
Newton Marasco Foundation Partners with Hillsboro Elementary to Go Green



October 7, 2008

INTRODUCTION

At the end of the 2007/2008 school year, the Newton Marasco Foundation partnered with Hillsboro Elementary School to initiate a Greening effort for the school. The effort began with a logo contest, and over the summer, we worked with school and PTA members to develop a plan so the Greening programs could be initiated at the beginning of the 2008/2009 school year.

The Newton Marasco Foundation, a Washington D.C.-area environmental charity with projects in Loudoun County that are designed to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards at our area schools through positive learning experiences that encourage and reward creativity. The effort at Hillsboro Elementary is supported by the Hillsboro Elementary Parent/Teacher Association, the Loudoun County Public Schools, and several other sponsors working with the Foundation and the school.

MISSION

Our goal with this multi-year effort is to inspire imagination, creativity, and education about Going Green among the students, teachers, faculty, and families at HES so that Going Green is integrated into all aspects of their lives. We want to facilitate creativity and imagination as we learn to integrate going green efforts into their daily habits.

PLANNED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Below are descriptions of the various programs for the Greening effort at Hillsboro Elementary.

1. Logo

The first effort was to develop a logo. To get students involved from the start, the school organized a logo contest, held at the end of last school year. The art and words from three students have been integrated to form one logo that to be used for all the school's Going Green efforts. The winning students are Ashley Morris, Ashton Kaufman, and Brianna Plumhoff.

2. Waste-Free Lunch Program

- This program is to help reduce the amount of waste from lunches, particularly those brought from home.
- At the beginning of the year, each student and faculty was given a reusable grocery bag from Giant with a lunch bag, water bottle, and sandwich container.
- The goal is to reduce the number of plastic bottles and juice boxes, paper bags, and plastic bags used when students bring their lunches to school.

- The initial goal is to encourage students to think about the amount of waste generated through lunches, and encourage them to pack lunches in reusable containers.
- Throughout the year, this program will be expanded by measuring/ weighing the amount of waste generated at lunch, and continue to measure/ weigh while increasing the use of reusable items instead.
- Students will be involved in this effort by monitoring and weighing the waste, and taking it to the recycling area near the school.
- Teachers will be involved by applying this information with grade-appropriate activities such as graphing or averaging the data.
- Goals and incentives will be determined and implemented throughout the year, to be determined.

3. Recycling Program

- This will involve encouraging students and teachers to recycle more, from paper to plastic, and everything in between, that is used at school.
- The recycling program will follow the Loudoun County Public School's guidelines and policies.
- The program will kick off by measuring the amount of material that is recycled and see how much this improves throughout the year as students learn what other items may be recycled.
- Students will be involved in this effort by monitoring and weighing what is recycled, separating the items, and taking them to recycling area near the school.
- Teachers can be involved by ways to apply this information with grade-appropriate activities such as graphing or averaging the data.
- This could potentially evolve into a program to donate items HES no longer uses to other organizations...a different way of recycling and reusing things. Goals and incentives will be established for this program.

4. Energy Monitoring Program

- This will involve having students in each class be assigned to conserve energy by turning off lights and electronics when students leave the room, turning off computer monitors, etc., and perhaps even closing the blinds during summer months and making sure windows and doors to the outside are firmly closed.
- The students assigned to do this will have a badge or some identification they wear to indicate that it is their responsibility to do this during a specified period of time (a week).
- It will be rotated among students in each class.
- To measure it, students will be encouraged to review energy bills and track changes from month to month.
- This program will be implemented with assistance from the LCPS Energy Education Department.
- Teachers may apply the data collected to projects.

5. Habitats and Gardens/Efforts with Loudoun Valley High School (LVHS)

- Garden of Native Virginia Plants
- Wildlife Refueling Station in the circle in front of HES (at entrance)
- Butterfly garden between the school and the cottage
- Field trip for HES students to go to LVHS
- Blue bird boxes (LVHS students make blue bird boxes; consider allowing HES students decorate them; consider special cardinal boxes too, as a tie-in to HES's cardinal and mascot for the effort)
- Have LVHS students come teach HES students; consider doing this on or near Earth Day
- Put eco-tips on the HES sign on Route 9, which will be surrounded by one of the native Virginia plant gardens

6. Eco-Science Fair

- TetraTech has agreed to help with the Eco-Science Fair
- They will come in February to give a presentation about how this one will be different from the past couple of years
- They will also be the judges

7. Integration of Going Green Information into Regular Curriculum

- The Going Green theme may be integrated into all areas:
 - Math:
 - Graphing, averaging, etc.
 - Social Studies:
 - Books and reports on people in history who have been involved in these kinds of efforts (Rachael Carson, Johnny Appleseed, etc.)
 - English
 - Poetry and essay contests
 - Word searches, crossword puzzles
 - