

**2009 Awards of Excellence Winner-Schools K-8**  
**Metro Beautification & Environment Commission-Recycling Education Station (Phone:615.880.3321/Email: veronicafrazier@nashville.gov)**  
Project: The Recycling Education Station



Description: At the Recycling Education Station (RES), located inside the Materials Recovery Facility in Nashville, local students make a personal connection with recycling. At the facility, they see where their old homework ends up after they put it into the school recycling dumpster as well as where the aluminum can they recycled at home goes. Students also learn the history of recycling, as they are taught about topics such as: early Chinese recycled rag paper, Revolutionary War recycling of the King's statue into bullets, and scouts recycling in World War Two. They also view photos of people recycling in Nashville, at

home, drop offs, and schools. The RES explains how recycling is separated through a "dirty jobs" video, which shows how workers and machines separate, bale, and transport things that are recycled. Kids are also able to view this process through a closed-circuit camera and a window. Young students play recycled bingo and discover recycled items in the room before their day at the RES is over. Students are allowed to sit on a plastic lumber bench, walk on the rubber tire floor, and hold a purse made from a license plate. Each class leaves with a recycling bin full of workbooks, pencils made from recycled newspaper, and recycling homework for their parents. The RES has hosted 315 field trips for over 4,477 students, scouts, and home schooled kids since its opening in August 2006. Their programs, which meet academic standards, are fully booked throughout the school year and are popular during the summer.

Community Need: Nashville Mayor Karl Dean's goal is for the city to become the most sustainable city in the Southeast. The RES provides the education necessary to create a culture of recycling. Nashville has voluntary curbside recycling and in 2006 public schools began recycling. The RES classroom reveals the recycling process, resulting in informed and motivated young recyclers ready to take Nashville into the future as a sustainable city, recycling at home and school, demanding their parents and teachers to recycle, too.

Resources: The Public Works contract with QRS Recycling includes a \$2,800 monthly payment from QRS for education, which paid for the classroom items, and underwrites bus costs for public schools. Metro Beautification works with public schools, providing the education that makes recycling a part of school curriculum. They also award public schools with recycling bins. Keep America Beautiful Clean Sweep materials are distributed to students. Teachers also use the Clean Sweep website activities. Metro Beautification, Metro Channel 3, and QRS produced a "dirty jobs" video showing the recycling process for use in programs, Channel 3, and the Metro Beautification website.

Impact: The RES has taught young residents of Nashville about recycling, which in turn helps shape the future of the city. The children have expressed their gratitude in their guestbook after each visit. Due to the popularity of the field trip, teachers now contact the RES in the spring to reserve programs for the next school year.





Twenty-four recipients from across the state of Tennessee received 2009 Awards of Excellence for litter prevention education, recycling and community enhancement. Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald E. Nicely (center front) presented plaques and a total of \$40,000 in grant checks at the February 12th ceremony in Nashville.

Julie Berbiglia, Metro Beautification's Education Specialist, accepting the Award of Excellence for Schools K-8 and a grant check for \$1,000 from Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald E. Nicely

