

Community POWER: Partners on Waste  
Education & Reduction

Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board



## **ROUND NINE FINAL SUMMARY REPORT**

*December 2010*

Prepared by Laurie Gustafson, LG Consulting, LLC  
651-252-1487 or [CommunityPower@RethinkRecycling.com](mailto:CommunityPower@RethinkRecycling.com)

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### **Executive Summary**

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Nineteen community organizations and schools received a Community POWER grant in 2009-2010. Seven of the projects were funded by SWMCB, while 12 were funded through individual county allocations to the program. Individual allocations included four projects in Hennepin County, four projects in Ramsey County, three projects in Dakota County, and one project in Washington 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.

15,640 residents of the metro area were engaged in active waste reduction activities through Round Nine Community POWER projects.

Follow up surveys with over 2,191 people who participated in these projects show that 1,613 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 153,418 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 on-line at [www.rethinkrecycling.com](http://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 five 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, 18 of the 19 projects submitted data on 2,191 people.

The data show that 74 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.

<b>Behavior Change Action</b>	<b>% grantees who focused on each topic</b>
Begin or increase residential recycling	61%
Start using canvas/reusable bags for shopping trips	61%
Pack lunches in reusable containers to reduce packaging waste	61%
Donate or resell items no longer used	50%
Make household nontoxic cleaners	50%
Compost to reduce food and yard waste	44%
Buy in bulk and using refillable containers	39%
Reading labels to properly handle household hazardous waste	39%

## **Project Summaries**

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### **Camp Fire USA, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties**

Camp Fire USA staff researched and updated the re-use, waste reduction, recycling, and reducing household hazardous sections of their Wise Old Willie curriculum. Club leaders were trained to use the curriculum in all of their clubs. The curriculum was implemented in 100% of Camp Fire's clubs across the Twin Cities – including both youth and teens in action participants. The reuse and waste reduction activities focused on learning about natural resources and how they are used to create consumer products, source reduction, and reusing common household products for hands on projects and group games. The household hazardous waste activities focused on recycling, household hazardous waste, and reducing waste among family and community members through youth coordinated community service projects. Camp Fire's club leaders supplemented environmental curriculum with teambuilding and leadership development activities to help with implementing environmental service-learning projects.

### **CommonBond Communities, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties**

CommonBond Communities focused on providing information about waste and toxicity reduction to the residents of Skyline Tower, Seward Tower East, and Seward Tower West. They used a multi-faceted approach to create measurable impacts on the behavior of the residents, who are primarily East African immigrants and refugees, many of whom do not speak English and do not read or write in any language. Green Time presentations were held at the three high-rise apartment buildings to provide ongoing and specific education about shopping to reduce waste, reusable shopping bags, recycling, household hazardous waste, non-toxic cleaners, and electronic waste. Eight resident leaders, all bilingual or multilingual in East African languages, were trained on the topics and became ambassadors throughout the buildings to help other residents understand and become more active in the new concepts of recycling, shopping to reduce excess packaging, dealing with household hazardous waste, and using non-toxic cleaners. They created a video at Skyline Tower to show residents how to keep trash separate from recycling and also where in the building to take recyclables. Information about what to do with electronic waste was added to basic computer skills curricula and was also integrated into other venues, such as on the screen of every computer in each computer lab.

### **Dakota County Technical College, Dakota County**

Student leaders incorporated reduce, reuse, and recycle information into regularly scheduled student activities. Students and staff created a design to be printed on reusable bags. Then, students hosted two educational events at Valley Natural Foods, where window cling reminders were distributed and one event at Salvation Army, where reusable bags and window clings were distributed. Child Development students planned and taught reduce/reuse/recycle lessons to two classes of Head Start students. Reduce, reuse, recycle information was distributed at the College Showcase event and was included in packets given to all students attending course registration sessions throughout the year.

### **Discovery Community Center – Orono Community Education, Hennepin County**

The Discovery Community Center's project focused the year on "going green" in each program area to encourage change in the habits of participating children and adults. As a community center, they serve a wide range of people all ages and stages including preschoolers, youth, teens and adults. Parent educators and classroom teachers incorporated reduce, reuse and recycling into parent education discussion times in Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness. Child teachers used recycled materials for art and activity times. Reuse of materials took place from the sand/water tables to the imaginative play areas modeling for parents what they could do at home with their children. These activities were done consistently throughout the year with the children and parents getting ideas how to reuse and reduce waste in their home activities. Art classes were offered with recycled materials and music book and instrument recycling continued. Youth presented a musical to educate families and audience members and teens distributed materials and talked to area residents at the local farmers market.

