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NORTHEAST RESOURCE  
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



# PRESS RELEASE – 05/31/19

## Trash On the Lawn Day at Somersworth Middle School

Somersworth, NH – On May 8, the students of Somersworth Middle School conducted a school waste audit, known as Trash On the Lawn Day (T.O.L.D.). Gwen Erley, Sarah McGraw and Julia Le May from NRRA’s School Recycling CLUB, trained 120 seventh grade 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 there was not a lot of waste (an indicator of good recycling and the result of a successful food waste program through Mr. Fox Composting), 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.

Many thanks to Math and Science Teacher Chris Asbell for his tremendous support in spear-heading this event. He set up the schedule, organized the class rotations and supervised the students throughout the day. He plans to tie the results of this program into their graph and charting curricula. Special thanks also to the last group of the day for their help with the final weighing and cleanup. Wendy Berkeley, the Farm to School Coordinator, was instrumental in securing funding for this program and provided her expertise throughout the day.

Special thanks to Facilities Director Karl Ingoldsby and Custodian Michael Nichols, who provided invaluable assistance with logistics. This event would not have been possible without the support of Principal Dana Hilliard, who authorized this all-day educational event.

Thanks to funding provided by the Somersworth Farm to School program, along with a generous grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful, this event was free to the school.

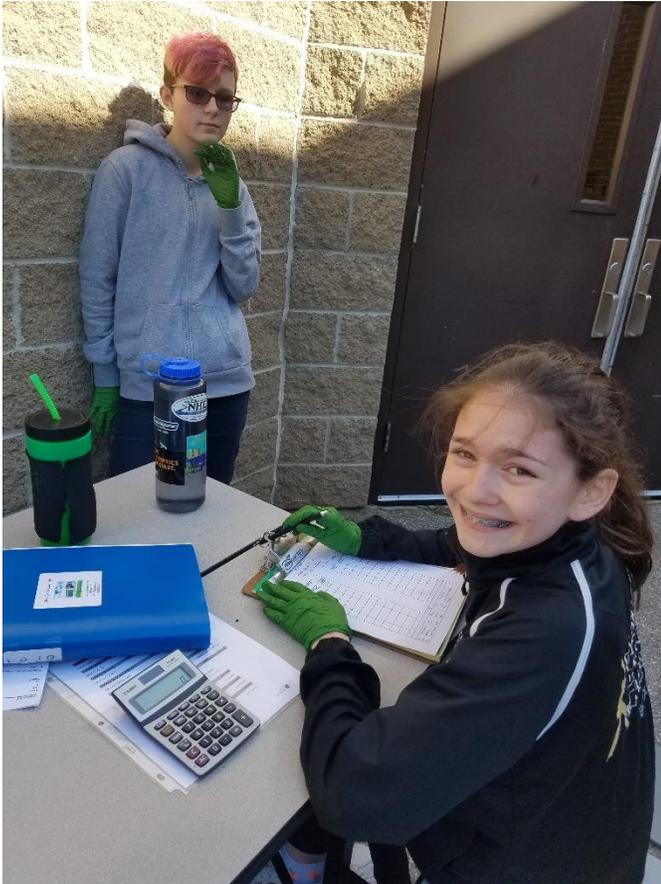
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**The School Recycling CLUB (The CLUB)** is a program for all schools in New England and is supported by NRRA and NH the Beautiful. For students and teachers in grades K-12, The CLUB serves as a centralized organization to become more active in the 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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.nhthebeautiful.org/).

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**Photo 1: SMS Students record bag weights before and after sorting (NRRA photo)**

**PHOTO 2: SMS Teacher Chris Asbell asks students what to do with a plastic fork. (NRRA photo)**



**PHOTO 3: SMS Students don recyclable gloves for their waste audit. (NRRA photo)**