

Facilities and Transportation Department
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Acton Public Schools
<http://ab.mec.edu>

TO: Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent
J.D. Head, Director of Facilities and Transportation
FROM: Kate Crosby, Energy Manager
DATE: December 2, 2013
RE: Statewide MassRecycle Award to ABRSD/APS

I am delighted to announce that ABRSD/APS has received a first place statewide “K-12 School District Recycling” award from MassRecycle for our progress with capturing recyclables and compostables and the reduction of solid waste.

This award honors the hard work of the many students, staff and faculty who are involved with supporting our recycling and compostables programs.

We now have a robust program for collecting compostables at the high school in addition to recyclables, supported by students who manage two sorting stations in the cafeteria and coach their peers on sorting their stuff. The compostables stream also includes food scraps from the kitchen and sawdust from the woodshop.

Plans are underway to introduce a similar sorting program in the Parker Damon Building cafeteria in response to faculty and student interest. Two “trash audit” events have been held to assess the solid waste stream from the Parker Damon cafeteria, revealing that 87% of the cafeteria trash is actually compostable or recyclable! By sorting the cafeteria trash more effectively, we expect to significantly reduce the solid waste stream (similar to results seen at the high school).

In moving forward on capturing compostables, ABRSD-APS is demonstrating statewide leadership. We are also acting in concert with a statewide policy trend, as Mass DEP plans to enact a ban excluding food scraps from solid waste collection as of July 1, 2014. Although they will initially be focused on larger waste producers, the district is well-served by aligning with their policy initiative at this time.

This award also honors the significant contributions of the students and faculty advisors who power the classroom and office recycling programs in each of our schools.

More information about the award to ABRSD/APS from MassRecycle::
<http://www.massrecycle.org/recyclingawards/2013-winners-finalists/k-12-school-district-award>