### **District 2 Community Council, Ramsey County**

At Roosevelt Homes in St. Paul, District 2 Community Council staff used door knocking, recycling education activities, and hands-on training to encourage and educate residents on ways to reduce and reuse household waste. During the one year grant period, District 2 Community Council, as part of their new citizens outreach program, worked with residents to encourage increased participation in curbside recycling. Residents participating in the gardening program, under the tutelage of a Ramsey County Master Gardener, learned how to use garden, as well as kitchen waste, to augment soils. Three of four community gardens have now been enhanced with a communal composting site. The Hmong New Year celebration and English as a Second Language classes were used as opportunities for households to use the internet to opt out of yellow page phone book deliveries.

### **Ecopaulitans and Preventing Harm Minnesota, Ramsey County**

The Ecopaulitans Green and Healthy Kids Project (GHK) was implemented at two public schools in St. Paul: Randolph Heights Elementary School and Capitol Hill School. Organizers worked actively with school administrators and teachers to build support for the project and identify school-wide and classroom-based opportunities to implement toxicity and waste reduction activities such as making bottles of non-toxic cleaner, decorating reusable shopping bags and learning about toxicity and waste reduction action steps to take at home. They had informational tables at a number of school-wide events and implemented classroom-based programming. Both schools planned Green Fairs held in the spring. The Green and Healthy Kids Project staff implemented activities in the schools that were geared toward students and their family members.

### **Garlough Environmental Magnet School, Dakota County**

Garlough Environmental Magnet School (GEMS) partnered with Heritage Middle School and Dodge Nature Center to develop a demonstration garden and create learning programs about composting, packaging reduction, and toxic-free gardening and housekeeping. They offered community classes and hosted recycling displays at the GEMS open house. In addition, they created the LiveGreen Detectives Club,

organized by the School Age Care staff. They also planned an Earth Day carnival and presentations to community groups. Finally, they were able to make an important connection with the Energy Manager for School District #197, who helped with the LiveGreen Detectives Club and other environmental district initiatives.

### **Girl Scouts River Valleys, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties**

Girls Scouts received the grant to develop the Go Green Girl! toolkit for waste reduction and is available for use in hard copy, electronic format, and for check-out. The toolkit is paired with a Go Green Girl! patch or badge. They completed the Go Green Girl! toolkit and patch program for Girl Scout troops, which has been promoted through Connections (for volunteers and girls) and Currents (for all Girl Scout supporters) newsletters. A Go Green Girl! blog was launched and is updated monthly and includes a new challenge each month. Go Green Girl! – Camp patch program was developed and Go Green Girl! activities were implemented at resident camps and day camps.

### **Hamline Midway Elders, Ramsey County**

The Hamline Midway Elders project, “Clean Up & Create: Reducing Garbage and Toxins and Creating Green Gifts” focused on three areas: reducing unwanted junk mail, reducing hazardous waste, and creating green gifts. Staff organized and presented a session for seniors on reducing junk mail, using nontoxic cleaners, and properly disposing of household hazardous waste. They also created green gift sessions, where seniors learned about planning greener celebrations and making gifts from items they found around their homes. The activities were organized primarily for the seniors for whom they arrange services to help them remain healthy and safe in their own homes. All the other people tied to the organization, i.e., volunteers, neighborhood residents, donors, service providers, benefited from the entire project as well.

### **Hastings Middle School, Dakota County**

Hastings Middle School launched a new extra-curricular student club, the Green Team, to encourage conservation and sustainability at school and throughout the community. The Green Team focused on the theme of reducing waste. After educating themselves, as well as the general student body and their parents, about issues related to waste reduction, students in the Family and Consumer Science class made their own reusable shopping bags. Students on the Green Team created a low-waste lunch display table and surveyed students’ parents. Waste reduction literature was disseminated in school and at a variety of after school events, some involving parents. In addition, a workshop about non-toxic cleaners was offered to Hastings Middle School staff and two composting/vermicomposting workshops for Hastings community members.

### **International Spanish Language Academy, Hennepin County**

International Spanish Language Academy (ISLA) students went on field trips to the Hennepin County Waste Transfer Station to learn about what happens to garbage and why it is important to reduce and recycle. The kindergarten through third grade students also visited the Trash Bash exhibit at the Minnesota Children’s Museum. Hennepin County staff gave presentations on waste reduction to all students. Students studied the “waste” material assigned to their grade level and also

completed a waste reduction questionnaire as part of their homework. Then students educated their families at the Project EARTH Family Night. The event was a huge success with 420 people attending. The night kicked off with a fashion show of clothing and accessories purchased at second-hand stores, narrated and modeled by the fourth grade class. The students and their families toured classrooms to do various waste reduction activities. The sixth grade class visited two other Spanish Immersion schools to give presentations on Project EARTH. The ISLA Summer Camp featured a composting workshop where kids made a compost bin to take home.

