

# The Trash Free Schools Pledge



We recognize the importance of our watershed to the region. These waters provide vital environmental, cultural, economic, and social benefits to our quality of life. These benefits, however, are severely impaired by the many forms of trash and litter.

We agree that trash and litter in our watershed:

- ❖ Is a significant source of pollution;
- ❖ Severely degrades the visual landscape of our school grounds, as well as property values of nearby homes and businesses;
- ❖ Severely degrades the quality of life for the residents of the watershed;
- ❖ Is a major expense for taxpayers and for our local, state, and federal governments; and
- ❖ Is a preventable pollution through greater responsibility and stewardship.

We are committed to protecting our watershed through a combination of waste reduction techniques that include recycling, composting, litter prevention, cleanups, education, and green procurement activities. By accepting this challenge, we pledge to put our best effort towards vastly reducing waste and encouraging others to do the same.

As a school, we pledge to do the following:

1. Have the support of our principal/administrator to become a Trash Free School.
2. Organize a Green Team consisting of staff and students, led by a Trash Free Schools Team Leader, who embody environmental dedication with the purpose of promoting the goals of the Trash Free School Program and other environmentally sustainable policies that our school chooses to implement.
3. Begin to conduct a waste assessment within ninety (90) days of signing this pledge.
4. Establish a waste reduction program based on the findings of the waste assessment.
5. Create a litter prevention program.
6. Develop a comprehensive recycling program.
7. Integrate environmentally-responsible waste management into the classroom curriculum.
8. Educate students, teachers, staff, and the community of our efforts and successes.
9. Regularly monitor and track our trash amounts to record progress.
10. Communicate with a Trash Free Schools organizer for an annual check-in.
11. Seek and accept technical assistance when needed from the Trash Free Schools program and its partners.

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Green Team Leader's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date