

News release



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For more information:

[Mary Waggoner](#), Director of Communications, 425-385-4040

[Gail Walters](#), Henry M. Jackson High School *Project Green* advisor, 425-385-7000

[Steven Krause](#), Resource Conservation and Facilities Supervisor, 425-385-4196

Henry M. Jackson High *Project Green* members are national finalists

Team a national finalist in the Siemens "We Can Change the World" competition



Project Green's project implemented a composting system in their high school. With the use of the food scraps that the cafeteria and the students throw away, the team investigated whether energy from the release of biogas from the compost could be harnessed.

In March of this year, members of Henry M. Jackson High School's *Project Green*, Hannah Cho, Indira Rayala, Andrea Clinton and Lydia Kim, started a food recycling program in their cafeteria. In the beginning, they wanted to become a [Washington Green School](#). Less than a month later, the team was a national finalist in the Siemens [We Can Change the World](#) competition.

After initiating the food recycling program, with help from teacher and *Project Green* advisor Gail Walters, the team researched methane production using a [miniature biogas production system](#) that uses compost. The team reached out to Steven Krause, district resource conservation and facilities supervisor. Krause brought his experience and brought in other partners, including the City of Everett, Waste Management and Cedar

How are Everett Public Schools doing?

- Paper and cardboard: all sites
- Plastic/glass/metal: all sites
- Food recycling
 - o Kitchens: all schools
 - o Cafeterias: all elementary, two middle and now one high school

Everett Public Schools hauls its own waste from our buildings to the landfill and this volume has been shrinking due to the programs like these.

Our compostable items are hauled by Waste Management in the southern part of the district and Rubatino in the northern portion. Both haul it to [Cedar Grove](#) where it is processed, mixed in the correct carbon to nitrogen ratio (30:1) and then processed over the next 60 days into rich, humus dirt that is used by local landscapers and farmers to enrich the soil.

These recycling efforts have **diverted 83 tons of waste** from the landfill during the 2012-13 school year alone!

Grove, to support the students' effort. The team received valuable input and support from these partners to finalize their plan before submitting their project to the national competition.

"This effort is designed, planned and run by the students – and is the first of our high schools to join our elementary schools in having a food recycling program. All elementary schools now have a successful food recycling program and we hope to expand to include all middle and high schools in the future," said Krause.

"These young leaders are setting a great example of taking positive steps to better care for our environment. As you would know if you met them, their energy is inspiring and contagious!" added Krause.

See more information about the contest and the winners [online](#).

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