

Community POWER: Partners on Waste
Education & Reduction

Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board



ROUND 13 FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

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Executive Summary

In 2013, a total of 20 projects were funded: 10 Community POWER projects by the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, plus ten additional projects through county-specific supplemental contributions from Dakota, Ramsey and Washington Counties. Among the grant projects funded by Ramsey County were four business education grants. The results of the Ramsey County Business Education projects have been summarized in a separate document.

All other projects educated residents, engaged them in waste reduction activities and promoted long-term lifestyle changes. Typical projects included educating residents about recycling, learning about alternatives to hazardous household products, preventing waste through reuse, helping residents start composting, and planning green events.

All of the projects contain elements that will be sustained beyond the grant year and any grantees' replicable resources have been posted online on the grantees' pages at: www.rethinkrecycling.com/grants/grantee-projects.

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 and other experts.

- 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.

How many people were reached?

Through Round 13 Community POWER projects, 8,742 residents of the metro area were engaged in active waste reduction activities. Active engagement activities include things like attending a class or workshop, developing a video, taking part in revised or new curriculum, attending a train-the-trainer session, interacting at a booth or event with Rethink Recycling, county or other materials, and receiving technical assistance.

An additional 179,550 people were reached with waste reduction messages through the marketing and communication efforts of grantees. Most of these messages included Rethink Recycling information and/or RethinkRecycling.com. These messages were shared through distributing newsletter or e-newsletter articles, a press release or column in newspaper, a display of Rethink Recycling, county or other materials or information posted on a website and/or social media.

Traditional grantees were asked to reach out to peer organizations to let others know about their project and how they could do the same. Through meetings and presentations, the five traditional grantee project leaders informed an additional 127 people.

Long-Term Behavior Change

For the past nine 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. Only grantees receiving traditional grants were required to submit data. Four of the five traditional grantees submitted long-term behavior change data. One grantee was not able to since their project ended four months earlier than planned. Some of the grantees modified the standard questions for their own surveys, but their results still show that behaviors were changed.

Follow up surveys with 630 people who participated in these projects show that 77% of participants reported making at least one sustained behavior change due to information learned through a Community POWER project. These changes include recycling a wider variety of materials or starting to use green cleaning products. Many people reported making more than one change.

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 |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| All grantees focused on recycling education, such as what materials can be recycled, recycling away from home, etc. | 100% |
| Start using reusable bags or water bottles | 13% |
| Learn how to reduce the use of toxic products at home | 44% |
| Make non-toxic cleaners | 31% |
| Plan green meetings and events | 31% |
| Compost to reduce food and yard waste | 25% |

RethinkRecycling.com Use

In addition to the long-term behavior change questions, some of the traditional grantees also asked respondents about their use of RethinkRecycling.com. Sixty percent of the respondents report using RethinkRecycling.com and 94% report learning about it through their participation in the grant project.

Project Summaries

SWMCB-Funded Projects

Alliance for Sustainability

The Alliance for Sustainability facilitated engagement of 425 total members from St. Andrews Lutheran Church, St. Jude of the Lake, White Bear Unitarian Universalist (Mahtomedi), First Presbyterian Church, Ascension Episcopal Church and St. Peter's United Church of Christ (Stillwater). The Alliance helped to educate members on proper disposal of household hazardous waste, non-toxic cleaners and composting. The Alliance facilitated sales of backyard compost bins so 55 households could start composting at home.

EMERGE

The EMERGE Recycling Ambassadors project trained six youth leaders, who educated 60 North Minneapolis youth on how plastics can be recycled and reused in their homes and community. These 60 youth conducted home recycling audits and gave residents reusable bags with recycling guides. They also distributed seedlings in recycled plastic containers to 300 North Minneapolis residents.

Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota

This project's goal was to educate Lao community members how to reduce and dispose of household hazardous waste. Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota's train-the-trainer project trained 10 Lao leaders. The leaders were trained at two household hazardous waste workshops, and they then organized and facilitated workshops that involved 100 Lao community members.

