



The Green House

Green Ribbons Program

Goal: Achieve Zero Solid Waste in Schools

Inaugural School Year: 2010 - 2011

Program Summary:

The Green Ribbons program is an integrated solid waste management and reduction program. Both the students and teachers along with the assistance of Green House instructors collectively run the program. The goals are to significantly and measurably reduce solid waste school wide while educating those involved about the waste stream and landfill alternatives. The comprehensive nature of the program is key to its success and requires the participation of and support by students, faculty, and staff. Please read through the program carefully and if you have any questions feel free to contact The Green House at 524-8427 or Info@TheGreenHouseHawaii.com.

Program Components:

Resource Centers

Each classroom, office, and cafeteria will have one center where students, faculty, and staff sort all waste into four bins. Daily sorting of all materials brings awareness to the creation of “waste” and familiarity with sorting waste into categories. Bins are color coded to correspond to City and County bins.

1. Compostable (green)
2. Recyclable (blue)
3. Reusable (yellow)
4. Refusable (red/black)

Bins and signs are created by students, teachers, and staff using existing campus resources (including waste baskets, boxes, large plastic bins, cardboard, construction paper, scratch paper, pens, tape/glue).

Collection System

Custodians or students, teachers, and staff (e.g. Green Club, classroom/office chores) collect materials in four cans and deliver to compost center, recycle center, reuse center, and refuse center.

Compostable and refuseable materials may be collected daily while reusables and recyclables may be collected weekly or as needed.

Compost Center

Compostable materials include pre and post consumer food waste, newspaper, shredded office paper, manures, and yard waste. All material is composted on-site at school, using any combination of these systems:

1. Vermicompost (worm bins): no meat or dairy; no yard waste.

2. EM composting (effective microorganisms): all materials.
3. Black soldier fly larvae: no yard waste.
4. Hot composting: all materials.

Recycle Center

On-campus mixed materials recycling bin (“white bin”) provided by City and County. Accepts white and colored office paper, corrugated cardboard, HI-5’s, #1 and 2 plastics.

Reuse Center

Classroom, office, or other space to be transformed into a depot for reusable materials, including pens, pencils, folders, paper, books, etc.

Refuse Center

Any materials that are not compostable, reusable, or recyclable will be disposed of in current dumpsters. Schools will analyze contents in order to assess and address key reduction/reuse points.

Fundraising/Money Saving Opportunities for Schools

1. Sale of natural fertilizers and composts produced from composting operations.
2. White bin income and HI5 drives.
3. Reuse Center annual sales to families.
4. Decreased purchasing of supplies through reuse of items (Reuse Center).
5. Decreased hauling costs from reduced trash production.

Needs and Expectations from the School

1. Composting area(s)
2. Reuse Center (dedication of a classroom or office, plus any available shelves, boxes, bins, etc.)
3. Collection of boxes, bins, wastebaskets, and sign-making materials for Resource Centers
4. Commitment from students, teachers, administrative staff, and custodians to participate in the program. Regular participation means:
 - a. Correct sorting of wastes at the source (classrooms, offices, cafeteria)
 - b. Regular collection of materials and delivery to Centers (see “collection system”)
 - c. Operation of composting systems
 - d. Participation in educational seminars
 - e. Contacting The Green House for additional guidance and resources

Baseline Survey for Schools

1. Number of students per grade; number of faculty and staff
2. Number of school breakfasts and lunches served
3. Current method of food waste disposal
4. Current amount spent for trash hauling
5. Current income from white bin recycling
6. Any data on pounds of trash produced, etc.

Timeline and Budget

Week	Activity	Participants	Details	Program Cost
Wk 1	Initial Consultation	TGH, Faculty and staff	Discuss program details and baseline survey/data	\$100 consultation
Wk 1/2	Orientation	TGH, All students, faculty and staff	Introduce program and waste categories/sorting; games/activities about	\$100 consultation

			waste	
Wk 2	Create Green Team	Student, faculty and staff volunteers	Create a team of dedicated individuals to manage the program	None
Wk 2	Resource Center Setup	All students, faculty and staff	Create bins for all classrooms, offices, and cafeteria	None – use existing resources
Wk 2, M-F	Collect and weigh waste, save refusables	Green Team	Collect all materials from each category; weigh and record data for all categories; save all refusables in preparation for the Baseline Waste Audit (week 3)	None
Wk 2/3	Reuse Center Setup	Green Team	Create labeled boxes/bins/shelves for collection of items.	None – use existing resources
Wk 3	Baseline Waste Audit	TGH, Green Team	Analyze data (from one week of collection by Green Team); analyze reusable contents; campaign to reduce refusables	\$100 consultation
Wk 4	Compost Center Setup	TGH, Green Team	Setup composting systems, Green Team manage daily	\$100 consultation; \$300 supply budget
Wk 4-12	Program Operation	Green Team; Whole School	Daily waste sorting and collection; Compost Center management, Reuse Center management	Consultations as-needed, up to \$400
Second Semester	Check-in meeting	TGH, Faculty and staff	Check in on program operation; successes and challenges, needs, changes	\$100 consultation
Optional	Fundraiser	Green Team; whole school; families	Organize a sale of compost/fertilizer, and Reuse Center goods and crafts	Fundraiser!
Week before Waste Audit, M-F	Collect and weigh waste, save refusables	Green Team	Collect all materials from each category; weigh and record data for all categories; save all refusables in preparation for the Follow-Up Waste Audit	None
End of Second Semester	Follow-up Waste Audit	TGH, Green Team	Analyze data (from one week of collection by Green Team); analyze reusable contents; campaign to reduce refusables	\$100 consultation
End of Second	Fiesta	TGH, Whole School	End-of-Year report on progress toward Zero	\$100 consultation; \$100 supply budget

Semester			Waste; games/activities; waste-free celebration	
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Total Program Cost:

This program is co-funded by The Kokua Hawaii Foundation (KHF) and the City and County Recycling Teaching Partners Program (RTP) . In order to participate in this program schools will need to apply for both mini-grants. The KHF and RTP program websites and application forms can be found below.

Necessary Funding Sources **\$1,500**

[Kokua Hawai'i Foundation Mini-Grant Program:](#) \$1,000
[Application Form](#)

[City and County Recycling Teaching Partners Program:](#) \$500
[Application Form](#)