

# **Replacing Styrofoam with Washable Lunch Trays: Cost Benefits and Lessons Learned from Elementary Schools in Oak Park, IL**

Presentation to Montgomery County School Board  
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## **Presenter**

Jennifer Nelson, Zero Waste Program Manager, Seven Generations Ahead



**Seven Generations Ahead** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Oak Park whose mission is to promote the development of healthy and ecologically sustainable communities.

**“In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation.”**

**-Great Law of the Iroquois**

# D97 Zero Waste Schools

## 1 school in 2008-09

Holmes\*

## 7 schools in 2009-10

Beye\*, Hatch\*, Holmes, Lincoln\*,  
Longfellow\*, Mann\* & Whittier\*

## 8 schools in 2010-11

Beye\*, Hatch, Holmes\*, **Irving\***, Lincoln,  
Longfellow\*, Mann\* & Whittier



\* = grant funding through IL Department of  
Commerce and Economic Opportunity

# D97 Zero Waste Grant Funding Awarded

<b>DCEO Zero Waste Grant Funding</b>			
	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
<b>Beye</b>		\$9,962.00	\$ 9,993.00
<b>Hatch</b>		\$8,667.00	
<b>Holmes</b>	\$10,000.00		\$ 2,998.00
<b>Irving</b>			\$ 9,640.00
<b>Lincoln</b>		\$9,997.00	
<b>Longfellow</b>		\$9,985.00	\$ 3,807.00
<b>Mann</b>		\$3,068.00	\$ 3,220.00
<b>Whittier</b>		\$2,910.00	
<b>D97 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$44,589.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,658.00</b>

Other Zero Waste grant funding for 2008-09: \$7,500 and \$2,500

**TOTAL GRANT FUNDING**  
**\$94,247.00**

# Zero Waste Planning and Implementation

- Form a Zero Waste team
- Conduct a waste assessment
- Establish goals and strategies
- Implement and educate
- Communicate and excite
- Measure results



# Zero Waste Goals

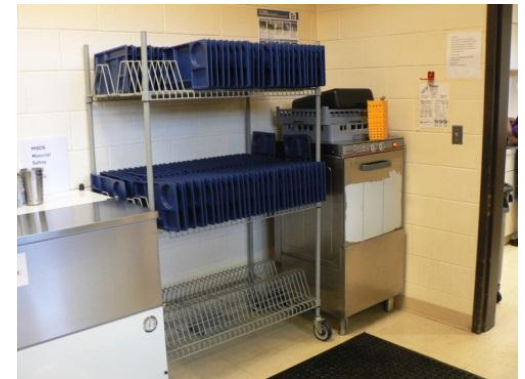
- Eliminate waste at its source
- Increase recycling
- Convert food scraps to compost
- Teach about sustainability
- Start the journey toward Zero Waste



# Source Reduction

Activities that prevent the generation of waste material at the source

- replace lunchroom disposables with reusables
- 2-sided copying policy
- one note home per family
- waste free lunches
- and many more...



# Recycling

"Recyclable" means products or materials that can be collected, separated, and processed to be used as raw materials in the manufacture of new products. A school might already be recycling paper but does it recycle:

- milk cartons
- ink cartridges
- steel, aluminum, plastic, glass
- light bulbs





# D97 Composting



Tumbler-Beye



3 Bin System-Hatch



Hauled off site-pilot  
at Lincoln and Irving



Earth Tub-Holmes



Worm bins-many schools

# Reusable Lunchroom Purchases

- Reusable trays and utensils
- Tray carts, drying racks, silverware, etc.
- Dishwasher
- Buckets and other supplies for lunchroom sorting into compost, recycling, liquids and landfill)



# Trays

## Disposable vs. Compostable vs. Reusables

	Disposable	Compostable	Reusable
Initial cost	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
Long term cost	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	\$
Convenience	high	medium	medium
Sustainable	No	Maybe	Yes



# D97 Lunchroom Sorting Station and Kitchen Equipment



# D97 Dishwasher

## Operating Cycles

Wash time (seconds)	2 settings (70, 160)
Dwell (seconds)	5
Rinse time (seconds)	5
<b>Total Time (seconds)</b>	<b>2 settings (90, 180)</b>



## Capacities

Trays per hour	210
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## Water Consumption / Requirements

Gallons per hr. (Max. use)	27 gal.
Gallons per cycles	0.9 gal.

# D97 Dishwasher

## Installation Requirements



### Dimensions / Shipping

Width	24 1/4"
Depth	27 1/2"
Height	52"

- Access to water supply
- Access to electricity
- Access to a floor drain (as required by Illinois code)

## **D97 Actual Savings 2008-09 and 2009-10**

District Savings on Lunchrooms (5 schools)  
\$19,734.99

+

District Savings on Paper (8 schools)  
\$6,249.00

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**TOTAL ACTUAL SAVINGS = \$25,983.99**

## D97 Savings Reusable Lunchrooms

2008-2009	1 school switched to a reusable lunchroom
2009-2010	4 schools switched to reusable lunchrooms
2010-11	5 schools continued with reusable lunchrooms
2011-12	5 schools continued with reusable lunchrooms