### **Juxtaposition Arts, Hennepin County**

Juxtaposition Arts staff conducted a five-week environmental poster-making workshop with art students from North High School. The workshop introduced students to ideas about visual communication by making collage posters using old magazines, newspapers and salvageable materials that were transformed into works of art. The students learned about recycling, reuse, conservation, and how waste management can lead to reducing our carbon footprint. Each student created a final collage poster based on facts available on RethinkRecycling.com. For instance, one student created a collage based on a fact about "recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours." The artworks were processed into posters that are posted in North Minneapolis businesses and throughout North High School. They conducted additional hands-on workshops, created a website to showcase student artwork website, and organized a public exhibition. Juxtaposition's students hosted an exhibition to promote waste zero campaign, recycling and reuse in everyday life.

### **Library Foundation of Carver County, Carver County**

Go Green Live built off the Message in a Tube project to expand waste reduction education throughout all of the library's programming, including adult and children's programming. This initiative included a non-toxic gardening series, book club kits including related books, and waste reduction related performers. The Go Green Live featured performers Mrs. Jean Go Green, magician Robert Halbrook and programs by the ZooMan and the Raptor Center geared toward children and families. Library staff also organized a gardening series and created a Master Gardener Help Desk. The program also included the Earth Day storytimes and school age activities, including the Carver Kids Explore for the Summer Reading program. They produced video clips and featured waste reduction at their Carver County Fair exhibit. With their direct involvement in programming, staff across the library system has embraced a no-waste approach within internal library systems.

### **Rosemount United Methodist Church, Dakota County**

Rosemount United Methodist Church large suburban congregation's Caring for Creation committee planned several events and activities during the grant period including a low-waste breakfast during coffee hour between services and open to all members/visitors. They held a book study on *Serve God, Save the Planet* by Matthew Sleeth and offered three recycled art classes, a household nontoxic cleaning class, and a composting class with a master gardener. They promoted America Recycles Day by collecting bottle caps to send to Aveda, yogurt cups for a Ramsey County study, and used sneakers. At the annual holiday bazaar, they

showed ways to reduce waste during the holidays. For families, they presented a no-waste eco movie night where they showed *Trashed* for adults and *Wall-E* for kids. They planned an Eco Fair in the spring, where vendors sold crafts made from recycled materials and displayed environmental educational learning kits. Five out of the eight ministry areas have implemented waste reduction in their programs including using less paper, rechargeable batteries, increasing the number of recycling bins and sending contribution statements via email.

### **St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Ramsey County**

St. Clement's POWER Grant Project--One Thing in '10—used many different types of activities to educate about household and toxic waste reduction. Established parish events were enhanced with waste reduction education, and new ones were implemented and celebrated. The Men's Group organized a safe household cleaner workshop that took place during coffee hour. Safe electronics disposal was promoted with church bulletin inserts of *Electronics Disposal* and *A-Z Guide to Disposal* on two Sundays. The next month's theme was vermicomposting. A second safe household cleaner workshop was held at Episcopal Church Homes for elders in the independent living apartments. Earth Day was celebrated with a whole weekend of events for the parish and the public, workshops and displays, and the unveiling of the parish demonstration worm bin. Waste reduction education was added to the annual parish rummage sale. The St. Clement's Plant Sale included the addition of yard waste composting workshop with Ramsey County Master Gardeners. The final event was the "State Fair and Creative Arts Sunday" which featured art made from recycled material arts projects made by parishioners and a potluck supper.

### **Transfiguration Church and School, Washington County**

Transfiguration reduced the amount of waste generated and increased recycling, reuse, and waste reduction activities. Through education, behavior-modeling, and pledges, Transfiguration engaged families to change their waste generation behaviors in their own homes. They also implemented a very successful Food-to-Hogs program that engages and teaches students, staff, and parishioners the value and importance of composting. The 2009 Transfiguration Fall Festival demonstrated how some up-front planning, clever signs, placement of easily-identified recycling and trash bins, and education can make a huge impact on reducing waste and increasing recycling at a large scale event. And lastly, with the help of dedicated teachers and staff, the curriculum was infused with environmental themes and lessons so students could become more environmentally literate and make sustainable choices in the future. There was so much positive momentum that came about with this grant that they expanded and continue their efforts.