Lao Family Community of MN, Inc.

English Education students became agents of positive change by changing their own behaviors and role modeling for their families and friends. They learned about recycling, waste reduction, and toxicity reduction in their English classes and then incorporated these practices in their daily lives. This project reached approximately 128 people. Lao Family closed its English language program in April, which ended the grant project early. However, they were still able to reach many community members with their messages.

Minneapolis Public Schools Community Education

The Minneapolis Community Education after-summer school program was to be held at Green Central School. Due to construction, the program was moved to Ramsey Middle School. Thirty students explored gardening, composting and organic waste management. They toured vegetable gardens to learn about sustainable gardening practices. The students

built compost bins to use in Ramsey Middle School's garden. These students also taught 70 of their classmates about the composting program, reaching 100 students total.

Nawayee Center School

At Nawayee Center School, 61 students analyzed the content of cleaning products used at school and home to determine their toxicity levels and possible consequences to our health and the environment. They also investigated alternative commercial products and made some of their own non-toxic cleaners. They presented this information to school staff and families, reaching another 61 households and 10 staff. Nawayee students reached out to others through community events as well.

Stillwater Area High School Transition Program

Stillwater High School transition students worked to increase the amount of recycling at school sporting events, where about 2,000 plastic bottles are sold at each football game. They encouraged youth and adults to recycle at games through presentations and displays about recycling, and they doubled the number of recycling containers at their sports facilities. The students used elements of the toxicity reduction tool kit to educate the public about reducing toxicity at home. In addition, they created and sold 300 bottles and packs of non-toxic cleaners and laundry detergent to the public. They also got staff to start using the cleaners school-wide.

The Camden Promise

Program staff trained 12 students to be volunteer leaders to educate and engage other youth about reducing waste and recycling. Students then shared this knowledge with their families in the Camden community. The Camden Promise also educated 60 youth per week over the summer through existing community outreach activities, including Summer Kids and the weekly Summer BBQs. The children's families learned about recycling while their kids were playing recycling games at the barbeques. Church members were also encouraged to reduce waste and recycle through educational flyers and new recycling containers that were added at the church and food shelf.

Waconia Independent Public School District 110

The "Living Better...Living Green" initiative empowered 325 students as ambassadors for social change. A group of 11 youth developed a professional grade Newscast in their videography class. The video was used as part of a social marketing campaign to reduce waste and promote recycling practices to over 5,000 households within the community. The video was shown at a local theater, reaching 75 people initially. The students also shared the video with family and friends online through social media.

Dakota County-Funded Project

Eagan YMCA Leaders Club, Dakota County

Eagan YMCA taught 30 middle and high school students in the Y Leaders Club about the benefits of composting and the steps to create and manage composting bins. Then the students educated 200 younger children and their families about composting at events, including Healthy Kids Day and Earth Day.

Ramsey County-Funded Projects

Highland Business Association

One of the goals of this project was to increase recycling at Highland Fest. Green Team Volunteers educated attendees at Highland Fest about recycling, and they recycled 1 ton more than last year! Highland Business Association also had a booth at Highland Fest, and over 1,000 people came by to learn more about recycling. The second goal was to teach students to educate other youth and the larger community about what they can do to increase recycling and encourage reuse. During the school year, Cretin Durham Hall students sold Earth Day t-shirts and gave water bottles to car poolers.

Laura Jeffrey Academy

The Go Green initiative for waste reduction, recycling and composting built on earlier grant activities. The students taught family and community members about recycling, reaching a total of 731 people. The students also created art out of reused or recycled materials, as well as a bicycle-powered float. The school integrated these concepts into the STEM curriculum for students in grades 5/6 and grades 7/8. The Chili Cook-off was made green using compostable products, and waste was reduced from 75 pounds in 2012 to 43 pounds in 2013. The students also hosted a Fix-It Clinic in conjunction with Macalester Groveland Community Council.

Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Macalester-Groveland Community Council worked to prevent the unnecessary disposal of reusable or repairable household items. They hosted three Fix It Clinics and a local college swap event, reaching 230 residents total. Fix It Clinic attendees worked with volunteers to repair broken items, with a 50-70% success rate! Hundreds of pounds of waste were prevented at each Fix It Clinic. In addition, college students and community members donated or exchanged reusable items at the end of semester swap event.

Mounds View Early Childhood and Family Education

Parents learned about recent changes to recycling, how to reduce toxicity in their homes, and alternatives to harmful chemicals. Children became agents of change as they learned what is recyclable and what isn't. The ECFE had a recycling table and prize wheel at ECFE Family Fun Day so families could learn more about recycling. This project reached 300 parents and children.

Washington County Funded Project

No. St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Early Childhood and Family Programs

The Environmental Education Toolkit for Early Childhood and Family Education was used to educate 200 children and parents in the No. St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale ECFE program. They participated in hands-on activities, listened to guest speakers, and learned about recycling and non-toxic cleaners. At the Family Fun Night Carnival, children sorted recycling, made art from reused items, and watched a puppet show about recycling.

Project Highlights

These are testimonies from grantees about proud moments and results of their Community POWER grant projects, which illustrate how people are taking action to reduce waste.

We are proud that each of the congregations is making creation care and waste reduction a visible priority in their congregation, with St. Jude and St. Andrew purchasing composting bins they will use campus wide, and with St. Ambrose making their Green Fair into a major annual event. We are also proud that 55 families who had wanted to start backyard composting in Mahtomedi and Woodbury got started this spring by purchasing a discounted compost bin and instruction book.

-Sean Gosiewski, Executive Director, Alliance for Sustainability

Staff members have noticed a significant increase in cardboard, plastic, and aluminum recycling in and around the church. Several volunteers take large bags of plastic for recycling on a weekly basis, which is much more frequently than prior to the 3R's Education Project. Children are also more engaged in looking at items for their recyclability prior to disposal. All of these behavior changes have made for a positive and clean space around the Camden Community.

-Roxi Mork, Parish Minister, The Camden Promise

I am proud of our leaders learning how to work as a team and meet goals. They were in charge of doing the research and actually building the composters. They were also learning real life skills.

-Amy Rowan, Eagan YMCA Leader's Club

Emerge is most proud of making an impact in North Minneapolis by allowing youth the opportunity to lead recycling efforts in North Minneapolis. The Community Recycling Ambassadors were able to take a very creative idea and educate both youth and adults in a really fun way. The Flow Arts Crawl was the most exciting and seeing the youth in action was priceless. To create future Green Leaders is what Emerge is most proud of!

-Renisha Gray, Youth Manager, Emerge

I loved seeing how engaged people were and how they really wanted to know more about recycling. I thought they would just want the "free stuff," but they really wanted to spin the wheel and ask questions. I think the atmosphere of the entire event was very pro-recycling. The community recycled a ton more at Highland Fest than last year.

-Kari Tierney, Executive Director, Highland Business Association

We are proud that we were able to educate families about recycling and toxicity reduction. We showed parents easy ways to be and stay green and got children excited to be green!

-Tracy Tessier, Early Childhood Family Programs Coordinator, ISD 622 ECFE

I am most proud of the fact that our community very much liked the materials presented. The community members took away a great sense of pride and knowledge in their education in hazardous waste and recycling. I feel like they truly will take in the materials learned and commit to better recycling in the future.

Sunny Chanthanouvong, Executive Director, Lao Assistance Center

We are most proud or excited about the youth and their growth of knowledge. Youth were very engaged and had a bunch of energy, willing to volunteer their time to go into classroom to work with the English students, and very conceptual with the materials. Not

only did the ABE students learn about recycling, moreover, we as a group also learned a lot from each other and from this project too.

