers	50%
Make household nontoxic cleaners	39%
Start using canvas/reusable bags for shopping trips	39%
Buy used clothing	39%
Begin recycling when away from home	33%
Compost to reduce food and yard waste	28%
Reading labels to properly handle household hazardous waste	28%

Project Summaries

Anoka County Community Action Program-Child Care Resource & Referral and Healthy Start, Anoka and Washington Counties

ACCAP CCR&R educated young pre-school children and their caregivers in both Anoka and Washington Counties. To address young children's health, they educated unlicensed caregivers and parents about reduction of toxicity, waste reduction and methods of recycling. Because young children need concrete activities to support their learning experiences, education was delivered through hands on activities in the ongoing Play & Learn Groups. In addition, staff educated unlicensed caregivers through support groups events, newsletter articles, and special events.

Anoka County 4-H, Anoka County

Implementation of the theme of "Go Green and Live Lightly on the Earth" was carried out throughout the Anoka County 4-H year by club and youth leaders using the Take and Teach Learning Kits. A group of teen teachers were trained and led programming at a low-income, culturally diverse community throughout the summer of 2011. The Go Green theme carried on through the summer at the 4-H summer camp as well as the Anoka County Fair at Family Fun Night, which had 150 participants. Environmental stewardship learning was showcased at the Anoka County Fair through 4-H Club Projects (service projects, "Community Pride" club exhibits and container gardens) and twenty-nine 4-H youth projects.

Carver Scott Educational Cooperative, Carver County

Students in New Beginnings were very active during the second semester of the school year and experienced some very successful and some not-so-successful activities. The students made presentations to their peers, students enrolled in the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative but in a different program at a different location, and community groups. They learned a great deal through the research they conducted regarding recycling, but had limited results in demonstrating real change in behavior. The students experimented with technology and hoped to collect results via computer surveys in an effort to reduce the amount of paper used in their program. They participated in various community projects to provide service to demonstrate their commitment to the environment.

Dakota County Extension, Dakota County

4-H Staff and the Dakota County Environmental staff were able to educate and activate Dakota County youth and families through hands on sessions aimed at changing behavior and rethinking recycling. 4-H Staff designed curriculum and trained teen teachers to cross age teach youth on the topics of waste reduction, reusing/repurposing and non-toxic cleaning. The Youth Teaching Youth teen teachers and 4-H staff creatively presented the Rethink Recycling materials to the 4-H Community Club programs, Out of School Time sites and Dakota County Fair. The culmination for these groups was at the Rethink Recycle 4-H tent at the Dakota County Fair. Recycled projects were displayed as well as active demonstrations on recycling were presented. Youth were able to participate in make and take hands on activities on the topics of recycling, repurposing and waste reduction.

Education programs were planned and presented in three ways, they were:

1. Out of School Time-for 820 students through 35 programs
2. 4-H Community Clubs-for 28 4-H clubs with a total of 800 members
3. Dakota County Fair-for 10,000+ youth and adults

Black Storytellers Alliance, Hennepin County

Twenty-five children participated in storytelling learning sessions and were taught one or more stories that demonstrate waste reduction. The stories were: *The Big Wind*, *Why People Have to Work and Hare and the Drinking Hole*. After learning these stories and how to tell them effectively, they students participated in three community festivals: Juneteenth, Afrifest and Family Day. The youth told stories, made and handed out non-toxic cleaners plus gave out information on waste reduction, recycling, and reuse at these community events. Several of the youth participated in re-use workshops, re-purposing jeans, shirts, t-shirts and liquid coffee mate containers. The highlight for the youth was presenting the *Seamstress* at the National Association of Black Storytellers "In the Tradition" Festival and Conference on November 20, 2010!

Center for Hmong Arts and Talent, Ramsey County

The Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT) hosted a Rethink Recycling booth, which included posters, handout materials and the button-maker, at the 9th Annual Hmong Arts and Music Festival on in August 2010, where there was an estimated 3000 people in attendance. Many people stopped at the booth to make a button. The entire 12-week Art Saves Us (ASU) Session was dedicated to the Community POWER grant project. ASU is one

of CHAT's youth programs, which offers free art classes to children and youth during out-of-school hours. After the youth were trained on the issues of waste and toxicity, they wrote four short skits and a song. These were filmed, edited and presented at four major community events: QDN Film Festival at Metro State University, the Plato Ramsey County Building, APIA Spoken Word Summit at McPhail, and the 10th Annual Hmong Arts and Music Festival at Western Sculpture Park.