### **Urban Arts Academy, Hennepin County**

Students setup two worm bins, one each outside the lunch room and kitchen. All students took turns to properly feed and care for the worm bins. Kindergarten through eighth grade students conducted a paper drive and made paper and numerous art projects from handmade paper, art journals and origami. Preschool through eighth graders used scales to measure food waste from lunches and snacks, program wide and then fed the two new worm bins located on both floors of our school. Urban Arts Academy saved 42 pounds of food waste from landfills from the start of the grant. Forty-six students made "record bowls" from old records

which were headed to a landfill, used old broken tiles from the Reuse Center to create classroom mosaics, created mini compost bins out of litter pop bottles and terrariums and planted seeds, created cities out on non-recyclable containers and paper mache. Students created their own governments, wrote their own laws and talked about civil rights issues and how green cities solved different societal issues. A hundred and ten families attended after school family nights, which featured resource bins on holiday waste, packaging reduction, packing a waste-free lunch, junk mail reduction, and opting out of yellow page delivery. Urban Arts hosted claymation workshops where 46 elementary age students worked in film crews to create claymation videos about worm composting and recycling. Students then showcased their videos at a family night with 265 people in attendance. After a month long workshop, the Urban Arts Reuse Band performed at the Bancroft Midsummer Festival and the Midtown Farmer Market promoting recycling & green living.

### **Victory Neighborhood Association, Hennepin County**

Four Camden residents were trained to present vermicomposting workshops for our community. Twenty-eight people attended the two subsequent workshops, and from the twenty-eight, ten worm facilitators volunteered to receive free worm bins in return for recruiting others to start bins. The worm facilitators have recruited fourteen others from Camden and beyond. In addition, one educator from Patrick Henry High School and one educator from Success Academy High School have been using bins in their classrooms. Two household hazardous waste workshops were offered through Minneapolis Community Education, and included information on non-toxic gardening as well as household cleaners. Waste reduction information was presented at eight community events. They used the "Too much packaging is a waste" and "Low Waste Holidays" kits from Hennepin County, and "Recycled Products" from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to use at our presentations. People were drawn to the hands-on materials in the kits and engaged in conversation about waste reduction.

### **West Side Citizens Organization, Ramsey County**

West Side Citizens Organization staff (WSCO) spent considerable time working to spread the word about the benefits of waste reduction through community events, workshops and one-to-one outreach. The organization was able to reach hundreds of residents at two major events in the community, including Cinco de Mayo, and at a number of National Night Out events, including the one held at Neighborhood House with over 300 attendees. WSCO also had a table at two "Movies in the Park" events held in the summer. In addition to events, WSCO staff went door-to-door passing on informational handouts, promoting RethinkRecycling.com, and recruiting for workshops. Overall, it is estimated that approximately 600 residents were reached through our efforts.

## **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.

"There are many inspiring achievements that were accomplished over the course of this grant. It was exciting to witness the amount of responsibility youth readily accepted upon planning their community service projects. The teen club at Brooklyn Center Junior High, for example, became so invested in launching a school-wide collection of bottle caps for the Recycle Caps with Aveda program that they continued to extend their goal of how many bottle caps to collect. In total, over 2,500 bottle caps were collected and the administrators at the school were so impressed with the impact of the project, that they helped fund a field trip to attend the grand opening of a local recycling center. During the tour, teens were able to see firsthand the direct impact of their service project. The event culminated with a door prize give away, during which one of the teens won a 4'X2' compost bin. The teens are already looking forward to working with school administrators to use the compost bin at Brooklyn Center Jr. High as a teaching tool for their peers. From beginning to end, this project remained highly engaging for the teens at Brooklyn Center, empowering them to inspire change among their peers and community members." -- Camp Fire USA, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

"Several parts of the project were particularly exciting for our group. First, the resident leaders were great to work with because they were interested in the subject matter, and they were motivated to help their respective language groups, especially residents who spoke no English. Outreach went much better when we had them to help communicate the information. They were one of the most important parts of the grant results at all three sites because they will continue to have and spread the knowledge they have gained. Also, many residents who might have previously felt hesitant or uninterested to learn about recycling now have a better relationship with the information because the resident leaders put an approachable face on it."

