



CREATING SUSTAINABILITY

in our schools

PROJECT STATUS

Project Year: 2016-2018
Status: Complete
Category: Education
Location: Jefferson, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes
Project Partners: West Jefferson High School, Ellender Memorial High School, and South Terrebonne High School



BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM ADDRESSED

Louisiana is long known for its beautiful marshes, bayous and wildlife, but an ongoing littering problem is affecting its beauty. The average American generates 4.4 pounds of trash per day, or 254 million tons per year. Our Sportsman's Paradise is covered in cigarette butts, cans, bottles and plastic bags. Litter doesn't just make our neighborhoods look bad, it's destroying our wildlife and environment. Over 80% of littered items are recyclable.



STUDENTS IMPACTED:

Total: 3,411
South Terrebonne High School: 1,013
West Jefferson High School: 1,379
Ellender Memorial High School: 1,019



Students from three local high schools learn about implementing recycling programs in their schools. BTNEP provided a total of 256 recycling bins across the three schools.





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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goal of this project was to help schools become more sustainable by educating about the benefits of recycling and environmental stewardship.

An email announcing the program and asking for participation was sent to 33 high schools within our program area. The response was wonderful with 8 schools requesting to participate. The first 3 were chosen: Ellender Memorial High School (Terrebonne Parish), South Terrebonne High School (Terrebonne Parish) and West Jefferson High School (Jefferson Parish).

BTNEP met with each school's administrator and students that were going to be involved directly with BTNEP. The number of bins required for each school and the logistics of the program were discussed with the participating schools.

BTNEP took advantage of the Keep America Beautiful's grant program and was allowed to order recycling bins at their rate.

BTNEP ordered 36 Hallway bins (12 per school), 201 classroom bins (67 per school) and 19 outdoor bins (6 per school and 1 extra for BTNEP events).

BTNEP set up a recycling program in each school for 1 year. A recycling dumpster was placed at the school and several recycling bins throughout the campus. BTNEP visited the school 2-3 times during 2016/2017 school year and educated at an assembly about the importance of recycling.

Because of some delays in receiving bins and setting up the program, we extended it into the 2017-2018 (\$3500) school year. All 3 school were excited to continue the program. West Jefferson's main contact, Kim Conner-Davis, took a job in New Orleans at a school outside of our estuary program area. Although she wanted to move the program to the new school, BTNEP did not feel this was appropriate to spend the funds outside of the program area.

Ellender Memorial High School and South Terrebonne High School continued the program for 2017-2018 ending in May 2018.

All 3 schools agreed that the program increased the awareness of the students on the importance of recycling. All agreed that the dumpster was consistently full on pickup dates (once per week) and that the garbage dumpsters had less trash.

West Jefferson talks of how the school "embraced recycling". They dumped 12 large recycling cans each day. "The students and teachers have been thanking me for partnering with you guys to begin the recycling initiative", said Kim Conner-Davis.

South Terrebonne's Program Leader says the "program was a huge success." And that "the teachers also started bringing recyclables from home because they were made aware of the extensive trash accumulating."

Ellender kept track of their recycling efforts through PepsiCo Recycling.

In May 2018, the programs ended. South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center saw the importance of this program in the schools and has agreed to support it moving forward. The 2 recycling dumpsters will stay in these schools and SLWDC will cover the contract for emptying the large dumpster. The schools also kept all indoor (hallway) and outdoor bins purchased by BTNEP.

CCMP ACTION ITEMS ADDRESSED

SR = Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement
EM = Ecological Management

- SR-1: Community Engagement
- SR-6: Continuing and Informal Education Programs
- SR-7: Financial Support for Educational Initiatives
- EM-17: Improvements of Water Quality through the Reduction of Inshore and Marine Debris