

Montgomery High School

Possible future environmental projects

1) Public Relations/Communications for schools new Recycling/Anti-Pollution committee

- Liaison between students and committee. Publicize committee goals, projects. Help with project implementation and education.
- Create MHS Environmental website pages
Sections could include: Committee background/members, Accomplishments/Current Practices (ex. Recycling, cleaning products, no pesticides), in Progress (non-mowing zones), Future goals (water filtration).
Note: All publications must first be approved by School administration
- Design committee logo
- One student representative must attend monthly committee meetings

2) MHS River Friendly certification

Work with the Stonybrook Watershed organization to get MHS certified as a River Friendly school. Erin Peacock has already started working with Jeff Hoagland on reducing the mowing area at the schools, which is part of the certification. See the following link for more information.

www.thewatershed.org/edu_river_friendly.php

3) Start 'BACK to TAP' campaign at MHS

Encourage students to use reusable water/drink containers

Estimate what percentage of students use reusable water containers, and increase by 10%

Work especially with sports teams to educate.

Publicize quality of tap water (Elizabethtown Water can provide data)

Devise way to sell students BPA free water bottles (the safest kind because they do not leach plastic)

Bottles health info: Healthy reusable bottles are Plastic BPA free bottles, stainless and glass.

www.camelbak.com EMS (Princeton Shopping Center) and

Dick's sells them. Perhaps if bought in bulk, MHS logo can be put on them, and they can be offered at a discount.

www.purewater2go.com – sells reusable water bottles that filter the water.

www.quenconline.com – water purification systems. I saw them used at the Marriott on RT1 with a sign hanging above them “Marriott hotel, in it's effort to Go Green, provides the below purified water, to fill your water bottle”

Raise money to buy (or research if school will buy) a water filtration system for cafeteria so that tap water will taste better.

Note: Chatham NJ worked on this campaign. See www.back2tap.com for more info.

4) Implement Terracycle recycling at MHS and other schools.

www.terracycle.net

Start campaign to recycle juice pouches, corks, etc.

Track how much is recycled and publicize in local news

Visit Terracycle company, started by two Princeton University students, in Trenton.

5) School or business energy audits

Research how school can save energy and help implement new policies.

Example, light sensor switches (lights are only on when students are in the room), lights off policy (when no one in room), heat and A/C reduced during off hours, computers off at night.

After changes, measure decrease in energy.

Tool example: A Kill-a-Watt monitor, measure the energy used by an appliance (costs about \$20 on Amazon).

Research what happens when a light switch goes on (ex. mining, pollution) and educate fellow students.

Patrick Hossay (Richard Stockton College) does energy audit training session every few months. Contact him for next training session (Patrick.Hossay@stockton.edu)

6) 'Change the World, Start with Energy Star' campaign

"Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR" is a national campaign encouraging all Americans to join with millions of others and take small, individual steps that make a big difference in the fight against global warming.

Educate students/teachers, and get 200 parents to pledge to make a change (ex. for their next purchase buy an 'energy star' product. Ex. Dryer that saves energy).

<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=globalwarming.showPledgeHome>

Note Montgomery Sustainability group has already gotten 200 residents to pledge to change 5 light bulbs to CFL energy saving bulbs via the 'Change a lite, change the world' program. You can create a separate entity (ex. for a Montgomery business or school) or just get pledges for this existing campaign.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showPledgeDriverDetails&cpd_id=12799

7) Start 'Bin there' program to increase recycling at MHS

Educate students on new recycling bins (ex. create movie, public announcements, display, signs). Make sure people use recycling bins. For example, stand at bins during an outdoor events to make sure recycling bins are used. Since they are used, some students may go on automatic pilot, and toss recyclables into the trash.

Locker cleanup - Create laminated signs (recycled school supplies) and organize recycling locker cleanups in school district. Get volunteers to monitor recycling bins to make sure that they are being used correctly. Share design of locker recycling program with other schools in the district. Note: Montgomery pantry interested

in items.

Create exchange website (like freecycle) so teachers can enter items that they have that other teachers might want.

See school's Recycling and Anti-Pollution recycling list for more ideas (ex. recycled printer cartridges and cell phones can raise funds for project materials www.envirosolutionsllc.com)

Apply for Somerset County Environmental Awareness grant (\$1000). Students can use application filled in last year and modify as needed. Last year's application was due 3/3/08.

8) Help to improve recycling in Montgomery Township

Visit Somerset Recycling center, research businesses not recycling, work with Montgomery Recycling co-coordinator and Montgomery Sustainability Committee to send letters to those businesses, track success, encourage residential recycling.

Students will learn how NJ recycling process works.

Assist township in gathering tonnage recycled by Montgomery businesses (2008 data reported Feb-Apr 2009) by researching which businesses were not included in its last years reports. For example, businesses that are doing new construction (ex. NassauTennis club) can be contacted to find out which companies recycled the trees that were cut down. The chances are, the Township did not receive that companies recycling tonnage.

Each student will be awarded \$50, a certificate of achievement, and a newspaper article written about their efforts from the Montgomery Sustainability Committee if they get 10 companies (total) to submit their recycling tonnage to Montgomery Township for the first time.

