

Youth Track Trash Summit 2011: 22 Students from 8th Grade Science at GW2

Students attended a brief portion of the morning plenary and then they were invited to attend roundtable sessions. While these roundtable topics may not be directly related to the issues and topics that the students chose to discuss, participating in these sessions gave the students the opportunity to learn more about what is being done to solve the trash and litter problem in the region. Students then broke out into groups to discuss both what they heard in their roundtables and also the issues they see in their community.

Then it was time for action! Three groups tackled three separate problem. Each group defined the problem to be addressed, why it was important, and how they were going to work towards solving it.

Group 1. Let's start reuse stations!

What: Our classrooms don't have enough materials in our school for us to learn, especially science to learn as much as we could.

So what: The more materials we have the more we can learn.

Now what:

Students can bring in unused or barely used items that could be used in any and all classes to help the students learn. For example, glass bottles, plastic bottles, Styrofoam cups and anything else that a teacher might need.

Group 2.

What: Our problem is that our school does not compost enough at lunch.

So what: It matters because we throw away materials that could be used in a positive way for our environment.

What now: We could address this to our principal and ask to put in more composting bins, and have the lunch ladies come around at lunch and collect compostables from students.

Group 3. **Trash:**

We will try to reduce the amount of trash we create at lunch.

-We can organize a trash free lunch week:

-During the week we will paint colorful bins to put recycling in.

-We can have competitions between GW1 and GW2. We can also get compost bins placed in the lunch room.

Awareness: make posters, competitions, colorful bins for recycling/trash/compost, speaking to P.A.C.E classes, student announcements.

-Create posters that list what is recyclable and what is not.

- ACPS waste recycling program!
- After school recycling club/green team