

## 2003 Minnesota Green School Audits Summary

Schools that participated in the Green School Audit Project are: Bloomington Jefferson High School, Hopkins High School, Minnetonka High School, and Apple Valley School of Environmental Studies.

Here are some interesting facts:

### *Bloomington Jefferson High School*

- There are 1,684 students and 180 employees in this school.
- “Hope” is the school’s environmental group. This group discusses energy and environmental policy issues and raises environmental awareness in the school.
- In the past two years there has been only **one** Environmental Science class offered, and it got discontinued because of lack of students who signed up for it. There is only **one** teacher teaching this class.
- The school’s annual use of electricity amounts to **2,844,639 KWH** and that means that per capita annual use is **1,422 KWH**.
- The institution took steps towards reducing energy consumption by installing **computerized controls**, fluorescent lights, and decreasing the use of air conditioning.
- All **showers** in the school are **low flow** and the toilet mechanisms are being replaced by more efficient units.
- The total amount of waste generated **annually** is **936 yards**, which means that one person generates **0.5 yards** of waste **per year**. The amount of waste that gets recycled is **624 yards a year**.
- The school does not have a composting program but the school district services pick up their compost.
- In its cafeteria the school has disposable utensils and unbleached paper napkins.
- Jefferson High School is a **leader in Schools for Energy Efficiency** program and saved \$11,000 due to that program past year.
- The school does not take great advantage from locally grown and organic produce.
- The school started the use of pesticides and herbicides last year.
- **Double-sided printing** is only encouraged in this school but is still **not a rule**, and printing is **free**. The recycled content paper has not been an option in the school.
- Little amounts of mass e-mailing occurs, **mass mailings** are still **prevalent**.
- Teachers are encouraged to re-use their handouts.
- Unfortunately, products purchased by the school are usually non-recyclable.
- There are still some **mercury compounds present** in the school, although they are stored in a special chemical room. The school is now trying to get rid of them with help from the state.
- There was no information provided on **transportation and parking** in the school.

### *Hopkins High School*

- There are 2,100 students and 175 employees in this school.
- Earth Club is the school’s environmental group that deals with such issues as recycling, fundraising to buy rain forest, and pollution credits. The club managed to get fair trade coffee into the cafeteria and is working on getting a more efficient recycling program.

- Some of the creative tactics of the school's student organization for recruiting more active members are: posting posters around, selling T-shirts, organizing Earth Week events and concerts.
- There are three courses related to the environment, one of which is the Energy and Power-Technology education class. Some of these classes have a field and adventure component to them. The number of teachers teaching these courses varies from 2 to 6.
- The school's annual use of electricity amounts to **3,144,489 KWH** and that means that per capita annual use is **1,382 KWH**.
- T8 and compact fluorescent lights have been universally installed in the school. The district in which the school is located is considered to be retrofitted to the **new energy efficient standards**.
- The total amount of waste generated **annually** is **3,744 yards**, which means that one person generates **0.6 yards** of waste **per year**. The amount of waste that gets recycled is **1,344 yards a year**. Thus, 36% of waste generated is recyclable.
- The school owns a composting system for the cafeteria wastes.
- The school's cafeteria uses disposable utensils and bleached napkins.
- The school's Dining Services take advantage of the local produce and have many organic along with vegetarian options.
- No information on **landscaping and grounds management** was provided.
- Double-sided printing is **mandated** in the school but none of the recycled content paper is utilized.
- The school **encourages mass e-mailing** and tried to reduce the mailings.
- In terms of purchasing materials, the school's policy has been "**Go for best price, not for the environment.**"
- The institution **does not encourage alternative transportation** means and has **no bike racks** on its territory. Carpooling is encouraged but is not taking place.
- The school has **no idling policy**.
- **Clancy**, the mercury-detecting dog visited the school last year and **detected no mercury**.

### ***Minnetonka High School***

- There are 2,450 students and 200 employees in this school.
- Earth Club is the school's environmental group that deals with such issues as recycling, organizing the battery drive, purchasing rain forest, and putting up the Earth Day concert.
- Creative tactics that the student organization uses to recruit new members is talking to 8<sup>th</sup> graders who could join the club during the next academic year.
- There are three environmental classes taught in this school and only **one** teacher, who teaches them.
- There was no information provided in **Energy and Utilities** part.
- Unfortunately, there was **no information** provided on the **amount of waste generated annually**. The school **disposes** of **60 yards of waste per week as trash** and **recycles 12 yards** of cardboard, **5 yards** of cans, plastics and glass, and **10-12 yards** of organics per week.
- The school does not seem to have a self-running compost program.
- In the cafeteria disposable utensils and bleached paper napkins are utilized.
- **No** advantage is taken from the **local** and **organically grown** produce.
- No information on **landscaping and grounds management, printing and paper services, and purchasing** was provided.

- This institution **does not promote sustainable forms** of transport but the school territory does have biking racks.
- The school encourages carpooling and limits parking spaces available to the students.
- The school has idling policies for the school buses.

### *Apple Valley School of Environmental Studies*

- There are 400 students and 30 employees in this school.
- This institution focuses on the preservation and conservation of the environment and strives to create environmental activists in each student through its academic programs.
- The school does not have any student activists groups.
- There is a wide variety of the environmental science courses offered in this school. There are 12 teachers, who teach these courses.
- The institution utilizes various **renewable techniques** for generating energy, the school uses **electric hot water heat**, electric energy is strictly used for lighting, and the building is **heated** by the **excess hot water from the zoo**.
- There are **many windows** in the building, which **naturally light** all areas, as well as **solar-heat** the rooms.
- The institution **uses 70% of renewable sources**, as opposed to 30% of non-renewable sources.
- The school uses minimum flow water units in the lavatories.
- The school has adopted an **environmentally friendly policy** when it was first established.
- **Independent School District 196** plays a role in adopting/changing policies related to the environmental issues.
- The institution recruits new students by organizing various hands-on projects.
- The school **recycles 75% of its waste products** and disposes of 25% as trash.
- The school's cafeteria utilizes disposable silverware and unbleached napkins.
- The Dining Services of the school **do not purchase locally grown produce** but try to buy organic food when available. There are many vegetarian options in the cafeteria.
- The school does not use any pesticides or herbicides on its grounds. The grounds are usually watered when it rains.
- The school has only **native trees and plants** planted on its territory.
- Over **90% of all printings are double-sided** but the school does not use recycled content paper.
- **Mass e-mailings are encouraged** in the school as opposed to mass mailings. Hand-outs are being re-used.
- When making purchasing decisions the institution tries to buy products that have recycling programs. The also **buys only non-toxic cleansers**.
- The institution **promotes** more **sustainable transportation** options. Carpooling, biking, and walking are strongly encouraged. Bike racks are right by the front doors. There are **flyers** all over the school that **promote carpooling**.
- There are **no idling policies in this district** and bus supervisors are the ones who monitor gas intake.
- The school is free of mercury.