Stillwater Area Public Schools, Office of Equity and Integration, Washington County
The project brought together third grade classrooms from five Stillwater elementary schools in year-long partnerships to learn about and create Waste Reduction and Recycling Learning Kits. In November, students met at Dodge Nature Center and spent the day with an environmental educator learning about composting. After that session, a staff member from Belwin Environmental Learning Center visited participating classrooms, collaborating with students to set up vermicomposting bins which students maintained throughout the school year. In January, students met at the Wellstone Community Center and rotated between four various activities involving recycling and waste reduction. In March, the students met for the third and final time at the Inver Grove Heights Recycling Center (Allied Waste Services) where they were able to observe a working recycling center, and participate in two activities.

Paideia Academy, Dakota County

At Paideia Academy, a weekly club, called Generation Green, primarily for elementary students tackled topics such as waste reduction, recycling, and food waste reduction/composting. Students participated in activities and field trips then shared their knowledge with classmates. The club members created display posters and artwork that was exhibited around the school. They installed a Generation Green resource center in the commons area, which includes books and magazines to check out as well as weekly "Did You Know?" facts about waste reduction. They started a Facebook page for Generation Green. The club helped to set up five green classrooms, which demonstrate how easy it is to make better choices and how "green" products are as good as or better than less environmentally-friendly choices. A green-themed Family Night was held in March with many fun activities for Paideia families like recycle relay, footprint frenzy, paper chase, cleaning concoctions, along with collecting over 1,300 #5 plastics. Then in late April, they held an Eco Expo, for community members and Paideia families.

St. John Vianney School, Dakota County

Students learned about and promoted waste-free lunches, worm composting, yard composting and recycling. In December, they made art projects with reused and recycled materials and discussed other ideas for reusing. The weekly meetings with the students from January to March were spent creating displays, posters, games and creative demonstrations on different aspects of waste reduction for public event, which was held March 24. They also spent time on advertising: making posters, flyers, invitations and a puppet show skit for a YouTube invitation. They wrote letters inviting various groups to come in addition to bulletin announcements, Facebook and web page updates.

Community Neighborhood Housing Services, Ramsey County

Community Neighborhood Housing Services' (CNHS) staff completed the development of educational materials for Home Buyer Education workshops. Materials included a PowerPoint presentation on the benefits of recycling, recipes for non-toxic cleaners and weed killers, savings benefit of purchasing products in bulk and recycling site information for Ramsey County. CNHS added 30 minutes of training time to workshops for recycling curriculum. Workshops were offered two to four times monthly during the grant period. The counseling staff incorporated training, fact sheets and a pre-survey into other CNHS programs including pre-purchase and foreclosure counseling and home improvement and down payment assistance loans. The agency website was updated to include a recycling survey for clients. While staff worked diligently to establish a service relationship with Rolling Hills Apartment

Community in Saint Paul, several barriers were identified that prevented this from being successful. The building is in the process of being sold and staff will continue trying to work through these identified issues.

St. Paul Public School Early Childhood and Family Education, Ramsey County
ECFE staff were introduced to waste reduction and recycling with an information display that included elements of the Hennepin County Environmental Education Toolkit for Early Childhood Family Education. After that the ECFE staff participated in recycling and waste reduction training by Ramsey County staff on waste reduction, recycling and household hazardous waste and non-toxic alternatives. ECFE staff at 12 different sites and the home visitors each created a lesson plan using the Environmental Education Toolkit for Early Childhood Family Education Programs to present recycling and waste reduction information to parents in their classes and home visits. ECFE families participated and engaged in hands on classroom activities provided to both parents and children that can be replicated at home. Such as: parents received a recycled bottle and made a cleaning solution and children had containers set up in the classroom to practice sorting materials to be recycled.

Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Ramsey County
Fifty-one students were challenged to complete a curriculum booklet created by staff. The booklet covered topics such as: reducing waste, recycling, and hazardous household wastes. Students were encouraged to use the internet to pre-screen Community POWER and Eureka Recycling websites to get the facts needed to complete the booklet. Vern Xiong worked with them to answer the questions and understand the importance of waste reduction, recycling, removing hazardous household wastes and created a video. With the assistance of Kia Kerher, 27 students completed ReCreate Art projects based on the concept of recycling old goods into new products. The work on the curriculum booklet and projects were completed during the spring and summer.

