

Fall, 2012

Where have all the cartons gone?



This school year, 54,000 more milk cartons will vanish from the Thurston County waste stream thanks to a new milk dispenser at Washington Middle School. On October 1, Washington Middle School joined five other schools in the Olympia School District that are now serving milk in durable cups using bulk milk dispensers. These other schools include Boston Harbor, Centennial and Lincoln elementary schools, the Olympia

Regional Learning Academy, and Olympia High School. Together, these schools have eliminated about 190,000 milk cartons from the waste stream each school year. And that's just one of many benefits associated with using milk dispensers and durable cups.

Schools with milk dispensers generate less milk waste, save money on their recycling collection costs, and conserve energy and other resources. For example, Washington Middle School has reduced the volume of their lunchroom recyclables by two-thirds and expects to save \$750 a year on their collection costs and \$120 a year on their electric bill. Olympia High School's combined savings in collection and energy costs total more than \$1,900 a year.

To learn more about the benefits of milk dispensers, visit Thurston Solid Waste's You Tube page at www.youtube.com/user/ThurstonSolidWaste and click on the video titled "Just Use a Cup."

Thurston County's Food to Flowers program has grant funds available to purchase a milk dispenser for your school. To learn more visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/FoodtoFlowers. You can also contact Peter Guttchen at guttchp@co.thurston.wa.us or 360-867-2283.

Results
as of October, 2012

Participating Schools:
Click to see [List](#) or [Map](#)
32 Schools

Participating Students:
14,725 Students

Solid waste diverted from
landfill each year:
169 tons

Average lunchroom
recycling rate:
89%

Number of spork kits
eliminated each year:
2,740,140 kits

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