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NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



PRESS RELEASE – 06/21/19

Trash Audit at Henry J. McLaughlin Middle School

Manchester, NH – On May 29, students at Henry J. McLaughlin Middle School conducted a school waste audit, known as Trash On the Lawn Day (TOLD). Educators Sarah McGraw and Julia Le May from NRRA's School Recycling CLUB, trained approximately 160 students how to identify and pull recyclables from a sampling of typical school trash.

Outfitted with recyclable 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 and quantifiable record of how much of their "trash" could have been diverted from the landfill. While the school has a good recycling program, the students still saw opportunities to improve their efforts. They were surprised by the number of whole bananas and pears they found. The students asked lots of questions and learned that diverting recyclables and reducing food waste saves energy, natural resources and landfill space. Students from the Environmental Club created an Environmental Jeopardy Game and helped to set up, record weights and cleanup the TOLD area.

Many thanks to Teachers Dave Elliot, John Banks and Patience Joy and the Environmental Club for their help in organizing the event and throughout the day. John Dumais of NH Grocers Association/NH the Beautiful, and Andy Bray, Project Manager for NEWMOA were honored guests at the event. Mr. Dumais also brought some visitors from Utah – John Carr and Marcia Rasmussen.

Special thanks to the maintenance staff who helped with the logistics. This event would not have been possible without the support of Principal William Krantz, who authorized this educational event.

This event was partially funded by a generous grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful.

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 NRRA'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: NRRA Educator Sarah McGraw (center) explains the purpose of the school waste audit to Henry J. McLaughlin MS students. (NRRA photo)



Photo 2: Students listened intently as NH the Beautiful Board Member John Dumais, of NH Grocers Association, discussed future careers in recycling. (NRRA photo)



Photo 3: Henry J. McLaughlin MS Environmental Club takes a well-deserved bow. (NRRA photo)