Summit University Planning Council, Ramsey County
Summit-University Planning Council coordinated and hosted a Family Eco-Friendly event at Liberty Plaza, a low-income multifamily complex serving primarily East African, Hmong, and African-American families. They organized games, distributed recycling bags and information, and provided refreshments. They also began the work of designing a Summit-U "Our Community Recycles" logo. They plan to hold another event where residents can print this logo onto bags, t-shirts, etc. They hired a Liberty Plaza resident, short term, to help with outreach efforts to that community.

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Hennepin County
The Dream, Explore, Connect! Out-of-School Program incorporated green education into classes for 4th-12th graders and added an additional green entrepreneurship class called, Grow-a-Business. Anita Urvina Davis gave a presentation on toxicity, hazardous waste, and waste reduction to the women's domestic violence group in March during the first of their eight week program. Staff then gave the same presentation and distributed information materials and spray bottles to the domestic violence and women's anger management programs through the end of the summer. They also presented it during parent's night for Mary T. Wellcome early childhood education program for both the parents and staff and Parent Academy for the Academic Achievement Program. Heritage Park and Phyllis Wheatley partnered in door knocking and distributing information throughout the neighborhood and co-hosted a neighborhood clean-up day on Earth Day. They also assisted in advertising the North High School Hazardous Waste Drop-Off on June 5th after the North Minneapolis Tornado.

Orono School District K-5 Environmental Education Committee, Hennepin County
The Small Changes, Big Impact project was organized into six areas: curriculum, communications, community partners, green team, family challenge, and festival. Curriculum was written for all grades (K-5). The curriculum was used in each grade; 4th

grade throughout the entire year, and other grades in April and May. The 3rd grade curriculum focused on composting and organic gardening, culminated in a “planting day” in May, when each 3rd grade class planted a raised garden bed to create a school garden. Communications with parents focused on different themes such as living greener at home, toxicity in the home, disposal of hazardous waste, and green outdoor living. The Family Challenge teamed up with community partners to encourage families to shop locally. Numerous local businesses donated to and participated in the Environmental Festival. The Green Team, an after-school program of grade 3-5 students, met twice each month through May. The team produced a bottle cap art project by collecting non-recyclable plastic caps from all families and the completed art project now resides in the school office. The As part of the family Challenge, students were asked to complete up to 18 green activities with their family at home. Incentive awards were presented to students who completed and returned their Challenge cards. Over 25 organizations participated in the spring Festival, including Hennepin County (represented by Ellie Jones). The Intermediate School hosted its first STEM Fair on this day and student projects were on display during the Festival. The STEM Fair theme was Small Changes, Big Impact, adopted from the project.

Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, Hennepin County

The Fresh Life Pilot Video will increase awareness and practice of ways to reduce waste and exposure to toxins among families in North Minneapolis. Youth from Patrick Henry High School will produce the pilot episode of Fresh Life. Weekly classroom sessions with Patrick Henry High School Life Skills students focused on building knowledge and production of the video. Students interviewed elders and others in their community to learn about the values around consumption and recycling that exist in the diverse cultures of North Minneapolis. Students learned about ways to reduce exposure to toxins in the home and recorded interviews with elders and students and rap songs for the video. They presented an unedited version of the video to youth and adults at Chauchiutlicue Environmental Justice Conference at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center. Based on feedback for the conference, students went back to work on the video, adding segments on how to make compost and safe cleaning products to the final video edit.

Hubert Olson Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Hennepin County

The Waste Less, Recycle More Challenge was launched to students and families at the Olson Elementary (OLE) Meet the Teacher night in September. Each family received a launch letter and Challenge calendar in a Rethink Recycling bag. Over 300 families attended the event at Olson Elementary and many students and families expressed excitement about having a bag for carrying their materials. All 500 OLE students received the bag at the event or in their classrooms on the first day of school. The Challenge launched to the community through advertisement in the local Sun Current newspaper reaching over 63,000 homes and businesses. The rest of the challenge continued with a new waste reduction and recycling topic each month communicated to students in a challenge pledge newsletter sent home with the students. The challenge was also discussed with students and classrooms when they were awarded monthly prizes at each month’s rally. A bulletin board was also used to feature each month’s challenge pledge and other related Waste Reduction and Recycling topics and materials. The top participating Waste Less, Recycle More Challenge classroom earned a field trip to the Hennepin County Recycling Center. Additionally at the school, Earth Day Week events and an updated bulletin board were implemented. In the larger community, the grant was presented at a live and locally televised Bloomington School District Board meeting and to the Bloomington School District PTSA organization.