-Choua Lee, Lao Family Community of MN

The girls really excelled at taking the theory and ideas behind behavior change and put it into action. The creation of toys made from recycled materials, engagement in environmental stewardship, and the building of the recycled bicycle powered float speaks for our scholars.

-Lizzie Forshee, STEM Teacher, Laura Jeffrey Academy

We are really proud of the success of the Fix-it Clinics we hosted. We run a lot of events and the Fix-it Clinics were among the most enjoyable for attendees, volunteers, and organizers that we have put together. Attendees were excited to learn new fixing skills and thrilled to ring the bell when their items could be fixed. The volunteer Fixers shared knowledge and worked cooperatively, staying later than their shifts to fix one last item or carry supplies to a car. Several Fixers asked if we could increase the frequency of events to monthly. Working with Fixity was a positive experience from start to finish and their staff's expertise ensured that each event ran smoothly. The social capital and renewed ethic of repair and reuse built in the community will endure.

-Lauren Anderson, Recycling & Environmental Coordinator, Macalester-Groveland Community Council

We are proud of intentionally providing information to a large number of parents about toxicity in the household and how they can reduce it. However, I think we are most proud about our recycling efforts and feel that we have had a major impact on parents and children recycling. We have also impacted staff in our own school building with the addition of new recycling receptacles.

-Susan Stoner, Early Childhood Programs Coordinator, Mounds View Early Childhood Family Education

The awareness of composting that was created was great and many students will carry the information home, particularly the students that brought home the compostable boxes. They were all excited to watch the progress of their composting box! Having a tangible product, the composting bin, ensures that someone will be able to continue the project without much additional cost.

-Kate Kampa, Program Specialist, Minneapolis Public Schools Community Education

The most exciting piece was how shockingly bad for you toxic cleaners are and how passionate our students became over this issue. Because we learned with our students, all of us were floored when we learned about the cleaners we are using every day. This project was very successful and I imagine it will have a snowball effect throughout the community. People were shocked and involved.

-Mary Cullen, Instructional Leader, Nawayee Center School

We were able to impact so many people in a positive and fun way. We were also able to increase the amount of recycling we were able to help collect. This is a great way to impact the community as well as bring different social and cultural groups together in a positive way.

-Dusty Dennis, Teacher, Stillwater Area High School

Engaging and empowering students as ambassadors for positive social change was the single most important outcome! Witnessing students become engaged in developing and producing a video to educate their peers, family and the community was very inspiring. This

grant enabled teachers, business leaders, media experts, governmental agencies, community organizations, parents and concerned citizens to work with students to help make our schools, our businesses and our community a greener and better place to live, learn, work and play. This grant solidified the enthusiasm of district leadership to support current and future waste reduction and recycling activities.

-Richard Scott, Director of Grants & Development, Waconia ISD 110

Sharing Waste Reduction Messages

Traditional grantees were asked to tell us how they shared waste reduction messages and promoted RethinkRecycling.com with peer organizations. Below are a few examples.

The Camden Promise gave an update to the Lind-Bohanen Neighborhood Association on our community's recycling efforts and shared the games and resources for kids and parents.

Lao Family Community shared their curriculum and volunteers engaged with youth at United Cambodian Associates and Vietnamese Social Services. A total of 125 people were reached at these organizations.

Nawayee Center School presented their results to nine people at a MIGIZI Communications staff meeting. Also, flyers and the poster were shared with South High School at the August in-service by the Phillips Indian Educators, reaching 65 additional people.

Students from Waconia ISD 110 utilized information from the Carver County Environmental Center as part of their Newscast video. The students also filmed at their location. The Newscast link was shared with representatives to use on their website. Information pertaining to the Living Better...Living Green project along with a link to the video was shared with representative at the Minnesota Department of Education as part of the Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Award application. Waconia Public Schools was one of nine districts across the USA who won this award in 2014.

