

**Project Title: \*** VBFS Recycling: Moving Toward a No Waste Campus

**To be eligible for the grant, projects should be specifically tied to one or more of the following topics (Choose all that apply) \***

**Amount** \$500

**Requested: \***

**Teacher /** Teacher Ryan Serrette

**Leader's Name:**

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**School or** Virginia Beach Friends School

**Organization** 1537 Laskin Road

**Name &** Virginia Beach, VA 23451

**Complete**

**Address: \***

**Subject / Grade** PreK-12

**/ Age Range: \***

**Number of** 200

**Children: \***

**Goals & Objectives: \***

Virginia Beach Friends School is a PreK-12 school focused on an unwavering commitment to the Quaker principles of integrity, community, service, and environmental stewardship. Still, although the school recycles, it lacks a comprehensive recycling program or a culture of recycling across its 11-acre campus.

This project was designed to address this problem.

Currently students work actively in the campus greenhouse, tend the rain garden which catches extra rainwater, and grow ladybugs to act as organic pest resistance. Students are also designing a wind turbine which will power a fish pond to generate water rich in fish fertilizer for watering campus plants. Our campus is also outfitted with recycling bins in almost, but not all, classrooms and offices so that our campus can further support our commitment to environmentalism through its focus on recycling.

Although there are trash receptacles placed strategically around the outside campus to collect waste there are no recycling or compost bins. This is especially problematic as the school does not have a cafeteria and our students eat their lunch outside on picnic tables most days year-round and throw their trash out in the regular trash bins. It is not uncommon to see students throw waste items that could be diverted and recycled into these trash bins.

And while there are recycling bins in most classrooms, our campus community also has had little buy-in when it comes to recycling, with students and teachers alike often use using both the landfill and recycling trash receptacles interchangeably. In addition, although there is a recycling dumpster available at the school, when students take classroom trash bags out at the end of the day, they often put the recycling trash in the wrong dumpster.

We at Friends School recognize that we need to change the culture of recycling at the school. We need to actively grow campus awareness, interest and commitment to recycling in order to help our local and our global community reduce waste. This is made even more important by our coastal location near the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean and the impact our trash and pollution has on our local waterways.

#### Project Description:

This project will build student and faculty enthusiasm and commitment to recycling and composting efforts through a three step program.

First, the school will roll out a strategic educational program to educate and excite a culture of recycling enthusiasm on campus. The school will do this by: inviting Christina Trapani to speak on campus,

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watching a documentary on trash and plastic, and by designating student recycling ambassadors from the school's Sustainability Class who will speak to each class individually about the three R's, recycling, reusing and reducing. These student ambassadors will lead their peers in the recycling efforts as they work together to research and identify innovative ways for our school to reduce its waste production as well as creative ways to recycle and upcycle waste.

Second, students in the Green Engineering class will design and build two new outdoor trash recyclables that will have bins for landfill, recyclable and compost waste. These new waste bins will be placed strategically outside where students eat their lunch and congregate on campus. The school will also ensure that there are available recycling and composting bins inside classrooms and offices as currently not all rooms have both a recycling and a regular trash bin.

Third, the school will host an all-school assembly where the recycling project will be announced as well as a school-wide goal to divert its current waste consumption by 50% in the first year and an additional 25% the second year of the program. Eventually Virginia Beach Friends School would like to become a zero-waste campus. Each classroom, PreK-12, will analyze and weigh their waste output before and throughout the recycling program in order to measure their progress in diverting waste. To track these goals a large sign will be displayed in the main school building highlighting the school's waste diversion milestones as well as each individual classroom's accomplishments for the purpose of motivation and celebration.

This project will ultimately grow excitement about recycling as well as school pride as the campus community works together to reduce waste, potential trash in local waterways and the school's carbon footprint.

**Project Timeline: \***

Project Start Date: March 1st, 2016

-Introduction the Virginia Beach Friends School Campus Recycling Project in all-school assembly.

Guest speaker, Christina Trapani, will address campus on issues of recycling and trash

-Campus movie - Garbage Island

Roll-out of sign for campus waste diversion goal with trackable markers. The goal is to reduce the school's waste by 50% by the end of the 2016 Spring term (June 2016).

- Installation of recycling bins in all classrooms and campus offices.
- First waste analysis in each classroom advisory.

Late March 2016:

- The school's Green Engineering Class (Middle School and High School students) will design and build two outdoor trash receptacles that are waterproof, vermin-resistant, and durable. Each receptacle will have a bin for Landfill, Recycling and Compost Trash.
- The school's Sustainability Class (Middle School students) will learn about the importance of waste reduction, carbon footprints and production and consumption habits. These students will then become student ambassadors for the project and will help guide student involvement in the project on campus. – The Sustainability Class will also research innovative ways for the school to reduce its waste production as well as new ways to recycle and reuse its waste.

March 2016 – May 2016

- The project's Sustainability Class student ambassadors will help classes analyze monthly the school's trash waste to see how the campus recycling efforts are working. They will track and display their findings on the project's large sign in the main building.
- The student representatives in the Sustainability Class will report back to the school on its recycling efforts and inform the school about its how it is doing in meeting its waste diversion goal.

Project End Date: June 10th, 2016 (last day of school)

- Before the school term ends, Virginia Beach Friends School will celebrate its efforts in meeting its waste diversion goal. It will also identify its campus goal for the future with a potential goal being the school becoming as close to 100% waste free as possible.

Summary Submission Date: June 17th, 2016

**Project Budget: \***

Wood for trash receptacles – \$300  
hinges, screws, nails and sandpaper – \$40  
6 plastic bins for trash cans (3 per trash receptacle) – \$20 each, \$120 total  
Lock – \$10

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Varnish – \$30

Total budget requested: \$500

**Name: \*** Jordan Storm

**Email: \*** [tjordan@friends-school.org](mailto:tjordan@friends-school.org)

**Phone Number: \*** (757) 428-7534

**All information in this application is correct. I have reviewed the proposal with my school principal or organizational leader. As a condition of accepting the mini-grant money, I understand that I will be required to complete and submit the project summary form and pictures from the project upon completion of this project. I will submit my summary report within 14 days of completion. \***

By checking the box and submitting this form, I certify the above.

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