9) School or business waste audit

This would center around evaluating how waste could be eliminated (and recycled). For ex:

- Double-sided printing (cross out or stamp used side)
- using smaller paper or pads (schools are particularly egregious; sending an entire sheet of paper with only a half page of printing on it).
- paper towels with smaller sheets
- towels or rags to clean-up instead of paper
- Print margins: Change your margins from the standard 1.25 setting to .75 on every document you print and save trees and money!
- Create uses for used paper (scrap paper areas in school).
- Be the contact person for teachers to report over packaging. Students can ask vendors if they can reduce packing or pick-up for reuse.
- Take a look in the garbage dumpsters to see what else is wasted or can be recycled.

10) Create Earth Day Registration website

Create website for the registration of participants in the Earth Day Fair sponsored by the Montgomery Township Environmental Commission. This year the fair is scheduled for 4/26.

11) Stop catalogs Campaign

Educate students, teachers, parents about waste caused by unwanted catalogs.

Collect Catalogs to cancel in a Common's area. Cancel catalogs by entering information on www.catalogchoice.com. This website can also stop junk mail.

Reward students for helping (ex. list all students that have helped on poster in Common area).

12) Reduce car gas consumption and emissions

Educate students regarding safe and gas saving cars.

Research new car technology (ex. Hybrid) and future technologies. Have local Honda or Toyota showcase a hybrid car at school with a representative to explain features.

Develop program to encourage and reward car-pooling.

Create preferred parking for compact or hybrid cars.

Compare costs of small/large cars.

13) 'Idle free, you and me' (or 'American Idle') campaign

Educate students/parents on problems caused by idling. Create no idling zone in front of school.

Vehicle exhaust is the leading source of hazardous air pollution in New Jersey (Source: [NJDEP](http://www.nj.gov/dep/air/airquality/airquality.htm)). Air pollution from car and diesel exhaust puts people, especially children, at risk for asthma and other respiratory ailments, allergies, and possible long term problems. In addition, vehicles release potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Idling for longer than 3 minutes is also illegal.

Lots of adaptable materials available to make your campaign easier at: <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/campaigns-noidling.html>

14) Increase use of reusable bags in community

Get 5 businesses to start giving customers a refund for bringing their own bags.

Increase use of reusable bags (determine what percent of shoppers use reusable bags and increase by 5%).

Possibly market/design MHS reusable bags.

15) Create Environmental Seminars

Create environmental talks/displays/films for the Environmental Classes, cafeteria and/or community to educate on an community environmental issue or a top environmental problem and what the community can do to help the problems. Film media could be shown on a website or school TV. For example, what are the ramifications of not recycling and how can we increase recycling in our community?

16) Create bird habitats

Created needed bird habitats for birds that will migrate thru this area in the spring. Newly created school no-mow areas can be used. Contact NJ Audubon Society and research

which birds are having problems finding fields to stop at on their migration north. Provide shelter and food those birds need for the trip.

17) **Increase your Green Competition: \$1500 for winner**

Register by October 13 2008 and compete in this new program:

'Do Something' has begun distributing Increase Your Green competition packets. This initiative is designed to encourage schools to reduce their carbon footprints. After registering with Do Something, schools will receive packets that explain what they need to do to enter the competition. Students who develop and implement concrete efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of their schools over the course of the eight-week competition will be judged in the following categories: energy saved; garbage reduced, recycled, and reused; number of people involved/impacted; and the innovative quality of actions and ideas. One winning school will receive a \$1,500 award to continue its efforts and three second-place winners will each receive a \$500 award. All registration must be received by October 13, 2008, when the competition begins. To learn more, visit http://www.dosomething.org/increase_your_green

18) **Convert vehicle to run on vegetable oil**

This is ambitious, but perhaps one day a group of students will be interested in this :).

19) **Build a wind turbine**

Not the 100 ft tall kind, but a small one that might drive a minor piece of equipment, for example lightening s school sign.

20) **Local Food program**

Work with the cafeteria to develop a 'local foods' program. Each day the cafeteria would serve 1 meal that was 80% local (100 miles). Princeton U. has such a program, so this is do-able.

21) **Girls Go Green**

Develop recommendations for fellow high school students that want to live in a more sustainable way. Sustainability has been defined as meeting our generations needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Eco Friendly products and clothing can be recommended, in perhaps an e-newsletter. Perhaps a fashion show, or other event to educate can be created. Here are a few websites that have eco style recommendations; www.ecostiletto.com and www.roxy.com. Fun/creative ways to dress uniquely, but in an environmentally friendly way can be invented, for example, vintage shopping and cloth exchange parties.

Local Groups Env group/Possible mentors:

a) Montgomery Sustainability - green/sustainable practices, recycling/reuse, composting, native plants (kimgiles@hotmail.com)

- b) MontgomeryGreen listed as a mentor in the following areas: green/sustainable practices; recycling/reuse & waste reduction (leslie_brecknell@yahoo.com)
- c) Montgomery Environmental Commission (yireyes@comcast.net)
- d) Montgomery Open Space (lwasilowski@twp.montgomery.nj.us)
- e) Shade tree committee - trees (stc@twp.montgomery.nj.us)
- f) Stonybrook Watershed - water quality, plants (www.thewatershed.org)
- g) D&R Greenway - land preservation, nature trails (www.drgreenway.org)