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.

From Alliance for Sustainability's project, St. Andrew, St. Jude, White Bear Unitarian Universalist and St. Ambrose will continue to include seasonal updates on recycling, composting and HHW reduction in their congregational newsletters and spring or fall congregational creation care events. The city-wide events, Mahtomedi's RITE of Spring and St. Ambrose Green Fair, will continue to offer non-toxic cleaner making activities and compost bin distribution events.

The Camden Promise team has determined this program to be a success and look forward to utilizing the children's education units and games, as well as adult resource sheets and containers, to help further strengthen a culture committed to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Eagan YMCA Leader's Club will continue to visit camp (where the composter is) to do presentations in the summer. They will present to the ECLC classrooms through the school year. They will also present and demonstrate how the composter works at Healthy Kids Day.

Emerge will continue to implement the hands-on recycling activities within our Youth

Employment Educational Services Program (YEES) in North Minneapolis. We have already started additional green efforts by Partnering with Nice Rides Pilot Orange Bike project to promote reducing pollution by cycling. Thus far, Emerge has 10 participants that are active in the program. The YEES program is also working on having a couple of the Community Ambassadors join the Green Team at Emerge to assist with green efforts when we move into the New Technology Center.

Highland Business Association will work with vendors at Highland Fest earlier next year to share their expectations of being green.

ISD 622 (North St Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale) Early Childhood and Family Program will continue to educate and inform families on waste reduction and recycling through classroom parent discussions and children's activities.

Lao Assistance Center is doing another grant project in 2014-2015. They hope to create web content that they can distribute on social media. This includes a flash video/animation with narration in Lao, videos, PowerPoint presentations, etc.

Curriculum created will be embedded into the overall curriculum at Laura Jeffrey Academy throughout a two year loop. LJA is advocating hosting a yearly Fix-It Clinic. Every month LJA scholars will be writing "Green" Tips and publishing within the newsletter that is sent out to the LJA families and community supporters. LJA will continue to present at WaterFest and promote environmental stewardship through their display table.

Macalester-Groveland Community Council plans to host another spring swap event in 2015 timed with college move-outs. Partnering with the Epilepsy Foundation to collect leftover items will also be a key part of the 2015 event. Though MGCC will not have the resources to host another Fix-it Clinic without future funding, Fixity has continued to offer Fix-it Clinics in St. Paul based on the event model we developed through the grant period. Our organization has received numerous calls from residents eager to attend another Fix-it Clinic and we will promote events through our communications.

Mounds View ECFE will continue to use the online Community Education toolkit to provide information to parents. They will continue to provide information especially about recycling in their monthly EC Extra newsletter.

Minneapolis Public Schools' autism program at Ramsey Middle School is being encouraged to continue the gardening and composting program with their students. Also, AmeriCorps volunteers will work with the other students at Ramsey Middle School to gauge interest in continuing the program in the fall or spring of next year.

Families will continue to use green cleaners as will Nawayee Center School. We have bottles remaining for new students to also learn about and make green cleaning products for use at home.

Stillwater Area High School will continue to participate in the collection of and encouragement of recycling at high school events.

Information and lessons learned from the Community POWER grant will be used for future planning on waste reduction and recycling initiatives at Waconia School District. A partnership has been established with Carver County Environmental Center to expand organic recycling across the district. Because of this partnership, organic recycling has been initiated at an elementary school and Clearwater Middle School. The program will be

expanded to Waconia High School within the next two years. Educational banners, Rethink-Recycling tote bags and brochures obtained through the Community POWER grant will be made available at future community events in collaboration with Waconia High School Conservation Club.

Lessons Learned—in their Words...

Grantees provided insights about challenges and lessons learned in their final reports. Below is a summary of those experiences.

