



Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

case study

Weymouth Public Schools Textile Recycling Program

Each year the Town of Weymouth's residents and businesses throw out approximately 1,100 tons of textiles that could be recycled or re-used. In this unique textile recycling program, schools collect clothing and other textiles from students and families to raise funds and educate the community about the environmental benefits of keeping textiles out of the trash.

Community Population:	53,743
Total WPS Enrollment:	7,048
Number of Schools:	1 Pre-K; 8 primary, 2 middle, 1 high school

Program Overview

- The Weymouth Public Schools (WPS) instituted a district wide textile recycling initiative in April 2012 in partnership with the Weymouth Department of Public Works, Bay State Textiles and the South Shore Recycling Cooperative.
- The program is part of the School-Community Partnership Program which generates financial support for school activities and provides students with authentic learning opportunities in the community.
- Each school has a 4' x 4' x 6' container for textile donations which is accessible for drop-off 7 days a week.
- Bay State Textiles (Pembroke, MA) supplies the containers and empties them up to 3 times per week.
- "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly": All types of clothing, footwear, handbags, and household textiles are accepted, in any condition (must be dry and free from oily substances).
- Bay State Textiles provided each participating school with a \$250 start-up incentive and pays schools \$100 per ton of textiles collected.
- The Program Coordinator tracks results monthly, monitoring each school's pounds collected, money earned, pounds per student ratio and pounds collected per pickup.

Contest and Publicity

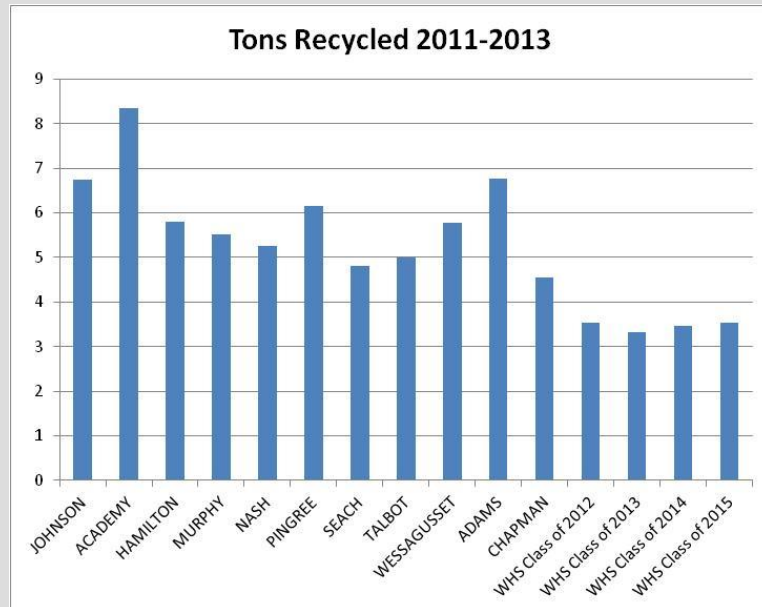
- Weymouth Public Schools launched the textile recycling program with a contest among the schools.
- An informational postcard was mailed to all Weymouth households (17,500) to encourage residents to donate textiles to the school of their choice.
- A \$500 bonus was awarded to the top performing school based on student ratio.
- WPS has engaged various community partners (businesses, institutions) that sponsor contests and provide awards.
- Publicity and program results are communicated through the Weymouth Public Schools website, Weymouth Pride Newsletter, banners, flyers at School-Community Partners locations, public cable "information scrolls", press releases, Alert Now emails and phone calls.
- Proceeds benefit the WPS goal of infusing 21st Century Skills through supplemental support (educator support, professional development, technology, and extra-curricular activities).
- The public goal is to communicate the benefits of textile recycling for Weymouth schools and students, the Dept. of Public Works, and the environment.

Expansion and Development

- In Spring 2013, printed bags (20,000) were distributed to Weymouth residents and School-Community Partners indicating drop-off locations, acceptable donation items and partner acknowledgements.

Waste Reduction Results April 2011 through June 2013

- 78.7 tons of textiles diverted from landfills and incinerators
- Increased awareness of textile recycling throughout the community



Financial Results

- Each school received \$250 for participating and \$100 per ton recycled
- \$7,877.50 earned for the collected textiles
- WPS was awarded an additional \$6,000 in participation bonuses
- A total of \$13,877.50 was raised by WPS to provide supplemental funding for Educator Support, Professional Development, Technology and Extra-Curricular Activities

Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
Deval Patrick, Governor

Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs
Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.,
Secretary

Department of
Environmental Protection
Kenneth L. Kimmell,
Commissioner

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in alternate format by calling
our ADA Coordinator at
(617) 574-6872.



For More Information

Betsy Harris, Community Relations Liaison for Weymouth Public Schools, at 781-335-1460 x20319, or elizabeth.harris@weymouthschools.org

Bay State Textiles, www.baystatetextiles.com or Kathryn Larsen at
Kathryn.baystatetextiles@gmail.com