

# I. Pre-Recycling

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## **Mission Statement**

Former student Dan Bain and teacher Tom Stork started the Athens High School recycling program during the school year of 1991/92. The recycling program thrived for a year or so and then fell by the wayside. In 1996, Dan's brother Will Bain, Mr. Stork, Robert Weinfurtner and several other teachers and faculty decided to pick up the program again. The main purpose was to knock out three big recyclable waste stream: Cardboard paper, and aluminum cans. The first cardboard recycling dumpster was installed by the group, and an awareness program around the school was begun as well.

The program flourished until the year 2000, When the halls of AHS Underwent a facelift and renovation. Construction caused the program to be put on hold for two years. In 2002, Weinfurtner's Advanced Ecology class undertook the task of revitalizing the program in the school and presently the program operates on a daily basis.

### **Goals and Objectives of the Recycling Program:**

The recycling program serves many purposes and has many goals and objectives to fulfill in order to successfully make a positive impact on the school and environment.

### **Goals and Corresponding Objectives:**

- 1) Save Money- Each year the school uses approximately \$236 a month to remove waste from the property. A successful recycling program can cut this figure significantly by creating less waste and non-reusable products around school that need to be disposed.
- 2) Help the surroundings Community's environment. By recycling, Athens High School students and faculty help clear the area of waste and litter, allowing the surroundings community to remain beautiful.

- 3) Teach students how to protect their natural resources when recycling, students learn to respect the environment while also learning the value of reusing non-renewable natural resources to protect the future land.
- 4) Aid organizational skills the recycling program requires quite a bit of excellent organization, and by implementing the program students learn the universal skills needed for life.
- 5) Keep Athens High School's campus clean. A clean campus environment provides for a better learning experience. Living and working in a dirty environment is unhealthy.
- 6) Provide a sense of pride in the school as a part of the Athens community. Students who participate in the program begin to see the effect that recycling has on the school area, As well as a sense of pride about their accomplishments and the ensuing beauty.

JEM/SPM

# Why Recycle?

Recycling should be done for many reasons, both environmental and economical. The benefits of recycling can be reaped by the entire world for many generations to come.

## **Environmental Reasons for Recycling:**

Every ton of recycled paper saves up to seventeen trees, aiding in reducing water and air pollution. Trees produce oxygen and naturally filter the air, allowing for cleaner air around the world. The more trees there are, the cleaner the air will be, and the healthier our lives may be.

Recycling also reduces the amount of space needed for landfills. Currently, landfills are under pressure because of the increased demand for space and the effects of the waste disposal process. The environmental requirements for landfills are beginning to grow, from controlling the gasses stemming from the waste products to control of toxic leaching. Toxic leaching occurs when materials buried within the landfill leak out and pollute the surrounding area. However, when items are recycled instead of thrown away, the possibility of pollution produced declines greatly.

## **Economic Reasons for Recycling:**

Recycling save money in waste disposal costs by reducing the amount of trash in the waste stream. As the amount of waste increases, so does the amount of money that has to be spent to dispose of it properly. Government regulation force waste disposal companies to spend excruciatingly high amounts of money yearly to secure the landfills, and as more waste is added and more space is needed to accommodate the waste, the

amount of money needed increases. Thus, the consumer ends up paying the difference in higher waste removal bills.

By recycling these bills are cut to a minimum, because recycling is much cheaper (FREE for Athens High School) and effective.

## **Preparation Work**

Any successful recycling project begins with a number of very important things that must be done. Recycling is not something that will start by itself, but takes careful planning and consideration to ensure its success. Use – but don't limit yourselves to – the following guidelines to get started with recycling. These steps along with novel and inventive ideas that you have will give your recycling program a good kick-start.

### Education/Advertisement

**Announcements:** Posters, fliers, and morning announcements are very good ways to educate the student body and the faculty. Be sure to include facts that apply to the everyday lives of the people you are trying to educate.

**Surveys to Teachers:** Ask each individual teacher the following: 1. Will they recycle? 2. What will they recycle and how much? 3. When is the best time to collect? Follow-ups are also important to measure the productivity and efficiency of the program. Be sure to record and archive the information collected.

Note: Good posters and information can be found in the manual.

### Physical Prep Work

**Establish Routes:** With the information that can be collected from the teacher's survey, plan the routes that would work best for the workers. Remember that the workers may slowly alter this route into one that works better for them. This is okay, but make sure that all recycling is collected with the new routes.

**Distribute Recycling Bins:** Pass out recycling bins – these can be obtained by calling Mr. Tom O’Grady (*see contacts*) – to teachers. Keep in mind the objects that they will be recycling. Remember: if they aren’t sorting, they aren’t recycling, so provide enough bins so that they can properly sort their recyclables.

**Secure Workers:** The workers make the backbone of the recycling program, so remember to be nice to them! The special education classes are usually more than happy to help, so talk to them first. Be sure to also secure a back up group of workers that can fill in for the regulars in the event of a field trip. If worse comes to worst, you can pick up the recycling yourselves!

**Prepare Collection Carts:** Talk to the recycling director about the collection carts. Remember they need to have trash bags. They may need to be oiled or fixed so that they move easily and quietly through the hallways causing no disruption.

## Contacts

Tom O'Grady

740-797-2133

Tom is an all-purpose source of information on recycling. He helped us get the program started and is always available to do presentation. He is also the person to talk to if additional bins or labels for them are needed.

Athens/Hocking Recycling Center

740-797-4208

These are the people who collect our recyclables. If one of the recycling bins outside is filled and needs to be emptied, these are the people to call.

Dave McAllister

740-797-4944

Mr. McAllister is the person to talk to about the school's funds that are spent on trash removal. These facts help when conducting educational programs.

Additional notes: If a problem ever occurs involving the confusion between garbage waste and recycling, the maintenance staff at the high school may have the answer. Mr. Meek, is also a very good person to talk to about any problems.

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# Internet Contacts

Athens/Hocking Recycling Center

<http://www.frognets.net/~recycle>

Ohio Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/recycling>

National Recycling Coalition

<http://www.nrc-recycle.org/>

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/>

United States Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/>

Results of the National REI Study

<http://www.nrc-recycle.org/resources/rei/studyresults.htm>

Recycling Links of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/recycling/pages/mktlinks.htm>