

THE THREE R'S: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Resources for Educators



Fall, 2018

Program Changes in Store

The Clark County Solid Waste District's education program is in transition. Steve Schlather, the program coordinator since 2008, is retiring as of Aug. 24. As this newsletter goes to print, the District is seeking to fill the position.

Although some education offerings may change during this transition, many programs will continue as before. Program Manager Bonnie Martens can do classroom presentations on recycling, composting, and nature-related subjects. Bonnie has a background as a naturalist and worked as a substitute teacher in Springfield City Schools for several years. Any teacher interested in having a presentation should contact Bonnie; her contact information is at the end of this article.

Tours of the Clark County Recycling Center can be offered to classes and to other groups,



Program Manager Bonnie Martens demonstrates different types of plastics during the Earth Day Amazing Place Challenge at Snyder Park on April 29.

such as Scouts or home-schoolers. Tours help to demonstrate facts and dispel myths about recycling. Tours usually are limited to groups of no more than 25. The District may be able to subsidize the cost of buses for a field trip.

The District can provide technical assistance for any school that wants to start or expand a recycling program. This can include consultations, help with an awareness program, a waste audit, and/or referrals to businesses that offer recycling services. In addition, the District can offer financial assistance to a school starting or expanding a recycling

program. For information about this assistance, see the article on page 3.

For more information about the district's programs, contact Bonnie Martens at bmartens@clarkcountyohio.gov or at (937) 521-2025.

The Clark County Solid Waste District is dedicated to providing learning opportunities and resources to promote waste reduction practices.

For more information, contact Bonnie Martens at 521-2025, or 1602 W. Main St., Springfield, OH 45504 or e-mail at bmartens@clarkcountyohio.gov.

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Meet KCCB's youth representative

Alison Bachowski, a senior at Emmanuel Christian Academy, has served for one year as the Youth Representative on the Keep Clark County Beautiful board. Alison answered some questions for this profile.

Activities/Interests: My interests are vast and varied from literature to medicine. I love reading, writing, volunteering, learning, and tutoring others. This year, I was a summer intern at Air Force Research Laboratories on Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

School/Career Goals: I am currently undecided between the Ohio State University and Cedarville University. Regardless of where I go, I will be studying pre-medicine.

Why were you interested in serving on the KCCB board? I've lived in Springfield my whole life, and over the years I have had the opportunity to watch parts of Springfield grow and flourish, but I have also seen some of the more neglect-



ed parts become avoided even by natives such as myself. Rather than watching it happen, I wanted to be able to be a part of a group that is focused on the beautification of Springfield and all of Clark County. KCCB has a passion for helping the city, so it has been a great opportunity to be a part of projects designed to beautify our city.

What's something you have learned from serving on the KCCB board? I've learned that small projects can make a big difference.

Whether it is a single mural on a building or a single person on a crusade to clean up downtown, all of these projects work together to restore

our county.

What's one thing you do to help keep Clark County beautiful? I do a lot of small projects to clean up litter in both Clark and Greene counties. Additionally, I work with a lot of families I know to encourage recycling.

OEEF offers environmental education grants

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) provides grants for projects to educate the public about environmental issues. Grants are offered in two categories: mini-grants of \$500 to \$5,000 and general grants of up to \$50,000.

Schools, universities, park districts, municipalities, outdoor education centers, state agencies, non-profit groups, and others may apply. The grants are accepted in two annual cycles, with one round due in January and a separate round due in July.

Grant proposals should target a specific audience: pre-school through university students and teachers, the general public, or the regulated community, including farmers. A match of at least 10% is required, and an application receives more points for a larger match.

Each year, OEEF publishes areas of interest that are priorities for funding. The priority areas for 2018, examples of past grant winners, and more information are available at the OEEF web page, epa.ohio.gov/oeef/EnvironmentalEducation.

District helps schools to reduce waste

Ridgewood School wants to increase its recycling, create compost for a garden, and incorporate these subjects into students' learning.

The school has been helped by a grant from the Solid Waste District, which provided eight desktop recycling containers, 14 classroom containers, two children's books about recycling, and lime powder to help compost leftover food from lunch.

Dan Metzger, a social studies and math teacher, has organized the recycling effort.

"The goal of this program is to increase the amount of materials that we recycle while also reinforcing the importance of reusing and reducing," Metzger wrote in the school's application. "We want the students to consistently think about recycling material throughout the building from the classrooms to the offices to the cafeteria to the garden."

Metzger said the recycling project will play a role in the school's learning outcomes. Art teacher Molly Loftis often involves reusable items in her students' projects. The reuse projects will be connected to STEM projects in math and science classes.

"The entire student body will benefit from this program along with faculty and staff," Metzger said.



Dan Metzger, a teacher at Ridgewood School, stands with the recycling equipment the school received from the Clark County Solid Waste District.

Waste Reduction Assistance

- The Solid Waste District can provide support of up to \$500 for waste reduction programs in Clark County schools.
- Eligible programs can include starting a recycling program, enhancing a current recycling program, or a field trip or other educational program that deals with solid waste issues.
- Apply for assistance by downloading an application form from the District's web site, www.32trash.org. Go to the "Schools" page and click on the application link.
- Anyone interested should call Bonnie Martens at 521-2025 to discuss their proposal before applying.

**Visit the Clark County Solid Waste District on the Web at www.32trash.org.
Or call 521-2025 for information about our programs and services.**



Students at Emmanuel Christian Academy won the contest last spring to design a decorated rain barrel for Keep Clark County Beautiful. The rain barrel was raffled off to raise funds for KCCB's beautification projects, such as buying flowers for townships or villages. The photo above shows the students with the finished rain barrel and the winning design. Pictured are, from left, Bailey Troutwine, Maleah Wellmann, Alaina Fisher, Brandon Savard, Thomas Mullins, teacher Emma Nesselroade, Lucas Coffman, Austin Schwierking, and Hayley Penrose. Look for information in the January newsletter about the next design contest, which will be open to all high school students in Clark County.

Center offers environmental lessons

Students can learn about resource conservation, waste reduction, and environmental sustainability at the Montgomery County Environmental Learning Center, located at the Montgomery County Solid Waste District, 2500 Sandridge Drive, Moraine.

The center offers free tours to schools, community groups, and other organizations from the region surrounding Montgomery County. Groups also can schedule meetings or events at the center. Call (937) 781-3065 or email hagansl@mcoho.org to schedule a tour. The Clark County Solid Waste District may be able to help with transportation costs for local



schools wanting to plan a field trip.

The center includes educational displays about solid waste, water/sewer issues, and energy. The exhibits teach about litter prevention, recycling, where trash goes, water and energy conservation, the carbon cycle, and more. The center emphasizes teaching individuals how they can become more environmentally sustainable.

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