Savings of approximately \$3,950 per school per year

Savings of **\$ 19,750** for the District per year

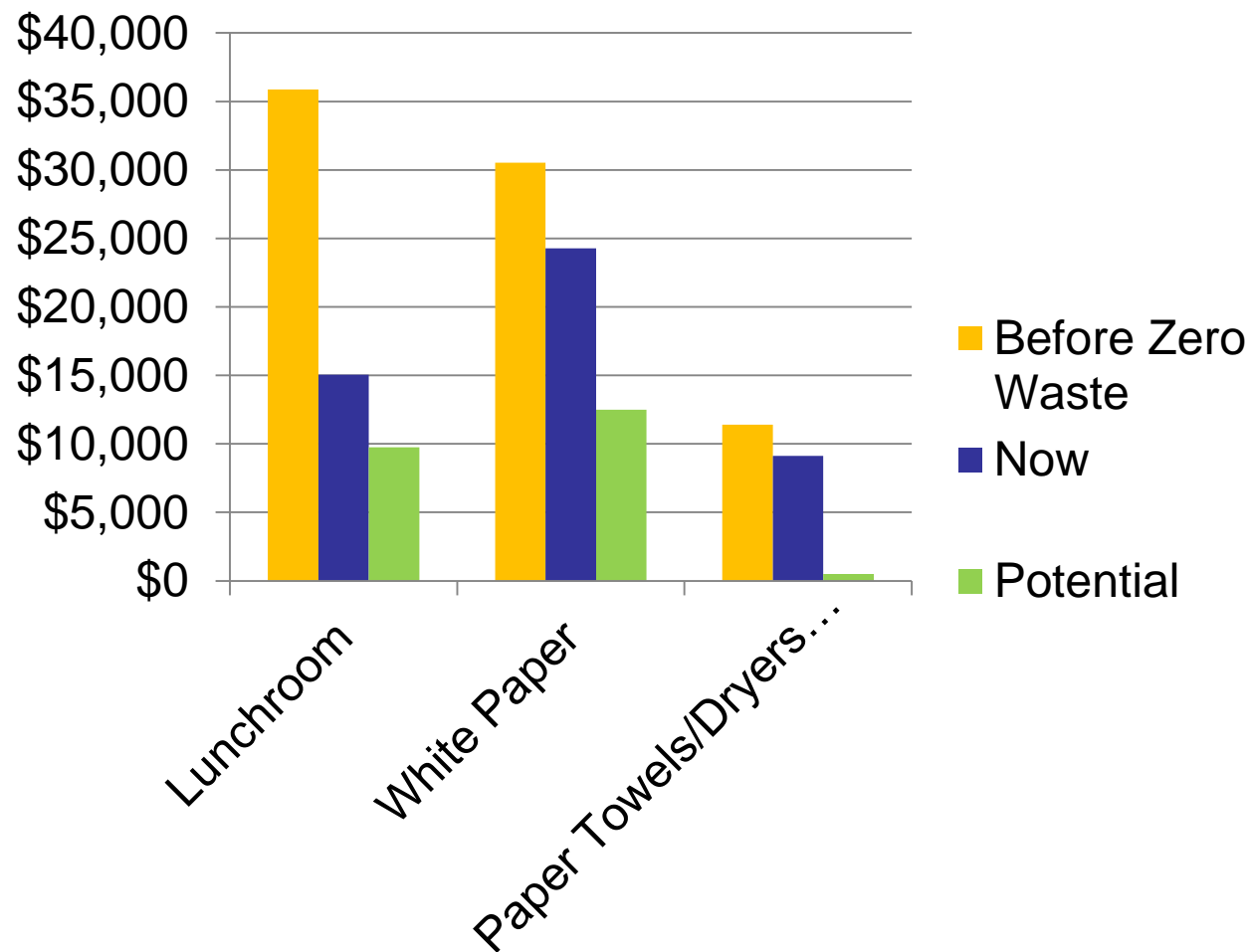


## **D97 Savings Reusable Lunchrooms**

Actual District savings 2009-10	\$1,087.66
Actual District savings 2010-11	\$18,647.33
Estimated District savings 2011-12	\$19,750.00
* based on not needing to order trays and sporks	

**DISTRICT SAVINGS TO DATE ON 5 LUNCHROOMS**  
**\$39,484.00**

## D97 Costs

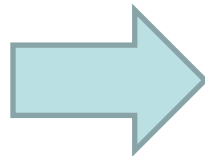


# D97 Zero Waste School Participation

	<b>Reusable Lunchroom and Composting</b>	<b>Hand Dryers</b>	<b>Effective 2-sided Paper Policy</b>
<b>Beye</b>	Yes	4 installed 2009-10 8 installed 2010-11	In process
<b>Hatch</b>	Yes		In process
<b>Holmes</b>	Yes	6 installed 2010-11	In process
<b>Irving</b>	Yes (composting)	16 installed 2010-11	In process
<b>Lincoln</b>	Yes		Yes
<b>Longfellow</b>	Yes	4 installed 2009-10 9 installed 2010-11	In process
<b>Mann</b>		5 installed 2009-10	Yes
<b>Whittier</b>		6 installed 2009-10	Yes
<b>D97 TOTAL</b>	<b>5 schools</b>	<b>6 schools</b>	<b>8 schools</b> implementing policies

# Talking ~~Trash~~ Landfill

Help students and staff change the way they think about trash. Change the image from that of a big smelly black bag you don't want to think about to a challenge in conserving resources and diverting from the landfill.





## Contact Us

Jennifer Nelson: (773) 426-7772

[jennifer@sevengenerationsahead.org](mailto:jennifer@sevengenerationsahead.org)

642 South Lombard Avenue

Oak Park, IL 60304

(708) 660-9909

[www.sevengenerationsahead.org](http://www.sevengenerationsahead.org)