

Team Name: Potomac Protectors
Project Name: Operation CleanUp

Brief Description:

In Alexandria there is a great amount of plastic pollution, specifically in the Potomac River. While we as a school may not be able to fix the problem entirely we can implement a recycling program at George Washington Middle school and clean up our daily lives.

Part 1: Introduction

Alexandria, specifically Potomac River, is sitting right in the middle of the biggest estuaria on earth, contributing to the pollution of Chesapeake Bay .The Potomac, rising among the Allegheny Plateaus and Appalachian Ranges, gathers its waters in a main channel. Its mouth is an estuary, a branch of Chesapeake Bay.The Potomac basin stretches across parts of four states, one of these states is Virginia. This area is also called the Potomac watershed. It includes all of the land area where water drains towards Potomacs mouth, the point where the river spills into the Chesapeake Bay.



Alexandria is home to over 150,000 thousand residents, all of these people see the potential in Alexandria and are ready for its beauty to be realized. People from all over the globe come to Alexandria to see the culture, cherry blossoms, and to experience the waterfront.

Part 2: Issue



Alexandria is producing a great deal of plastic pollution in the Potomac. From Alexandria to George Washington Middle School, the Potomac River's ecosystem is being affected by the amount of plastic waste being created by our community. Alexandria City Public Schools do not provide recycling bins for classrooms.

The lack of recycling bins in our community is one of the causes of how dirty the Potomac River is. If we started to provide recycling bins in classrooms then in a couple of years the Potomac could be swimmable.

Part 3: Solution

The clear solution for a lack of recycling problem in George Washington Middle school is to start a recycling program. A student program. Students who donate their morning to recycling, will spend the first 30 minutes of class collecting recycling for the benefit of the school. In the beginning of the day (advisory) selected students from each team will work on a new recycling program at George Washington Middle School, along with teachers. The program will be supervised by teachers, but run by the students. In

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time we would like to speak to the school board about the possibility of a student run recycling program.

Other schools have seen success in a student run recycling program. Like Charles J. Colgan, Sr. High School students implemented a fully functioning outdoor recycling program. Our recycling program will be similar, but not identical. With the success of others we are confident this solution will be exemplary.

Part 4: Implementation

In order to carry out our ambitious plan we need the following: four 64 gallon two wheel trash cans costing \$64.00. Also to make this plan possible we need a recycling bin costing 7 dollars in every classroom. (About 60 classrooms). In total we will need about [\\$831.92](#). (<- The Budget proposal)

Proposal Budget						
Vendor	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Subtotal Cost	Shipping	Total Cost	Narrative Details
bulkofticesupply	60	\$7.95	477.00	FREE	\$477.00	We will need to use these baskets because we will dump the recycled waste into the Lowes weelie bin
Lowes	4	\$64.98	259.92	\$95	\$354.92	We will use these by dumping the recycled waste into the recycling trucks.

Part 5: Conclusion

Withover 1515 at GW middle school and no recycling for over a decade the amount of plastic going into landfills is unacceptable. Our only way forward is to form a student driven recycling program. With under 900 dollars we could outfit our school with a student run recycling program. With your help we can not only benefit our school but also our community.

Part 6: Works Cited & Proper in-text citations (MLA guidelines).

["POTOMAC BASIN FACTS"](#) ICPRB, retrieved March 17, 2022.

Kristi King ["Report shows Potomac River is on its way to recovery"](#) WTOPnews, March 30, 2016, retrived March 17, 2022.