Richard Green Central Park Elementary Community Education, Hennepin County

The Green Adventure Squad (G.A.S.) met on a weekly basis to improve the knowledge and presentation skills for their educational sessions with Green Central students and Central community members. In addition, the students wrote and rehearsed a short skit about recycling. During these months, the group visited six elementary school classrooms during the after school program to perform their skit, educate students about reducing waste, the

recycling process, why it is important to recycle, and strategies for doing so at home with their families. Additionally, the Green Adventure Squad planned and implemented community outreach tables and presentations at five family nights at the school and one concert at the Hosmer Library. At these events, students distributed Hennepin County recycling guides, helped individuals find out when their recycling pick-up day is by using the Hennepin County website, demonstrated how to separate recyclables according to material, and distributed products related to recycling and waste reduction. The G.A.S. students created a "Recycling 101 in South Minneapolis" video, essentially recording the student-created skit on video as the group's culminating project.

Project Highlights: People Taking Action to Reduce Waste

The following are a sampling of testimonies from grantees about proud moments during their Community POWER grant activities, which illustrates how people are taking action to reduce waste.

"Integrating the recycling concepts into the Play & Learn groups, the success of using child-centered activities in all developmental areas to deliver and enhance learning about this subject for young children, and lastly, the puppet show which was so successful we needed to do a second one. Everything was designed to support the child's learning." – Anoka County Community Action Program-Child Care Resource & Referral and Healthy Start

"We are most proud of the environmental awareness created by efforts through this project. The Take and Teach Learning Kits created are interactive and created excitement when used. With this increase in awareness, there was also an increase in the amount of county fair projects in the Go Green Project Area, where youth can demonstrate their environmental knowledge learned and display their recycled projects. This year we had a youth participant create a dress out of recycled materials that created much attention and advanced to the state fair level. We are also proud of the relationship we have cultivated with the county support person that was available to us throughout the grant, Carolyn Smith. Carolyn was a wealth of information and provided many resources for us throughout this grant cycle." – Anoka 4-H

The New Beginnings students worked closely with a volunteer group, called the Westwood Wheelers, from Westwood Community in Chanhassen. In the spring, a Westwood Oil Change Day was held. The Westwood Wheelers taught the students about basic car care and appropriate ways to handle used oil and properly dispose of other car waste. In April and May, the students participated in the Green Sneaker Project, where they teamed up with Crown Ministry Group green sneaker project collect used sneakers to help support the need for affordable footwear to people in third world countries. They collected 259 pounds of sneakers for this cause. – Carver Scott Educational Cooperative

"[We were most proud to see three things:] watching students educate parent chaperones (especially during educational exchanges two and three), comments on the returned surveys demonstrating students bringing information home to families and families increased awareness and genuine attempts to reduce waste in the home, and watching the staff at the Inver Grove Heights Recycling Center provide a special in-depth behind the scenes tour for one of our students with Neurofibromatosis and his mother." – Stillwater Area Public Schools, Office of Equity and Integration

"The grant gave program staff an educational focus which made all of our programming throughout the year grounded in a strong, purposeful mission around recycling. Through this intensity and duration of our educational efforts and the involvement of teens as teachers we were successful in effectively reaching a variety of Dakota County families. The teens that were trained and then presented as teen teachers throughout the year have been able to extend the scope of our efforts by taking this knowledge and using it in the many

facets of their lives. Watching the teens feel empowered to make change within their community was exciting for us and rewarding to know they will take the lessons learned and continue to make impacts into the future.” – Dakota County 4-H

“We are most proud of the way the kids, especially elementary age, have embraced this project. They compete to have the least waste in their home lunches and police the classroom recycling.” – Paideia Academy

“I love that the children have taken this project on as their own. They police each other and give words of praise when they observe a younger student putting a recyclable item in the right receptacle. They are asking me if they can have another Waste Reduction Fair. The videos turned out real well and they are fun to watch. My cardboard box outside the church hall is exploding with caps in which the janitor is constantly emptying (into a much bigger holding bin.) This shows me that the parishioners are recycling their bottles and taking personal responsibility for their recyclables. Thirty-six families filled out pledge sheets committing to implementing designated ACTIONS to show they Respect and Care for Creation. The completed sheets were on display from Earth Week until the end of the school year.” – St. John Vianney School

“I found it very exciting to see participants make the correlation with recycling and saving money. Participants learned that by starting the action of recycling, they could potentially see the results of saving money in their household budget within 30-60 days. While most participants felt that recycling was the “right thing to do” for various reasons, the light bulb went off when they realized just how much money they might save from changing a few buying habits or deciding to downsize trash bin sizes by recycling which results in lower trash removal costs. It was also interesting to have participants share their experiences with how recycling has worked for them in the past with participants who never knew where to start with recycling. I enjoyed teaching the benefits of recycling, waste reduction and toxicity reduction.” – Community Neighborhood Housing Services

“The enthusiastic reception by both staff and participating families once the project got underway. The interaction of parents sharing their unique recycling ideas such as creating found art activities using things that would have been previously thrown away. The staff was true to the mission of the grant and followed through with all the requirements and it was an enjoyable experience that participants intend to carry forward. Many sites chose to do the lesson over several days or two weeks depending on the frequency of participating families. Also, the involvement and excitement of the children, even at this very young age, birth to kindergarten enrollment, was fun to see and participants were encouraged to make this a family project.” – St. Paul Early Childhood and Family Education

“Several students involved with the Rethink Recycling program curriculum worked on ReCreate Art projects from old, used items such as paper rolls, assorted plastic and glass bottles, record covers, and fabric, all collected from the community. Kia Kehrer was very instrumental in guiding the students in finding new uses for these unwanted items, and also encouraging them to create something useful from things other people saw no more use for. One student in particular, Kerry Vang, 14, spent the entire summer creating a studio full of art deco projects and then redecorated her room. At the end of the summer, we sponsored a showcase for parents, family, and friends of the students to view their projects.” – Lao Family Community of Minnesota

“We are most proud of the presentation in November at the National Storytelling Festival held here in Minneapolis and the enthusiasm of the youth participants. I am also very pleased with the creativity of the youth participants.” – Black Storytellers Alliance

“We are most proud of the behavior change and excitement about the projects we worked on during the year in our youth programs. The Grow-a-Business class and all the other

youth enrichment classes were a HUGE success and the youth really ran with the ideas surrounding living green that we exposed them to. We are very proud of the students who are bringing their projects to the State Fair to continue to educate the public and we are confident they will continue to help shape behavior changes within themselves and the adults around them.”—Phyllis Wheatley Community Center

“We are very proud to have written curriculum for each grade, achieved in a relatively short timeframe. The units accomplish several goals: involve all students, be sustainable, address MN education standards, include take home components, and cover multiple topics across grades. The school garden was an excellent example of integrating different resources to meet common goals. Separate Hennepin County grants to the school district for this program and food services organics recycling were represented in this project. People resources from the school (teachers and grounds staff), Community Education, 3rd graders, parents and retired community members were all involved. This year’s Environmental Festival, with the grant’s support, was our most effective and best attended festival ever.” – Orono School District K-5 Environmental Education Committee

“We are most proud of the knowledge gain and behavioral change students demonstrated, the level of pride and responsibility showed throughout the project, and our ability to help them see and to draw on their own talents. This group of students, labeled ‘learning disabled’ were engaged, learning, and productive. As an example of the behavior change, following Anita Urvina’s presentation, one male student who is part of the Life Skills Class’ Recycling Club started a practice of checking the recycling symbol on items before letting teachers discard them to make sure they are properly disposed. One female student helped her neighbor start a compost pile... Our attention was often drawn to their abilities rather than ‘DISabilities.’ Students who created the rap song that is part of the Fresh Life video independently set up time to meet with the PHHS music teacher to record the song.” – Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota

“Attending the Recycling Center field trip in May for the class with the highest Challenge participation level during the school year was a highlight. I really enjoyed listening to the students’ questions and marveled at how much they already know and what they learned on that day. The ultimate finish to the grant was the letters they wrote to me thanking me for the field trip and telling me what they learned.” – Hubert Olson Elementary Parent Teacher Organization

“We are especially proud of the students who stuck with the grant group for the entire year because they took their leadership positions seriously and became extremely engaged with the group’s goals and activities. Three students come to mind in particular and, interestingly enough, these three students fit a similar profile: they had never been involved in a leadership group after school and often had academic and/or behavioral problems at school, yet became very passionate about the group and truly ‘made it their own.’ The grant had a noticeable effect on these students thought processes about recycling and reducing waste. They would often share with the group facilitator things they had seen on television, in their community, or in their home that had to do with the grant themes. For example, several times students would bring in undesirable items they had repurposed into art or a different useful object, proud of their work. They would share their frustrations about how their neighbors never cleaned up their yard and let their gardens fill up with waste. In general, you could tell that these students were thinking about recycling and waste reduction outside of the group’s meeting time, taking the first steps towards making environmental responsibility a part of their identity and lifestyle.” – Richard Green Central Park Elementary Community Education

Ways Waste Reduction Messages Are Shared

Grantees were asked to tell us how they shared waste reduction messages. Below are a few examples.