"One specific example of the impact of this project took place at Skyline Tower. It was often difficult to engage and interest many of the non-English speaking, newer immigrant adults in these discussions. We felt hopeful that we were making some progress as we went along, but knew for sure that we'd had an impact when an elder Somali woman came to the Advantage Center one day with her blue reusable shopping bag full of recyclables, and she wanted help sorting them. A Somali woman also told an interpreter at our survey focus group event that she now recycles and focuses on toxicity reduction in her home because of what she learned this year, and she tells others about it, too." -- CommonBond Communities, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

"We are very proud of our building staff to so fully embrace this work. Our teachers have been so creative and have incorporated so many ideas and modeled new habits for the children and parents. Our spring musical "Project Rescue Save the Planet" was such a fun way to end our year with the kids educating their parents and the audience about all of our topics in a fun, creative way. This activity was added as a culminating experience for our families. We are also very proud to be mentoring volunteers who will bring these messages to another group of families in our school district." -- Discovery Community Center, Orono Community Education, Hennepin County

"The Ecopaulitan Green and Healthy Kids Project Coordinators are proud of their success with families, students, teachers and staff at their respective schools. They had an amazing number of contact hours with the children in classrooms as well as with staff and family members at school wide events. They are proud of the enthusiasm generated by the project as well as present and future behavior change impacts. While a lot of the positive feedback received by the project was verbal, here [is one] examples of written feedback from a teacher:

Thank you Wendy for the wonderful work you did in presenting the composting lesson in my class. The students keep checking the cups as they come in the morning to see what is happening. Thank you for coming to all the grade 2 classrooms last week. I know the other students in Mrs. Waskosky's and Mrs. Blumer's class enjoyed making their eco-friendly bags and Mrs. D's class learned about cleaning with safe solutions too. I will put the blue slips into your box as I get them. Thanks again for taking the time to volunteer in grade 2 and teach our students about being Green. -- Mrs. Ann Young Grade 2 Capitol Hill Magnet "

-- Ecopaulitans and Preventing Harm Minnesota, Ramsey County

"[We are proud of] our LiveGreen Detective Club and how it gave more intimate connections with the after school (SAC) kids and their families. The Club gave them the opportunity to delve into the ideas in "FootPrint 5" and its potential to change how they purchased, used, and disposed of many items. [We are also proud of] the link made with our district Green Coordinator, Lisa Johnson. Working with her has given extended life to many of our goals as well as the sustainability of projects begun through Community POWER. [Finally, we are proud of] Heritage [Middle School's] growing work on reducing, reusing, recycling and rethinking. While some of their students have come from Garlough, many of their students come from other elementary schools. These students and the associated community members are now being engaged in programming aligned with this grant." -- Garlough Elementary Magnet PTO, Dakota County

"We are particularly proud of the Go Green Girl! – Camp Program, which was the most successful delivery method for Go Green Girl!. It offers a solid experiential way to teach girls why waste management, including reducing reusing, and recycling, is so important. Day camp directors shared stories about how girls came to the realization of how trash can add up in just a week. Several day camps grappled with the choices they had made for their lunch when realizing how much packaging they were throwing away. One resident camp staff member noted that many girls were not previously aware of how much food waste was created by not taking leftovers, searching other tables for food before going to the kitchen, and by throwing away leftover food. Many girls pledged to try to reduce food waste, which was an immediate action step they could take. Other girls pledged to use reusable bags for grocery shopping, and to pack low-to-zero waste lunches for school this fall. -- Girl Scouts River Valleys, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

"[We are most proud of] the fact that we will continue to help all our seniors with any aspects in our project because that assistance has now been incorporated into

our regular service coordination. We're also proud of the green gifts that were created, helping the seniors utilize things around their house that would have gone to waste, they fun they had making the items and the knowledge that they gained and can pass along to others in their lives re: how to." -- Hamline Midway Elders, Ramsey County

"Looking back at the year, we are pleased that we were able to spontaneously meet an identified need for a non-toxic cleaners workshop... We are also pleased by the turnout for and level of interest demonstrated by the participants in our two composting workshops. Finally, we are pleased to have initiated a community wide conversation about waste reduction. Having the topic discussed in certain classes and at school events throughout the school year kept the subject in front of people all year, which we believe will reinforce the message." -- Hastings Middle School, Dakota County

"We are most proud of the great job that our sixth graders did in presenting in Spanish to kids at other schools, and spreading the word about Project EARTH to their peers. We received terrific feedback on the program they presented, and it was a great way for the sixth graders to end their "career" at ISLA. Secondly, the fourth grade used clothing fashion show was immensely popular and a great learning experience for all of the students involved." -- International Spanish Language Academy, Hennepin County

