

news release

CBE surpasses waste reduction goal

For Immediate Release
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As Earth Day nears, the Calgary Board of Education is celebrating its success in surpassing its waste reduction goal.

In March 2008, the Calgary Board of Education set a five-year goal, committing to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill by 50 per cent. As of December, 2012, the CBE current rate of waste generation is 162,176 kilograms per month, or 1.77 kilograms per student, per month. This is a reduction of 54 per cent in kilograms per month and a 55 per cent reduction in kilograms per student, per month, from 2007-08 levels.

For the past five years, CBE employees and students have been very committed in their waste reduction efforts by implementing various programs to help achieve the 50 per cent waste reduction goal. Some of the programs include system-wide recycling of paper, mixed containers, batteries, ewaste, fluorescent tubes, library and textbooks, wood, scrap metal and organics.

In addition to participating in the system-wide programs, students engage in their own waste and recycling projects and initiatives at a school level. Vermicomposting, year-end clean out/round up, waste-free lunches, and social marketing campaigns are just some of the examples of school level initiatives.

Enthusiastic students at University School's Kids Can Conserve Club, supported by teacher Laura Smart, are leading initiatives like energy monitoring, waste reduction and organic composting. They have also written a rap song using the sound of their organic bins as drums. Their mission is to learn about saving energy and sharing their knowledge with classmates.

Don Lukinuk, school facility operator, and Peggie Reid, lead lunchroom supervisor at University School, are strong supporters of the club, working with students to reduce their energy consumption and waste. "It is really important that our students learn about composting and recycling. Our students are our 'grassroots.' If we do not teach them, how will the students know?" asks Reid.

"We are very proud of the work our dedicated employees, students and schools have completed to exceed the target we set in 2008," says Frank Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities & Environmental Services. "Their commitment to reducing waste by a significant amount is inspiring. It shows that students not only understand, but embrace, environmental ethics and the role they can play in preserving and caring for our environment."

In addition to the environmental impact, this initiative represents a significant cost-savings for the CBE. Re-evaluating waste collection schedules and bin

sizes represents a reduction of 2,540 cubic yards to date, or a savings of \$13,100 per month.

Information about the waste reduction initiative and the CBE's waste and recycling program was presented to the Board of Trustees on April 16, 2013. The report can be read [here](#).

Students from University School will be performing their compost-bin rap song to celebrate Earth Day on Monday, April 22 at 11 am. CBE representatives and students will be available to speak to media.

Date	Monday, April 22	
Time	11-11:30 a.m.	
Place	University School, 3035 Utah Drive N.W.	
Contact	Calgary Police Service Media Line 403-428-7979	Calgary Board of Education Media Relations 403-819-2317

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Note: Principals have a responsibility to limit media coverage only to students approved for interviews. Reporters attending an event are requested to receive permission from a CBE contact before interviewing or photographing students. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and for joining us in celebrating public education.

