

The Green Team Gazette

Volume 2, Issue 1, page 1

Back to School 2009

Back in the Business of School

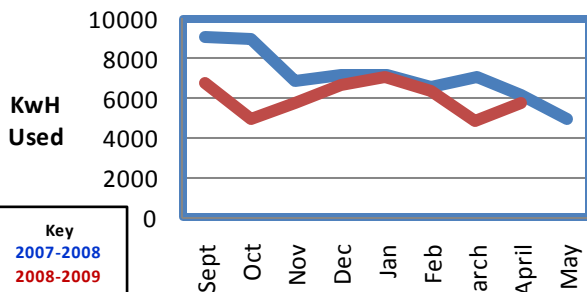
August, Labor Day, September, Back to School. 'Tis the season for the new "New Year" ...in the school setting, that is. Time to make new goals: what worked and what didn't work last year? ...and where can we go from here?



Gibson Island Country School has a lot of great green things in place. Plans are to go forward with all of our recycling efforts, composting, upcycling juice pouches with www.terracycle.net, & lights out on sunny days...the latter of which helped our overall school-wide reduction of electricity (*see graph below*). Over the summer, we put in rain gardens & rain barrels, we completed the geodesic dome greenhouse our older students built last year, and the green wall for the office is nearly finished.

Our wheels are whirring for new plans for this year ahead. What are your plans for your world?

GICS Electricity Usage



Emerald Quote du Jour

"Becoming greener is about discovering the interconnectedness of all things."

-from *Ready, Set, Green: Eight Weeks to Modern Eco-Living* by Graham Hill & Meaghan O'Neill of www.treehugger.com, 2008



Predicting Futures

There's a lot of conversation, controversy, discussion, & debate from many experts regarding the effects of global warming on our planet. Many feel we only have until about 2020 until we reach a non-reversible point, negatively-impacting Earth and its climate change. Whether we are on the ten-year timetable to the tipping point or not, we are using resources faster than ever before...many of which are nonrenewable, creating more & more pollution and waste as we go. Ten years--to children it might feel like a lifetime, and yet, that's a rather small window. Inspire your children to wrap their heads around the concept of time by posing one or more of the following journal activities:

- Where will you be in ten years?
- What will you be doing?
- What will our planet be like?
- Is there anything you can start doing now to improve our planet by 2019-2020?



For more information on climate change, go to www.stopglobalwarming.org.



Counting Your Blessing

People feel grateful for many things: friends, families, good health, wealth, security, and love. Some are expected, while others are surprising. For us, we're pretty proud and impressed with the extent of recycling services in our county. In an informal poll of friends and family in other cities and states, **Anne Arundel County, Maryland far-exceeds most when it comes to waste management and what the county will accept for recycling!!**

Seven months ago, for our 100th Day of School, as a whole community we accepted our own personal challenge: **Could we come up with 100 items that can be recycled in our county?** Armed with information from Anne Arundel County's website, we embarked on this quest. **Did we do it? You bet.** Our 2nd through 5th graders then wrote up their green thoughts. These days, at the end of a school day, it is not uncommon to have only a tiny bit of trash, while the recycling bin overflows. Check out the next page to see our list...may it help you to think outside the regular box, seeing more than just recycling soda cans and bottles, papers and veggie cans. Learn even more at <http://www.aacounty.org/DPW/WasteManagement/>.

The Green Team Gazette

is a publication co-sponsored by the founders of CynerGreen, CGKidz, and Gibson Island Country School, a Green School in Pasadena, Maryland. Our mission is to educate and share ways to "go green"—both big and small--and be environmentally-proactive at home, in school, and beyond. It is written by Vicki Dabrowka, and edited by Danelle Hoffer. Additional contributors include: G.I.C.S. Science Teacher Tim Decker; G.I.C.S. Head of School Laura Kang; CGKidz creator, twelve-year old Riley Hoffer. To learn more visit www.cynergreen.com, www.cgkidz.com, and www.gics.org.



Please print on recycled paper.

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100 Items to Recycle in AA County

1. aluminum foil or trays	51. old coloring books
2. applesauce cups	52. old game boxes
3. applesauce jars	53. old Happy Meal boxes
4. baby bottles	54. old homework
5. baby food jars	55. old lunch boxes
6. bookmarks	56. old magazines
7. book covers	57. old maps
8. broken binders	58. orange juice cartons
9. broken flower pots	59. paper
10. broken plastic toys	60. paper name tags
11. butter tubs	61. paper plates
12. candy wrappers	62. party invitations
13. cardboard	63. peanut butter jars
14. CD covers	64. pet food cans
15. cereal boxes	65. pickle jars
16. comic books	66. pizza boxes
17. cracker boxes	67. plastic buckets
18. cream cheese tubs	68. plastic chairs
19. drinking straws	69. plastic cups
20. DVD boxes	70. plastic forks
21. empty spray cans	71. plastic hangers
22. empty paper towel rolls	72. plastic knives
23. envelopes	73. plastic lids
24. foil chip/granola bags	74. plastic plates
25. foil pie tins	75. plastic razors
26. folders	76. plastic sandwich bags
27. frozen veggie bags	77. plastic soap bottles
28. fruit cups	78. plastic spoons
29. gift wrap paper	79. plastic trash cans
30. glass bottles	80. plastic trays
31. glue bottles	81. plastic tubs
32. grocery store bags	82. postcards
33. hard covered books	83. puzzle pieces
34. ice cream containers	84. salad dressing bottles
35. jello containers	85. shampoo bottles
36. jelly jars	86. shoe boxes
37. junk mail	87. shrink wrap
38. lamination	88. soda bottles/cans
39. laundry baskets	89. soup cans
40. lollipop sticks	90. spaghetti jars
41. lotion bottles	91. storage boxes
42. lunch sacks	92. syrup bottles
43. medicine bottles	93. telephone books
44. milk cartons	94. thank you cards
45. milk jugs	95. toothbrushes
46. newspaper	96. toy packaging
47. oatmeal containers	97. tuna cans
48. oatmeal containers	98. vegetable cans
49. old calendars	99. water bottles
50. old catalogs	100. yogurt cups

The Three R's

Written by GICS's 2008-2009 2nd grade class

Everyone needs to learn the three R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle. "Reduce" means to use less. "Reuse" means to use items over and over again. Recycle means putting less trash in our landfills. Learning the 3 R's will help save our environment!



Reduce

Written by GICS's 2008-2009 5th grade class

Reducing waste is easier than you think. There are many things you can do. Keeping your documents on your computer instead of printing it out will reduce waste. Washing dishes one time per week will save water. Taking shorter showers will also not waste as much water. Reusing cups will help reduce plastic trash and the production of more plastics. Working to use less every day will lead to a greener planet.

Reuse

Written by GICS's 2008-2009 3rd grade

Not only is it important to reduce the amount we have and we buy, but it is also important to reuse. Before you throw something out, ask yourself, "Can this be used again?" Let's not just add to the trash level. Reuse things. Use the backs of paper. Don't just use a baggie once, use it many times. When you pack your lunch, put your food in reusable containers. Have a garage sale. Remember that even the smallest thing adds up—don't be wasteful!



Recycle

Written by GICS's 2008-2009 4th grade class

Do you recycle at your house? There are three reasons Anne Arundel County residents should recycle. By doing so, you have less trash in the landfills. You save money by reusing recyclable things. You can also reduce plastic water bottle waste by using stainless steel reusable bottles. If you recycle at your house, you are making Anne Arundel County a greener place to live.