Anoka County 4-H, Anoka County

Information about the project has been shared with others within the Minnesota 4-H community. The grant activities were presented to the Anoka County Extension Committee, which includes county stakeholders. Updates have also been presented to local and regional 4-H management groups. The Project Learning Kits are available to community partners.

Carver Scott Educational Cooperative, Carver County

Information was shared with others through presentations and a Facebook page, displays at Westwood Community Church, at the school site, and site visits.

Dakota County 4-H, Dakota County

During the Dakota County fair Dakota County 4-H hosted a "4-H Celebration" where Dakota County commissioners and staff, Dakota County Extension Committee, stakeholders, State 4-H leaders, 4-H alumni, current 4-H members and their families came to listen to a presentation highlighting the members and work done in the Dakota County 4-H program. These people were also given tours of the building and of the activities going on which included the Rethink Recycle stage. This was excellent opportunity where they showcased the work done throughout the grant year. Rethink Recycle curriculum has been presented at the 4-H National Conference to 1,500 Extension Educators and 4-H County Program Coordinators from around the United States in Omaha, Nebraska. The four Take and Teach kits were created so the Dakota County 4-H community club leaders would have easy, hands-on lessons to check out and bring back to their local clubs and present to their 4-H members. All 28 community club leaders have been encouraged to take and use these kits at least one time with their 4-H members throughout the next year so efforts will continue and hopefully spark interest in developing new activities around recycling, reusing and waste and toxicity reduction.

Black Storytellers Alliance, Hennepin County

Information has been shared informally with other small non-profits with small budgets or a fiscal agent: We Care children, We Win, Proverbs Christian Fellowship Farview Park, North Commons Park and Harrison Park. The leaders/coordinators for these organizations were told of Community POWER Grant as the project was explained.

Center for Hmong Arts and Talent, Ramsey County

The videos created by the youth were premiered at the QDN Film Festival at Metro State University in May 2011 to an audience of over 50. The next viewing was in collaboration with Fong Hawj, SPNN and Ramsey County at the Plato Ramsey County Building in July 2011. The youth were recognized for their accomplishments and answered questions from a group of a dozen community members. The third showcase occurred at the APIA Spoken Word Summit at the Loft in Minneapolis. The students participated in a panel discussion with more than 20 community members regarding their approach to creating videos around these issues. The final public showing was held at the 10th Annual Hmong Arts and Music Festival. The films were shown throughout the day at the Film Tent to a collective audience of over 100 community members. The videos were also shared on the St. Paul Neighborhood Network, YouTube, CHAT's website and Facebook page.

Stillwater Area Public Schools, Office of Equity and Integration, Washington County

Upon completion of the project, an interactive Keynote presentation was developed and shared at a public school board work session.

Paideia Academy, Dakota County

In the Apple Valley Mayor's State the City address, Paideia Academy's grant activities were highlighted, including their organics recycling project which was outside the auspices of the grant. The project has also received some local media attention. They shared the grant project activities with Paideia Academy authorizer, Friend of Education.

St. John Vianney School, Dakota County

Information has been shared formally with the Archdiocesan Librarians Committee at the Spring Workshop Day along with to several updates informally at the monthly meetings. Additionally, the project coordinator has shared this project with members of a peace group (30 people) and a church group (150+) has also been kept current with the school's project and the importance of waste reduction on an ongoing basis. Approximately 500 St. John Vianney Parishioner families see the project signs, bulletin announcements and insert.

Community Neighborhood Housing Services, Ramsey County

Agency staff shared information about the project with partners including the Cultural Wellness Center, Maxfield Elementary School and the Minnesota Home Ownership Center via email, verbal and written presentation of materials and program objectives, flyers and sharing of websites as resources for additional information.

St. Paul Public School Early Childhood and Family Education, Ramsey County

The coordinator of the project is a member of a Minnesota ECFE marketing organization called ECFE Coordinated Outreach (ECO). ECO provides outreach and membership to every school district in Minnesota. Currently ECO has 38 districts as members. With the final consent of the ECO committee, the results of the project will be posted on the ECO website which reaches all ECFE sites in Minnesota.

Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Ramsey County

The Community POWER project was introduced, with much publicity, to partners and was also a highlighted project of the City of St. Paul's "Energy Innovation Corridor" along University Avenue. This work provided many opportunities for collaboration, especially with Eureka Recycling. Lao Family worked closely with Eureka Recycling on other projects they were working on, such as a food waste reducing curriculum with families and also creating awareness with the Hmong community on saving energy. Youth from the Rethink Recycling program had the chance to have first hand experience helping the community. Rethink Recycling promotional materials continue to be disseminated from both LFC sites.

