

21.5 tons of Waste in our School Annually

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On February 6th, as part of our Environmental and Sustainability Studies, Middle Class students undertook an audit of the school's waste. What we found shocked us!

We estimate that Princeton Montessori disposed of some 235 lbs that day. Extrapolating, that would mean 21.5 tons annually. While about 40% of this is recycling, according to the research done by the students and Mr. Juleff, the majority of the waste goes to PA and is transported by trucks. The sad thing is, the school is actually performing quite well, when you consider that the average American produces over 5 lbs of waste per day!

In comparison to the full perspective, while these results are shocking they aren't as negative as they could be.

We then produced an Action Plan to address this. To reduce our waste impact, we recommend better identifying what can be recycled, composted, and as the last resort is what should be thrown out. Our plan involves discussing the amount of waste with each program and figuring out what the different groups can do to reduce the quantity of material wasted. To reduce the amount of food waste, we are going to look into our composting program and find out how to use it more effectively than it has previously been used, then we plan to educate students and staff on its importance. The same issues correlate with recycling, the program is not used efficiently and productively and many don't realize the greater impact of composting and recycling.

In Conclusion

Princeton Montessori School plans to reduce the waste consumption that we produce by implementing various techniques and strategies. We plan to educate staff and students, as well as community members on the importance of composting and recycling. We will teach all programs how to improve these systems and how to utilize them more effectively. To start, our primary goal is to reduce our daily waste consumption by 30 to 40 pounds and educate members of our community about these issues and what to do to solve them by the end of the school year.

Earth Day!

Earth Day is April 22nd, and we plan to have a no-waste lunch on the 21st. In addition to the no-waste lunch, we are also going to be reducing the school's waste production by communicating with the various programs. Middle School's Rock Band will be performing for Earth Day on School Spirit Day on 4/11. Unfortunately, most of our Eco-Team members will be on an educational trip. So, we will be less active but still contributing to our final goal.