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NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



PRESS RELEASE – 11/16/18

Loudon Elementary Students Learn Recycling Rules

Loudon, NH – The students of Loudon Elementary spent a very rainy election day (Nov. 6) learning the rules of recycling by conducting a school waste audit, known as Trash On the Lawn Day (T.O.L.D.), in their school gym. Gwen Erley, Sarah McGraw and Lindsay Dow from NRRA’s School Recycling CLUB, trained 252 students how to identify and pull recyclables from a sampling of typical school trash. They were assisted by the school’s Environmental Kids Club along with their special guests, the members of the Loudon Recycling Committee.

Outfitted with recyclable RightCycle® gloves, each group of students was given several bags of trash which were weighed, sorted into bins, then weighed again. When sorting was completed the students had a visual record of how much of their “trash” could have been diverted from the landfill. While there was not a lot of waste (an indicator of good recycling), the students still saw opportunities to improve their efforts. The students asked lots of questions and learned that diverting recyclables and reducing food waste saves energy, natural resources and landfill space. As many students recycle at home, the members of the Loudon Recycling Committee clarified the recycling rules at the Transfer Station which differ somewhat from the school’s recycling policy.

Many thanks to Loudon Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher Brandon Raymond, who heads up the LES Environmental Kids Club and who spearheaded this event. He set up the schedule, organized the class rotations and supervised his student helpers throughout the day. Their help made the cleanup a breeze. Thanks also go out to the teachers who helped keep the students focused and for assisting with the gloves.

Special thanks to Custodian Larry Hewey, who provided invaluable assistance with logistics such as covering the gym floor, setting up tables and chairs, finding outlets and, most especially, setting up the cleanup location. This event would not have been possible without the support and assistance of Principal Catherine Masterson, who was instrumental in overseeing this all-day educational event.

Thanks to funding provided by the Loudon Recycling Committee, along with a generous grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful, this event was free to the school.

The School Recycling CLUB (The CLUB) is a program for all schools in New England and is supported by NRRA and NH the Beautiful. For students and teachers in grades K-12, The CLUB serves as a centralized organization to become more active in the world of recycling. The CLUB is a fun and innovative way to give kids encouragement, direction and networking possibilities for school recycling programs. For more information, visit www.schoolrecycling.net.

The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) is a proactive, non-profit organization formed in 1981 that works with its membership to make their recycling programs strong, efficient and financially successful. For more information, visit www.nrra.net.

New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc. (NHtB) has been a longtime supporter of NRRRA's School Recycling CLUB and environmental education in NH. NHtB is a private non-profit charitable trust founded in 1983 and supported by the soft drink, malt beverage and grocery industries of New Hampshire. NHtB offers municipal recycling grants, recycling education grants (over \$2.5 million), recycling signs, anti-litter programs and technical assistance. NHtB is a unique organization that represents a voluntarily-funded alternative to expensive legislation intended to achieve the same end results. For more information, visit www.nhthebeautiful.org/.



PHOTO 1: Loudon Elementary students show off their RightCycle® gloves before sorting the trash. (NRRRA photo)



PHOTO 2: Loudon Elementary students in action performing the school waste audit. (NRRRA photo)