



Excellence in Public Private Partnership The United States Conference of Mayors- January 2009 Executive Summary

Introduction

In November 2007, Waste Management partnered with the City of Manhattan Beach, Manhattan Beach Unified School District, and Planet Pals school parent volunteers to identify opportunities to improve current environmental policies and programs in the City's schools. The goals of this partnership were to enhance recycling programs at each school, increase diversion, reduce waste, and educate students and school staff about sustainability.

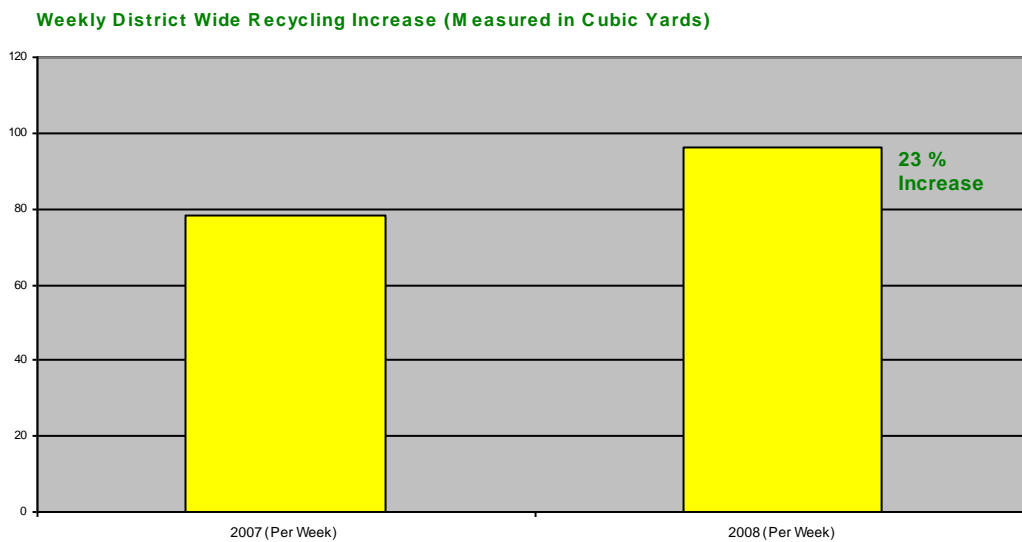
As part of this process, Waste Management performed a comprehensive district-wide waste audit and discovered numerous opportunities to increase recycling and reduce waste. In total, Waste Management audited seven public schools, including five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Following the completion of the waste audits, Waste Management provided a comprehensive audit report to the district and City staff that included an individualized Green Plan for each school. To maintain the programs, day-to-day oversight of the new programs came from the District, school staff, parent volunteers, and students, with the assistance from the City and Waste Management.

Results

As a result of these efforts, there has been an approximately 23% increase in recycling/diversion rates district-wide from last year. Below are highlights of the successes of this Public-Private partnership:

- 100% participation in office and classroom recycling at all school sites
- A district-wide recycling system established in all school cafeterias and lunch areas, including training for cafeteria employees and education materials for students
- Increased recycling service levels at five sites and increased recycling capacity at all sites, including lunch tables, playground, classrooms, and administrative areas
- On-campus composting training for school staff and parents. Lunchtime composting programs at 2 sites (led by Planet Pal parent volunteers)

- Increased demand for waste-free/ reduced waste lunches by parents, staff, and WM
- A \$5000 grant awarded by WM and its partnering agency, Keep America Beautiful, to help each school site in its sustainability efforts. The grant was used to fund projects such as science fairs, teaching materials, and increased science teacher hours.
- New “End of School Year” recycling collection program so that teachers could recycle all leftover classroom materials.
- Adoption of District-Wide Green Procurement Policy
- The implementation of free commercial recycling reduced the costs associated with waste removal to the District.



Conclusion

This ongoing public-private partnership has resulted in a sustainable, collaborative effort to help the school district be a leader in environmental stewardship. It was made possible through the strong commitment all the key stakeholders have to the environment and tomorrow’s leaders. The dedication of Planet Pals parents, students, and staff, the leadership from City Council, and the partnership with Waste Management has made this program a model for other California districts and schools. Manhattan Beach Mayor Richard Montgomery was quoted, “Through this partnership, we are teaching tomorrow’s leaders the importance of responsible environmental protection, which, in itself, is invaluable.”