

# Holmes Zero Waste

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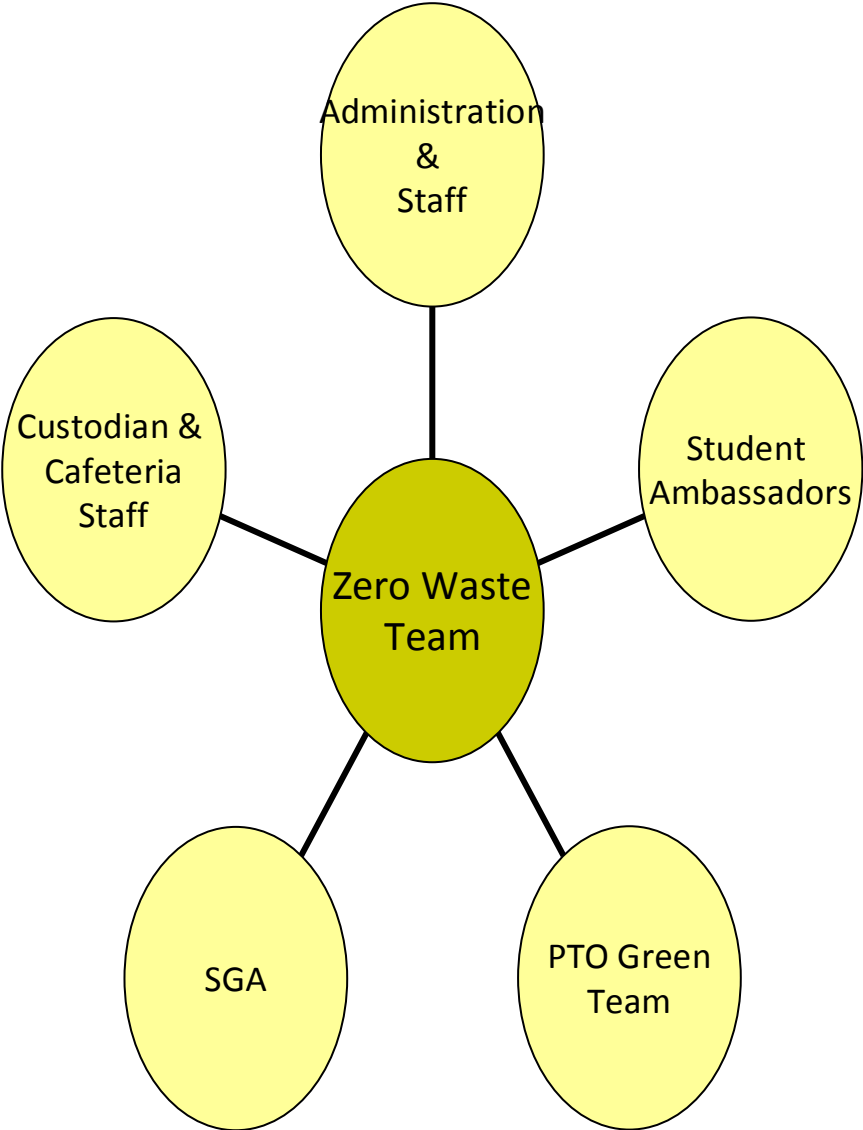
# Mission

- The Holmes Zero Waste Project is a comprehensive initiative designed to engage students and the school community in planning and implementation strategies that move Holmes toward being a Zero Waste school. Through periodic waste assessments, educational events and curriculum activities, field-based learning expeditions, and strategy implementation in relation to specific waste reduction target areas, Holmes Zero Waste will engage students and adults in a school community-wide effort to reduce its footprint on our planet.

# Project Goals

- Enroll the entire school body and school community in participating in the Zero Waste program.
- Educate students and school community on the environmental, human health, and fiscal benefits of achieving zero waste goals.
- Increase school-based recycling, eliminating specific waste elements at their source; and diverting food scrap residuals from landfills.
- Provoke further thinking about ways to eliminate waste and re-incorporate materials into useful post-life “cradle-to-cradle” production such as composting.
- Educate and Motivate other schools and community institutions to establish zero waste programs.

# Zero Waste Team



# Assessment

- Selected 4<sup>th</sup> grade Zero Waste Ambassadors. Each teacher selected 5 students that exemplified leadership skills. This selection process made participation as a ZWA an honor.
- Letters were created to inform parents and to receive permission for pictures and filmed documentary.
- Meetings held with custodian and cafeteria staff regarding assessment day.
- Waste separation strategy and lunch traffic flow determined.
- Instruction and purpose of assessment given to students during lunchtime.
- ZWA separated out food, paper and plastic waste and into designated bins and weighed.
- Strategies of waste reduction were provided by ZWA.
- ZWA took results back to class and discussed strategies.

