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NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



PRESS RELEASE

Milford (NH) Middle School Receives 3 Recycling Achievement Awards

EPSOM, NH 6/6/16– The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA), New Hampshire the Beautiful and NRRA School CLUB presented students and staff of Milford Middle School with three of the ten awards given out at 7th Annual School Recycling Conference on May 17, 2016 in Nashua, NH.

The three awards were given to the school as a result of their continued progress and sustainability with their recycling programs. The Milford Middle School students and faculty accepted the awards for Recycling Club of the Year and Best Recycling School of the Year. Milford Middle School Teacher, Joseph Gallagher, received the Recycling Club Assistant of the Year Award.

The Recycling Club of the Year Award was given to Milford Middle School based on its efforts to educate the school, staff and residents on the benefits of recycling. Efforts included having a table at the town's Labor Day Parade where they handed out recycling awareness flyers and encouraged attendees to play a trash sorting game to earn money for the school's program.

The Green Team guided their peers in the two day NRRA "Trash on the Lawn Day" exercise held in October 2015, which sorts the school's trash to determine what could have been diverted had it been composted or recycled. In addition, the team meets weekly to brainstorm ways to promote collections that earn the school money.

The Recycling Club Assistant of the Year Award was given to Joseph Gallagher, who assists the Milford Middle School "Green Team." He dedicates his lunch period to coaching students on what can be recycled in the cafeteria, he has created a reward system to acknowledge student's recycling efforts and started the school's composting program, where all food waste is collective by a local farmer. In addition, he has helped the club earn an Eco-Schools grant.

Milford Middle School also received The Best Recycling School of the Year Award. This award was given based on the school's efforts to reduce their cafeteria food waste by as much as 50%, for hosting a "Green Week" where they conducted school-wide recycling contests and created a sculpture from used water bottles.

"We are very proud of all MMS has accomplished, but most proud of how we achieved this as a whole school community," said Diane Varney-Parker, Milford Middle School Teacher. "This is a team effort. From individual teachers composting in their classrooms, to lunch attendants digging through the trash to make sure no items are thrown out that shouldn't be, to our librarian setting up an MMS recycling box at the town library, plus the ongoing support of our principal, custodians, staff and students."

A group of 16 students and faculty accepted the awards on behalf of the Milford Middle School (see picture below).

"Milford Middle School is a shining example of an eco-conscious school," said Michael Durfor, NRRA Executive Director. "We can only hope that other schools will take note and implement similar strategies."

10 awards in total were given out. For nomination details on each recipient, visit the School CLUB website www.schoolrecycling.net or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/school.recycling>

About NRRA School Recycling CLUB

The School Recycling CLUB is a non-profit group that assists schools in implementing, maintaining and improving recycling programs. The CLUB is managed by NRRA. The CLUB offers school groups a chance to join a program that will help them promote or advance their efforts, network with other school groups, and stimulate school recycling, reducing waste and save energy. To learn more, visit www.schoolrecycling.net

About New Hampshire the Beautiful

New Hampshire the Beautiful (NHtB) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Charitable Trust supported by members of the NH Soft Drink Association, the Beverage Distributors of New Hampshire Association and the New Hampshire Grocers Association. This collaborative effort by food and beverage companies has developed comprehensive programs to address, litter issues, recycling challenges, environmental awareness and education. To learn more, visit www.nhthebeautiful.org

About Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA)

Founded in 1981, NRRA provides a clearinghouse for current, up-to-date information and a source of technical and marketing assistance in the general areas of waste reduction and recycling. NRRA is a member driven organization made up of over 400 municipalities, individuals, and businesses in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Southern Maine. NRRA is a non-profit 501(c) organization. NRRA's School Club assists schools in implementing, maintaining and improving recycling programs. To learn more visit www.nrna.net.

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Milford Middle School Students and Faculty accepted three awards on May 17, 2016 in Nashua.