



CASE STUDY

PRIDE SCHOOLS

THE ARITHMETIC OF WASTE REDUCTION

Schools produce a lot of waste, and it's often surprising how much of that volume is recyclable. Until February 2018, Pride Schools in Spokane was hauling its 20-yard roll-off dumpster on a weekly basis, yet over half of that waste could have been recycled. That much unnecessary waste not only impacts the environment, but it hurts a school's operating budget.

COMPLETING AN OVERDUE ASSIGNMENT

The Pride School team had already taken steps toward waste reduction, but in a frenetic work environment there was always a more pressing priority. Resource Synergy was able to take the reins, quickly identify waste-reduction needs and solutions, and expedite the implementation process to achieve significant results in a matter of weeks.

Before implementing Pride Schools' customized program, Resource Synergy consulted with teachers, administrators, custodians and kitchen staff. Upon initiation, students were incorporated into every phase of the process, beginning with a waste characterization to identify waste prevention and diversion opportunities. Resource Synergy then deployed consistent, color-coded bins and signage to promote easy participation and later trained and educated students about best recycling practices at assemblies for all middle and high school students.

EDUCATING STUDENTS WHILE REDUCING COSTS

Resource Synergy's program doubled Pride Schools' recycling volume, initiated compost collection, and reduced trash by 73%! With a total waste cost savings of 67%, the program not only paid for itself but also freed up funds that can now be redirected to other priorities.

More than 60 recycling and compost bins were deployed throughout the Pride Schools property. In total, Resource Synergy educated over 300 students, as well as their teachers and other staff members.

Removing recycling and food waste from the trash dumpster was a big win for Pride Schools, resulting in its big 20-yard dumpster being hauled once-per-month instead of once-per-week. In addition to strong financial savings, Pride Schools' recycling program visually communicates its organization's sustainability commitment while educating the next generation of environmental stewards.



Resource Synergy brought the structure and leadership that we needed. Their program is saving us money, while educating students about the value of environmental stewardship.

-BRIAN VIA, DEAN OF CULTURE