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Hennepin County

Information has been shared throughout Bethune Elementary, Heritage Park Leasing Office, Urban 4-H, and Sumner Library, and Americorps. Americorps Promise Fellow and MN Alliance for Youth wrote articles for the Dream, Explore, Connect! Grow-a-business class including the BowWowWow Spray and fundraiser, because the project coordinator was a former board member.

Orono School District K-5 Environmental Education Committee, Hennepin County

Project team members have discussed the project with others in the school and business community on numerous occasions. Informally, they have shared their story with an environmentally passionate and involved member of a neighboring school district. The program has been shared with and experienced by a number of Orono Middle School teachers, who have children at the elementary level. Project organizers are willing to share the new curriculum units with other schools and Community POWER grantees.

Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, Hennepin County

The project was promoted on the Patrick Henry High School website as well as on EJAM's website. Staff have also shared the grant activities in meetings with project partners.

Hubert Olson Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Hennepin County

The grant activities were featured in the Sun Current newspaper advertisement (63,963 readership), at District School Board Meeting (40+ in attendance), District PTSA meeting (30+ in attendance), Olson School Newsletters (540 students and staff), Olson website, and during school events (540 students and staff).

Richard Green Central Park Elementary Community Education, Hennepin County Staff shared project activities with other Community Education programs across the city of Minneapolis at staff meetings and get-togethers throughout the year. Staff also shared the Green Adventure Squad's program-profile with the middle school coordinator cohort group in May. The entire Green Central school staff was aware of the project from the get-go and was informed of the group's ongoing activities as they occurred. Also, members of the Central Community Catalyst group, a conglomerate of youth-serving organizations in the neighborhood, were informed of the group activities at a spring meeting. In total, about 80-100 individuals associated with school and community groups received information about the project.

How Projects Will Be Sustained

Grantees told us about which parts of their program will last beyond the grant period. Below is a sample of the different ways projects will be sustained into the future.

Anoka County Community Action Program-Child Care Resource & Referral and Healthy Start, Anoka and Washington Counties

The newsletter and Play and Learn Groups will continue using recycle and reuse concepts in the curriculum and they will continue to promote the reuse through the thrift store.

Anoka County 4-H, Anoka County

A major portion of this project was creating Take and Teach Learning Kits, which are available for club and youth leaders. The kit contains lessons and supplies on topics like reducing waste and rethinking recycling. Each kit contains an introduction game, a book to go with the theme, two activities, an art projects and extra ideas to expand the lesson. In addition, volunteers have been trained to continue education at key events such as the 4-H Family Farm Fest.

Carver Scott Educational Cooperative, Carver County

The New Beginnings Program has been a demonstration site for service learning integration for many years; in fact, they have received the Hall of Fame award for service learning. Their commitment to the environment will be carried into the future as a way to provide service. They will continue to honor their commitment to the Adopt a River Project, they will continue to recycle and encourage others to join them, and they will continue to do their part in eliminating hazardous wastes. The students in this program are all parents, or will be parents shortly, so their responsibility to preserve the environment for future generations is a relevant topic in the program. The Dunk the Junk video will continue to be hosted on the New Beginnings Facebook page along with any other projects they undertake. The Westwood Church partners will continue to post the information in their weekly bulletin.

Dakota County 4-H, Dakota County

Dakota County 4-H will continue the relationships established through the eight Out of School Time Programming, Community Clubs and County Fair by designing programs that promote rethink, recycle, waste reduction and repurposing. Two area service leaders in the Community Club promoted the rethink recycle theme on the fair stage and within their clubs. As part of the volunteer role, they will maintain this relationship with their own clubs and 28 clubs in Dakota County. The contact leaders and 4-H staff will also promote the take and teach kits to the clubs and their families. A goal of Dakota County 4-H is to maintain positive relationships with in the community and with the Dakota County Fair Board in order to grow awareness on the topic of rethink recycle and promotion space at the fair as well as

partnering in future grants. Rethink Recycle curriculum will be presented at the 4-H National Conference to 1,500 Extension Educators from around the United States in Omaha, Nebraska. They will be able to reproduce and increase their understanding of the Rethink Recycle project.

Black Storytellers Alliance, Hennepin County

The youth will continue to tell stories and they enjoy making and handing out the non-toxic cleaner, so they will continue to do these two things as opportunities arise.