"We are proud of the many young people who shared their genius in investigating ways to use non-traditional materials to create work of art and their enthusiasm in hosting visitors during the exhibition. With their efforts we minimized waste produced from the exhibition to one bag instead of about five bags of waste we normally produce during similar events." -- Juxtaposition Arts, Hennepin County

"With their direct involvement in programming, staff across the library system has embraced both system "No Waste" programming, but also collection enhancement of "No Waste" materials. One member at the last Collection team meeting even talked about downloadable books being an option 'we should develop further because it supports Carver County Library's green emphasis.'" -- Library Foundation of Carver County, Carver County

"The Eco Fair was a lot of information packed into one day. The people who came were really impressed and all said that they learned something... I also was really excited by how many people saved their bottle caps and brought them to church with them. Every week, the box we put out would be full. And looking at the survey results, I was pleasantly surprised by how many people changed what type of cleaners they used." -- Rosemount United Methodist Church, Dakota County

"What makes us most proud is that this grant was truly an environmental catalyst for Transfiguration. Not only is Transfiguration continuing many of the grant initiatives that we began last year, we are also implementing several new environmental projects. For example, Transfiguration has installed solar panels on our roof, added "No Idling" signs along the car-line in our parking lot, placed "These Come from Trees" stickers on paper towel dispensers, printers and copiers,

reminding people to reduce waste and use only what's needed, etc. This grant was a wonderful springboard for us to implement significant waste reduction, recycling, composting, and additional environmental practices! We can see that our efforts lead to changes in how people act today and in the future to improve the sustainability of our community." --Transfiguration Catholic Church and School, Washington County

"We are most proud of the amount of change that has occurred for our program in the last year and seeing the changes in our students and ourselves. The stories are numerous, but one which stands out is about a little eight year old boy who is very shy and speaks mostly Spanish but he very rarely speak out loud and never in front of classmates. His ESL teacher at Bancroft said that he did a whole class presentation on worm composting and would NOT stop talking about "the hungry worms" that live at Urban Arts after school program and how they can help grow a garden of food that can feed his family. He was so excited about worms and how one small creature can do so much." -- Urban Arts Academy, Hennepin County

"We are most proud of vermicomposting in the schools. The teachers creatively adapted to project to meet requirements of most areas of the second grade curriculum. Their work to do this has ensured that vermiculture is pertinent and will continue to be taught over the years. Having Mr. Beumer bring the project to Success Academy was a real bonus. We are also proud of the great turnout we had at the March 20 workshop "Low Input Yard and Garden". Many residents are passionate about gardening and came for that reason. At the same time they received information about reducing waste. We learned that in the future we will get a good turnout if we host a workshop that includes gardening along with other environmental issues." -- Victory Neighborhood Association, Hennepin County

"The most exciting work done this summer was the visibility we created in the office on various areas. Now when people come in for recycling bins they can see information on community gardens and healthy eating options, composting, recycling, bulk buying, hazardous waste resources and non-toxic cleaning options. This is a great opportunity to have folks stop and ask questions and to get more involved." -- West Side Citizens Organization, Ramsey County

## **Ways Waste Reduction Messages Are Shared**

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

Camp Fire USA has employed many opportunities to promote its participation in the Community POWER grant. Club leaders were encouraged to empower youth to "get the message out" to the community in every successful way possible. Youth designed pamphlets and posters with relevant information relating to reducing waste, recycling, and household hazardous waste – in some cases translating information into languages spoken at home and/or designing highly visual display boards with clear instructions. Additionally, youth coordinated community presentations at local community centers, senior housing, and the morning announcements at school. Perhaps one of the most popular youth projects was utilizing the button maker to produce over 300 buttons with the

rethinkrecycling.com website. More formally, youth at some clubs were able to coordinate their service projects with site coordinators, submitting articles they'd written as a group to the community newsletter.

At CommonBond Communities, they have shared tips for implementing the programs at staff meetings with youth program staff, individual services staff, property management staff, and administrators in the CommonBond central office. The Vice President of Advantage Services shared tips about recycling at multi-family housing sites with an organization in Wisconsin. They provided education at site-based staff meetings, as well as at an all Advantage Services retreat with approximately 50 staff and AmeriCorps members. Non-toxic cleaners are made and used in the youth programs at Skyline, and more staff have learned about toxicity and waste reduction through this project. Finally, because they now have recycling carts outside and bins inside at Skyline Tower, they are able to talk about the project when giving tours to community partners, possible funders and volunteers.

Discovery Community Center staff presented and provided information to the Orono School District Early Childhood Advisory Council, Community Education Advisory Council, Rotary, and the school district's Environmental Education Committee.

