



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: John MacGillivray, Solid Waste Programs Lead
Kathy Brown, Public Works Director

Date: April 23, 2015

Subject: Juanita High School Earth Corps Special Presentation

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive a brief special presentation from Juanita High School Earth Corps team members, who have produced a kick-off [video](#) to promote their new organics recycling program.

BACKGROUND:

The Juanita High School Earth Corps team has been active as an environmental club for almost 20 years. Ranging in membership between three and ten students, the team has been active in working on environmental service projects coordinated by the Green Kirkland Partnership and the YMCA Environmental Services Corps. Past projects have included the removal of invasive plants and the planting of native plant species in City and King County parks and open spaces. Projects slated for the spring 2015 include work at Juanita Bay Park, Juanita Heights Park, and the North Juanita open space.

JUANITA HIGH SCHOOL ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Food waste currently comprises about 40% of the material sent to the landfill from Kirkland each year. For restaurants and schools with cafeterias, the percentage landfilled is substantially higher than the overall average. Kirkland currently offers composting service to businesses and schools at no additional cost through its solid waste contract with Waste Management. Currently, there are over 150 participants in the program, including Juanita High School, who recycle between 40-50 tons of organic materials each month.

In September 2014, the Earth Corps team began planning for the implementation of the new organics recycling program in March 2015. For the first month of the new program, student volunteers monitored the new program at six composting stations during both lunch shifts. Monitoring was provided to help students place their waste in the proper trash, recycling, and composting containers and to provide education and outreach. Monitoring will continue on an as needed basis as students begin to change their recycling habits.

The goal of the new recycling program is to reduce the amount of recyclable and compostable materials disposed of in the garbage by 70%, and janitorial staff are reporting that the garbage waste stream has been reduced by 75%. Additionally, the new program will support Juanita High School in achieving a Level 1 Green Schools Certification through the King County Green Schools Program.

THE COMPOSTING VIDEO

The kick-off video was written, performed, filmed, and edited by Earth Corps students. The students and their respective roles played in developing the video are listed below. Two adults should also be recognized for their efforts. Susan Vossler, a Juanita High School parent, provided the inspiration, motivation, and follow-through for this project and organized parent volunteers to work as compost station monitors. Les Richey, Juanita High School Head Custodian, worked with the Earth Corps team to facilitate the siting of compost stations and the collection of composted and recycled materials.

Student Performers:

Sarah Dunsmore: Wrote, recorded, and performed rap soundtrack; primary performer
Corey Oneil: Story boards, filming, editing
Riley Hewitson: Dancer, performer, van driver
Sarah Wincapaw: Dancer, performer
Aili Duke: Dancer, performer
Cameron Aest: Dancer, performer
Zach Richter: Dancer, performer
Allen Jung, Dancer, performer
Mylien Truong, Dancer, performer