Center for Hmong Arts and Talent, Ramsey County

They will integrate an environmental awareness component in each orientation of the Art Saves Us session. In addition, CHAT staff have implemented two new recycling programs. CHAT is an official ink toner drop off hub and a drop off location for non-recyclable and hard to recycle waste through TerraCycle.

Stillwater Area Public Schools, Office of Equity and Integration, Washington County
All of the participating teachers will be maintaining their vermicomposting bins during the 2011/2012 school year and will continue to teach around them. Upon learning about the project, the new building principal at Lake Elmo Elementary school is exploring how to make this opportunity possible for all grade levels in his building.

Paideia Academy, Dakota County

The Green Team Club has continued through the 2011-2012 school year, changing slightly to an in-the-school-day option. Students meet during the lunch/recess period on a bi-weekly basis. In addition, the school is also considering waste issues as a topic for the new middle school leadership group. They also hope to continue the Eco Expo as an annual event.

St. John Vianney School, Dakota County

At St. John Vianney School, staff will continue the project because the children are highly motivated to do so. Since learning about recycling, rethinking, reusing and reducing, they want to continue to educate others about it. In addition, they continue to post educational signs, information and photos on a bulletin board in the church hall, the Facebook page, and website. The students and staff will also maintain worm bins. The videos continue to be viewed on YouTube.

Community Neighborhood Housing Services, Ramsey County

CNHS will continue to promote the cost savings benefits of purchasing products in bulk, the possible savings to your monthly budget from recycling and re-using, and as well as continue to provide fact sheets for non-toxic cleaners, weed killers, recycling locations, what's recyclable and how to recycle in Ramsey County. CNHS is in the progress of developing a supportive program for new home owners who received home buyer education with CNHS and have purchased homes within the past 6-12 months. The recycling curriculum will be used in this post purchase program to promote the benefits of recycling as a new home owner.

St. Paul Public School Early Childhood and Family Education, Ramsey County

This project was developed to be self-sustaining after its initial start up phase. Most of the grant funds were spent in coordination time, marketing resources and incentives. After the start up phase, coordination time would shift to the individual ECFE sites and trained staff would coordinate future trainings. The expectation is that each of the ECFE sites in Saint Paul will use their lesson plans, developed with ideas from the Toolkit for Early Childhood Family Education programs and add to them using information from class discussion. Participants also requested more information that can be added to develop new lesson plans that will involve both previous and new participants.

Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Ramsey County

With the development of the Rethink Recycling curriculum, they will be able to continue to use it within their existing programs.

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Hennepin County

Dream, Explore, Connect! youth classes will continue to incorporate green education and the classroom recycling center. They will host an Earth Day clean-up and possibly a Hazardous Waste drop-off site. Mary T. Wellcome childcare will continue to use non-toxic cleaners and incorporate the presentation to parents and adult groups.

Orono School District K-5 Environmental Education Committee, Hennepin County

The curriculum is the most significant area of sustainability related to the project. These units will be repeated for years to come. As many of the units include take-home assignments, messages will continue to filter to parents through a child's six-year

elementary career. They also plan to continue the spring book swap. Continuation of the Green Team and Environmental Festival is yet to be determined.

Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, Hennepin County

They will begin distributing the Fresh Life video soon. Building upon this work we are in the process of planning a project that will focus on using yard and kitchen waste to reduce urban soil toxicity and increase production of food in urban gardens. The project will provide training and income to a select group of students who participated in the Fresh Life project this past year. At the EJAM Healthy Homes event in November, youth provided demonstrations on composting and making safe cleaners at Kwanzaa Church and at two Traditional Foods Healthy Communities "Traditional Foods Gatherings".

Hubert Olson Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Hennepin County

Supplies such as National Geographic Explorer magazine, recycled products, Going Green games, and Environmental Awareness books and DVDs are durable, reusable and are available to all teachers to use in the years to come.

Richard Green Central Park Elementary Community Education, Hennepin County

After witnessing the positive effects and meaningful community connections created by the Green Adventure Squad grant group, staff plan on offering a similar environmental concerns-oriented student group in the middle school program next year. They will shift the focus from recycling and waste reduction to a youth-selected environmental theme, the community outreach used by the Green Adventure Squad in connecting community members to Hennepin County environmental services will be continued in this new group. Because the Green Adventure Squad was incorporated into the school's Community Education after school program, many of the in-kind structural/logistical aspects of the group (transportation, administrative support, etc.) will still be in place next year and will therefore be sustained. Additionally, the student-created skit about recycling and waste reduction in the community was recorded on DVD and distributed to our school's science classrooms, media center, and the Hosmer Library. They hope to show the skit at family nights during the upcoming school year.