Ecopaulitans/Green and Healthy Kids project staff has shared results with project volunteers at Randolph Heights Elementary and Capital Hill School, principals, Ecopaulitans and Preventing Harm Minnesota staff, board members and members. Both partner organizations will continue to incorporate lessons learned in their ongoing work.

The Girl Scouts Go Green Girl! toolkit, patch program, and camp curriculum at the was shared at the American Camp Association (ACA) – Northland Section workshop in fall 2010. The ACA Northland Section has a membership of approximately 80 camps from around the region, including the Boy Scouts of America – Northern Star Council.

Hamline Midway Elders staff shared waste reduction ideas at a church, community center and public housing building. They also communicated to the network of other living at home/block nurse programs that we were participating in the project.

The Hastings Middle School Green Team program was shared with teachers from other schools at conferences and staff development days. Results of the project were formally presented to 130 Hastings Middle School faculty and staff at the last staff meeting of the 2009-2010 school year. In addition, the project was shared with families of students and community members through a table at parent-teacher conferences, and through posting on Hastings Middle School's website. Information about the RethinkRecycling website was disseminated at parent-teacher conferences along with various literature produced by RethinkRecycling.

Sixth grade students at the International Spanish Language Academy shared what they learned to other Spanish Immersion school students. During the presentations, students handed out coloring books and other information provided by Hennepin County and Rethink Recycling.

At Juxtaposition Arts, they shared their experiences of their Community POWER grant with constituents via email newsletter, website, and one-on-one conversation with visitors coming to our gallery. For example, 20 local kindergarteners came to the gallery as a field trip and learned how the exhibition evolved and the environmental message behind the artworks. In addition, one of their funders is working on a fashion show that might include working with Juxtaposition to create accessories, apparel items and a sculptural stage set made from waste resources.

Library Foundation of Carver County staff produced booklets that include sample storytimes, school-age child activities, songs, magic tricks and other ways to replicate the program, which will be presenting at the Winter MELSA youth services Program Swap. This project is also being considered as a workshop both for the 2011 Minnesota Library Association conference and for the regional library system directors' Round Robin trainings.

The Rosemount United Methodist Church project was featured in the *Rosemount Town Pages* newspaper twice discussing activities through out the grant period. They also posted poster to advertise their Eco Fair all around the southern metro in addition to advertising on their website and in newsletters.

At St. Clement's Episcopal Church all information about POWER Grant events were shared on the parish website. For larger events, such as the Earth Day weekend, posters were printed and volunteers posted them. They also used email and Facebook to promote Community POWER grant events.

Transfiguration Catholic Church and School integrated waste reduction messages into all aspects of their communication with parishioners and parents. The local newspaper, *The Oakdale Lake Elmo Review*, published various articles and pictures about their grant work. They also hosted booths at several large church events, reaching hundreds of people.

The Urban Arts Academy "Reuse" Band performed at many community events including Bancroft Midsummer Festival, Midtown Farmers Market, and the Artisan Festival & Corn Feed.

Victory Neighborhood Association shared information through newspaper articles and presented at the Victory Neighborhood annual meeting and at a meeting of the SWMCB. Additionally, teachers at Loring School and Success Academy shared information with other staff at their school. Success Academy's vermicomposting received attention from the district-wide Go Green Initiative and was the focus of an interview on KBEM radio. Loring School has provided all the materials they developed and are encouraging us to share the materials with other schools.

The West Side Citizens Organization is the location in St. Paul's District 3 Community Council where residents pick up recycling bins. Staff are using this opportunity to provide information to residents coming to their office.

## **How Projects Will Be Sustained**

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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.

With the updating of the Camp Fire USA Wise Old Willie curriculum, this formal waste reduction curriculum will serve as a future resource for club leaders as they continue teach youth and their families about the importance of waste reduction and environmental stewardship.

Having the Community POWER grant this year was great encouragement for CommonBond Communities to follow through on getting recycling carts and community receptacles at Skyline. This means that the residents and staff at Skyline will continue to have a place to take their recycling. In addition, signage at all three sites and the "Skyline Tower Recycles" multi-lingual video will be in use for years to come. The e-waste curriculum and the desktop wallpaper on the lab computers are in place for the next year of technology programming for residents, and the Advantage Centers now use more non-toxic cleaners in our program and office spaces.

At the Discovery Center, staff are continuing to incorporate recycled materials and information into their early childhood and family programs.

