Recycling Saves Water Too!

**Your name, Class of \_\_\_\_**

**School, School District, City**

Impact Design **- Design the process!**

**1. Impact Statement**: If I recycle all of my bottles and cans, and encourage my school community to do the same, then we will save 1.85 gallons of water per plastic bottle and 3.62 gallons of water per aluminum can.

**2. Community Alignment**

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| --- | --- |
| Group | Goal/Action |
| [Saving Water Partnership](https://www.savingwater.org/) - Organization comprised of 19 water utilities in King and Snohomish counties | City of Seattle [Saving Water Partnership](https://www.savingwater.org/) has a goal to keep 19 water utilities average annual retail water use under 110 million gallons per day from 2019-2028 |
| [City of Seattle](https://www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool/zero-waste-case-study-seattle) | [Seattle Zero Waste Resolution](https://www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool/zero-waste-case-study-seattle) has goals to recycle 70% of municipal solid waste by 2022 and recycle 70% of construction/demolition debris by the year 2020. |

**3. Procedure**

1. Benchmark current conditions, with my green team and janitor's help, by going through the week’s trash bag samples at school and counting the number of recyclable bottles and cans.
2. Calculate the average water waste generated by bottles and cans per school trash can.
3. Promote water conservation in school through new signage above trash cans, school morning announcements, appointing people to help sort, and other creative campaigns/outlets.
4. After a month of recycling encouragement, check weekly trash can samples for recycled bottles and cans.
5. Compare the new average water footprint of tossed bottles and cans to benchmark conditions. For an additional data story, also calculate pounds of waste reduced.

Impact Tracking **- Quantify your impact!**

4. **Data**

*~ Plastic water bottle:* [*1.85*](https://www.treehugger.com/how-many-gallons-of-water-does-it-take-to-make-4858491) *gallons of water needed to create*

*~ 200 gram aluminum can:* [*3.62*](https://www.treehugger.com/does-recycling-waste-precious-water-4858191) *gallons of water needed to create*

Initial Data:

Total # of bottles found in weekly trash bag samples: **25**

Total # of aluminum cans found in weekly trash bag samples: **12**

Data after Water Conservation Efforts/Signage:

Total # of bottles found in weekly trash bag samples: **13**

Total # of aluminum cans found in weekly trash bag samples: **8**

Initial Data - Final Data:

**Bottles**: **25** bottles - **13** bottles = **12** less water bottles wasted per week = (**12**)([*1.85*](https://www.treehugger.com/how-many-gallons-of-water-does-it-take-to-make-4858491) *gallons*) = **22.2** gallons saved weekly

**Cans:** **12** cans - **8** cans = **4** less cans wasted per week = (**4**)([*3.62*](https://www.treehugger.com/does-recycling-waste-precious-water-4858191) *gallons*) = **14.48** gallons saved weekly

Impact Storytelling **- Share your data with who needs to know!** [**Impact Storytelling Tips**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1do-KoX9J5onLrEEoSiKnmNWHYlk_jf0lJZ-ANkXCLMk/edit)

**5. Stakeholder Communication**

*Think about video, graphs, e-news, and public presentation*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder** | **Interests** | **Approach** |
| School staff | Efficiency, money, sustainability | Report findings at staff meetings, brainstorm manageable ways for staff to get involved in the effort |
| Classmates | Sustainability | Communicate results and process through word of mouth and in-classroom presentations encouraging recycling |
| PTA | Students’ interests and wellbeing | Share findings and process in newsletter and spoken reports at PTA meetings |