# Strategy

- Increase Recycling Efforts
- Reduce Waste Sources
  - Cafeteria Reusable Goods
  - Waste Free Lunches
  - Food Residual Collection
  - Composting & Vermicomposting
  - Composting Paper Towels
  - One Note Per Family
- Educational Activities
  - Vermicomposting
  - School Garden
  - Field Based Learning Expeditions

# Results

## **Food scraps Total 53.25 lbs**

- Fruit-19 lbs.
- Vegetables -13 lbs.
- Bread-4 lbs.
- Chips0.5 lbs.
- Coffee grounds 0.5 lbs.
- Coffee filters0.25 lbs.
- Other: Meat, dressing, cookies, sauce16 lbs.

**Aluminun** 0.5 lbs. Steel (tin) cans 0, Glass 0

## **Paper products Total 10.75lbs**

- Cardboard 0.5 lbs.
- Milk cartons 8.25 lbs.
- Napkins 2 lbs.

## **Plastics (specify)**

- #1-2 lbs.
- #2-5 lbs.
- Other - #7, and unlabeled 3 lbs.
- Polystyrene9.5 lbs./Five, 46 gallon bags

## **Mixed materials:**

Juice boxes, Cookie & Candy wrappers, condiment packets, potato chip bags2 lbs

## **Whole uneaten food:**

Apple sauce, fruit cocktail, cookies, dressing, condiment packets 6.5 lbs

# Promotional Timelines

- Student Assembly – October 2008
- Holmes Zero Waste Logo and Tag Line – September 2008 competition; October 2008 decisions
- Posters and Fliers – September 2008 and ongoing as needed
- Signage – September 2008 and ongoing as needed
- Website Program Description and Activities Updates – beginning August 2008 and ongoing
- Holmes School Newsletter Updates – monthly
- Parent E-mail Updates – September 2008 and ongoing as activities develop.
- Faculty Presentations – September 2008; January 2009
- Key Staff Discussions – August-September 2008

# Education Activities

- In class presentations about zero waste (landfill issues, 3Rs, composting)
  - 15-20 minute presentation to select grades (3rd, 4th, 5th)
- Assemble Zero Waste Team
  - Educate about Zero Waste through after school activities
  - Assign recycling/compost bin duties
  - Plan & implement marketing campaign to encourage students to practice Zero Waste strategies
- Vermicomposting
  - Keep Oak Park Beautiful (KOPB) supplies 2-4 worm bins, worm composting books, and worms
  - A retired teacher will speak with teachers whose classes will have bins about the educational benefits
  - Worm Ambassadors from Brooks Middle School 7th grade will educate the classes with worm bins in an assembly about caring for the worms, bins, food scraps, and worm castings
  - All food scraps will be weighed before feeding the worms
  - Harvested worm castings will be weighed after harvest
  - Worm castings will be used in the school garden or to plant a tree for Arbor Day
- Composting
  - In class presentations
    - What, why and how
  - Grow seedling experiment

# Education Activities

- Zero Waste Lunch
  - Prepare a Zero Waste Lunch display for the school
  - Take home assignment
  - Send flyer home to parents
  - Waste assessment pre and post
  - Fundraiser promoting reusable containers
- Potential Field Trips
  - Landfill
  - Recycling Facility
  - Community Garden
  - Composting site
  - Sustainable Farm
- Marketing Campaign
  - Posters and signs will be displayed throughout the school and cafeteria promoting Zero Waste Strategies to the students
- Additional contests and fundraisers may be implemented at the discretion of the Zero Waste Team.
  - Program Name
  - Logo contest
  - Poster contest
  - Classroom to classroom or grade to grade
    - Least amount of waste produced in one week

# Budget

<b>2008-09 Budget</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<u>Contractual</u>		
SGA		\$4,794.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,794.00</b>
<u>Direct Program</u>		
Earth Tub Composter		\$11,993.00
Worm Bins (10)		\$150.00
Dishwasher Commercial		\$5,200.00
Toters 32 gallon (2)		\$190.00
Scale		\$32.00
Compost Bins 4x4x4 (3)		\$120.00
Pitchfork		\$35.00
Reusable Trays (350)		\$700.00
Reusable Teaspoons 350		\$105.00
Reusable Forks (350)		\$88.00
Soup bowls (350)		\$1,593.00
Nine Inch Plates (350)		\$455.00
Reusable cups (350)		\$175.00
Tray carts (2)		\$600.00
Magnetic lid Garbage Can		\$220.00
Staff Glasses (75)		\$38.00
Staff Coffee Cups (75)		\$57.00
Staff reusable knives (75)		\$30.00
Milk Dispensers (2) * (1)1499.00		\$2,998.00
Supplies/Copies		\$400.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,179.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$29,973.00</b>
<b>INCOME (Potential)</b>		
IL DCEO (grant pending)		\$10,000.00
OPRF CF (grant applied)		\$10,000.00
Holmes PTO Fundraiser		\$5,000.00
District 97		\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$30,000.00</b>