Both Green and Healthy Kids project school sites will continue their work in 2010-2011 aspiring to incorporate toxicity and waste reduction activities in the classrooms and at school-wide events to promote action at home. The organizers of the spring carnival at Capitol Hill have decided to make it a green-themed fair next spring. Green and Healthy Kids Coordinators will distribute bottles of non-toxic cleaners to teachers in both schools at the beginning of the school year to reinforce toxicity reduction themes from last year.

At Garlough Elementary Magnet School, they plan to continue activities into the future. Heritage Middle School is also planning to use the Garlough model and adapt it to best work with their teams and students. They will continue to host two to three community-wide events with reduce, reuse, recycle themes with the Dodge Nature Center. The PTO annual spring fair will have an environmental education and science focus.

The Girl Scouts Go Green Girl! toolkit and patch program are available at their five service centers and are ready to be checked out. They will be promoted kits through their newsletters and website. They plan to post a new challenge each month on their blog and Facebook page. And, the Go Green Girl! – Camp program will be offered for the 2011 camp seasons for both resident and day camps.

At Hamline Midway Elders, they will continue to help seniors and their caregivers with removing unwanted pieces of junk mail by and help them submit names to the Direct Mail Association for removal. And, they will help anyone who asks for assistance with proper household hazardous waste disposal.

Each seventh grade student in the Family and Consumer Science classes at Hastings Middle School will continue to make reusable canvas bags for their sewing project. In addition, because of how well received the non-toxic cleaner workshop for staff was they hope to make this an annual event with staff all chipping in a small amount to purchase supplies.

As part of the curriculum planning process, teachers and staff at the International Spanish Language Academy are evaluating whether the field trip to the Hennepin County Transfer Station could be an annual event. The PTO is also looking at further opportunities to promote waste reduction and recycling through school events such as providing supplies to make non-toxic cleaners at family nights. The used-clothing fashion show was also very popular with the students and may be repeated in future years.

Juxtaposition is incorporating waste reduction practices to their workshops, events and office. Juxtaposition Arts is also establishing an Environmental Design Course as an annual year-long workshop where students learn about architecture, landscape architecture and product design founded in environmental issues such as reuse and recycling, energy conservation, storm water management, renewable energy and green economy. For example, one of Juxtaposition's Summer Camp workshops worked on creating a sculpture garden this summer and they are planning to improve planting beds with compost next year. Ms. Lee, an art teacher at North High School, is encouraging students to recycle, organize scraps for future use and incorporating some of reusing principles in art making.

The Library Foundation of Carver County book club kits will be available for multiple circulations. A strong partnership has been established with the Scott Carver County Master Gardeners that has transformed into the "Master Gardeners Help Desk" at both Chanhassen and Waconia libraries and is expected to continue. Programming (such as storytimes and Carver Kids Explore kits) developed at the youth level has excited and inspired Youth Services librarians to continue those programs. Purchase of certain products has also enabled Youth Services librarians to continue these programs by reusing the products. New partnerships (such as with Rotary) have encouraged librarians to seek out partnerships to get the no waste message out.

At Rosemount United Methodist Church, they will continue model waste reduction behavior through increased recycling efforts throughout the church and increased visibility of recycling bins and to plan events low-waste and use real dishware and silverware when possible.

Since the POWER Grant education was incorporated into or added to established St. Clement's Episcopal Church events, much of the household and toxic waste reduction education will continue. They said that, although the formal grant ending, the waste reduction education is just getting started, and is gaining momentum in participation, talk, and prayer in parish community life.

Transfiguration Church and School is committed to improving the environment, saving money, and being model stewards of God's creation. Therefore, many of the

initiatives that began last year will continue, including recycling, Food-to-Hogs, using real silverware instead of plastic ware in the lunchroom, standing environmental sections in the church bulletin and in the weekly school newsletter (Green Tip of the Week), paperless school newsletter, and increased recycling efforts at our Fall Festival, borrowing recycling bins from Ramsey County and pairing them right next to the garbage containers.

At Urban Arts Academy, they will continue to model waste reduction behavior for students and families by through the use washable cups and dishes for their lunch program and family nights, serving as an example for families. They plan to keep up their three compost bins and two worm bins. In addition, they will keep several programs developed as part of their grant such as creating more claymation videos about waste reduction, reuse band music, paper making kits, and rocket building kits.

The Victory Neighborhood Association is committed to making Victory the greenest neighborhood in Minneapolis. Some of the materials about reducing waste will be included in the Victory Welcome Packet. The teachers at Loring School and Success Academy plan to continue the vermicomposting project over the coming years.

The West Side Citizens Organization Environmental Justice Committee plans to continue offering various pieces of the Community POWER curriculum that was developed at workshops.