

Reducing Waste in Schools

Building partnerships between schools and the local community

Presented by Molly Madden
Keep New Mexico Beautiful



Dusty Roadrunner's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Program

Made possible by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency

Purpose of DRRRR program

- Reduce waste in classrooms
- Build partnerships
- Connect classroom learning to students' real world



Who participated in DRRRR program ?



How did DRRRR work?

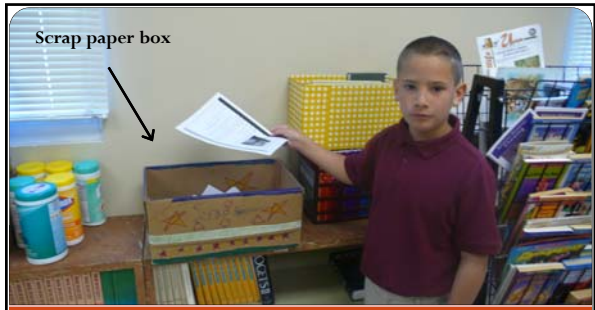


1. Identify type and amount of trash generated – Waste Audit
2. Investigate options to reduce amount of trash
3. Plan and implement realistic course of action
4. Repeat Waste Audit

DRRRR in a Belen school Waste Audit



Classroom data leads to action plan



Action plan: Reuse paper!



Then recycle.



Student recycle team collects cardboard.



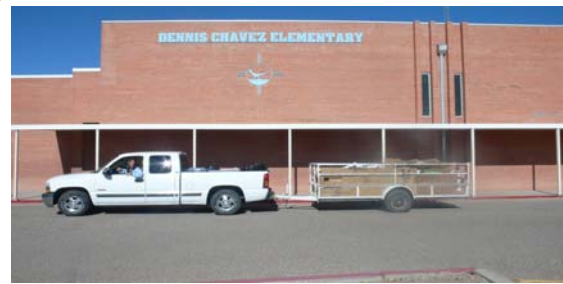
School cooks provide cardboard for recycling.



Students flatten school cardboard.



Cardboard is ready to be picked up for recycling.



School partnership with Tierra Bonita



Partnership with City of Belen



Partnership with UNMVC



UNMVC bins after unloading school recyclables

Repeat the Waste Audit. Did students reduce the amount of trash?



One Belen class reduced the number of pieces of trash by 48%.

Results of DRRRR program

As a group (10 participating schools):



16% reduction in number of pieces of trash
32% reduction in weight of trash

Other results

- New school-community partnerships
- Student civic action
- Creative alternatives that reduce waste



Lessons Learned

- Waste Audit: catalyst for developing action plans
- Partnerships are critical
- Creativity – finding partners, different RRR strategies in a changing RRR environment
- Reduce – Reuse come before Recycle



Thank you from Dusty Roadrunner

Contact information

Keep New Mexico Beautiful

Kori Taylor, Executive Director

knmb@zianet.com

www.knmb.org

883-5559

Molly Madden, Environmental Educator

mmadden@aol.com

864-4388