Challenges

We were not able to get additional momentum for waste reduction going with the congregations in Stillwater including Trinity, Ascension, First Presbyterian and St. Peters. We had good conversations with lead volunteers in each of the churches but they did not have time to get started on a waste reduction campaign because of their other congregational projects – Trinity and First Presbyterian (rain gardens) Ascension (community solar) and St. Peter’s UCC (a new community garden.)

Looking back, there are lots of things I would've done differently regarding the grant. I would've worked harder to get another couple composters built. I would've also worked more with the ECLC side to do more presentations.

The challenge for the project was getting the adults at Camden Villages transitional housing to change their recycling habits. Most of them were stuck in their ways, although they did do what they could to assist the youth in their efforts. Community Power staff provided a good training with a professor from Macalester College which addressed this topic and the Youth Coordinator was able to bring back that information to the team to utilize in our project.

Our biggest challenge was working with the High School - They had so much great energy and ideas but it was difficult to get commitment during the summer. They did come through so it all worked out.

Challenges are finding volunteers who are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about waste issues and asking the English students to take a pledge, which was ineffective and hard for the English students to grasp the concept and purpose of the pledge.

Our biggest challenge was planning the reuse swap event. Originally we intended to work closely with local colleges to host a move-in/move-out event and offer a free neighborhood service to pick up items from off-campus housing and transport them back to a storage facility. We quickly realized that none of the local charities were able to do such large-scale weekend pick-ups and that neither college had a space to store so many items. Additionally, the level of staff coordination required to host an event of that level was beyond the scope or budget of the mini-grant. So we turned our efforts toward planning a free swap event next to one of the colleges that was timed with graduation and spring move-out. Though it took place on a busy weekend right before our project manager went on leave, the swap was pretty well-attended and really enjoyable for volunteers and participants. We definitely plan to host the swap again next year.

Coordinating the logistics of a social media campaign with students posed a challenge. Grant program coordinator at our school needed to rely on other school personnel to connect with students and request that they post a link of the Rethink Recycling Video to

their social media accounts. Follow-through presented a challenge since this was primarily a voluntary request. The students who participated in the video production were great. In-person events were also very successful in engaging participants and encouraging them to complete a Pledge Card.

Staffing and Timeline Changes

It was very hard to learn a new job, while trying to incorporate this grant. Another staff person applied for this grant last year, and I transitioned into his position here at the Eagan Y. I was lucky because he was still at the Y, just in a different capacity, so he was able to explain lots of different aspects to me, but that was definitely a change. It was just truly bad timing because it was a transition year for our YMCA staff.

The execution of the grant took significantly more administrative time than originally planned. This became more difficult with unexpected health concerns limiting the administrative hours available for the project in general.

Our only challenge was finding enough staff to help due to staff changes in our program.

There was a change in contact person and a change in timeline to reflect organization transitional occurrences. The organization had to let go of most of its staff in April due to the loss of other grant funding. The Community POWER project had to end early.

This was the first time our organization had received a mini-grant (our previous two POWER grants were traditional), and a big lesson we learned was that it's a challenge to keep the scale of a mini-grant project in check. We were so excited about the Fix-it Clinics and reuse event, but it was easy to be overly ambitious about how far the resources of the mini-grant would stretch.

The biggest challenge was finding a teacher with the knowledge and passion to lead the project after the original teacher became unavailable.

Our greatest challenge was scheduling the field trips. We couldn't visit the recycling center and the Hennepin County hazardous waste sites were not available on the days we needed. This was somewhat frustrating. However, these were small challenges.

Outreach Techniques

It is important to send quarterly or monthly seasonal action tips from the SWMCB and Washington County to the green team leaders and newsletter editors of these congregations to continue to engage their members. Also engaging children and youth in more hands-on environmental learning activities will also help engage families in these congregations.

When the Youth Coordinator went and explained the project to staff they were like 'oh another thing to do', but when we involved the youth it was more acceptable and we saw changes in behavior. It is important to set the clear outcomes of what your organizational goals are in regards to recycling as well not to expect too much change right away.

We learned that we should start earlier with the advertisement and marketing of our Family Event.

Working with students with limited English proficiency, you have to make your curriculum more hands-on with pictures so they are easy to understand.

This grant provided an opportunity to gain a better insight into those factors that motivate and inhibit behavior change, both at the personal and community level. It became evident that parents are highly motivated to make behavior changes based on their child's recommendation and/or involvement. When students get excited and deeply engaged in waste reduction and recycling initiatives, and are provided an opportunity to share those activities with their parents, it becomes very difficult for parents to ignore their child's encouragement. When both kids and their parents become excited about something, the rest of the community pays attention, and is more willing to support those initiatives.

Collaborate with others who have a shared interest, but try to unify your message and branding so the community hears and sees the same thing through multiple media formats and at different locations and times.

Best Practices - Reporting

It is important to begin tracking your surveys in the beginning so that there is less build up of work at the end of the grant cycle.

Document along the way.

Ask for Help

Ask for help before the end of the grant period. There was nothing that the Community Power staff could have done differently, they were awesome! Jenny from Dakota County answered any questions I had and even met with us a couple of times.

Utilize the Community Power Staff as they are very knowledgeable and have good resources, materials, knowledgeable trainers, and toolkits.

Use Community Power Grant staff for help and to answer questions. They are all very knowledgeable and helpful.

Keep an open line of communication with Community Power staff and ask for help if needed.

The presentations by Community Power staff both on site and at other locations were also extremely beneficial.

Resources

The support Community Power offered is incredible. The resources that they have are very popular.

It usually takes more time, expertise and resources to accomplish your outcomes than expected. It is often better to focus your topic and saturate your activities and community outreach/education on that topic, than trying to cover it all.

Feedback on the Community Education Toolkit

Grantees were asked if they used the new Community Education Toolkit, if it was helpful, to explain why or why not and what changes would they recommend. They were also asked if

there were specific items that would help with their outreach, such as translated materials, supporting materials or activities.

Ten of the 16 residential grant project planners stated that they used the Community Education Toolkit and almost all the grantees who used it said it was helpful. Below are comments regarding the toolkit.

How was the toolkit useful?

The Toolkit and County resources on composting and HHW collection and events were fantastic.

The toolkits were helpful being that they contained all the information needed to be able to educate others about the topic at hand. They were accessible and easy to get.

It had great ideas and wonderful information for parents.

The kit was very helpful and hands-on to show the students and volunteers.

The Community Education Toolkit is very useful; we've used it both as a grantee and outside of grant activities. Having educational articles and social media information at our fingertips allows our organization to include waste reduction messages as part of our regular communications. I love having seasonal topics and can typically make small edits so they're applicable to our neighborhood.

Very helpful. Jam packed with information and activities for parents and children.

Provided resource material used for the Newscast video - statistics and resources.

Is there anything you would recommend adding or changing in the Community Education Toolkit?

Continue to strengthen the key actions folks should take in each month of the year, and make it available for newsletters.

More "fun" facts would be great. Keep updating them - there were a few changes to the recycling rules.

Are there specific items that would help with your outreach, such as translated materials, supporting materials or activities?

I think more social network facts would be great.

Translated materials would be nice.

One of the challenges we faced was lack of materials in Lao. We had to translate some material and it became too difficult to keep up with. So in the end we ended up giving materials in English and simply giving an overview in Lao. To combat this, materials could be given to LACM earlier for a translation.

Translated materials and supporting materials will be helpful.

I've borrowed some of the large SWMCB banners and picked up handouts, but beyond that a lot of the fun display materials and activities are huge and difficult to transport when other event materials are factored in. Most of the materials for check-out seem to be focused on recycling and packing waste reduction and it would be great to have more that are focused on composting.

Continue to provide the free giveaways.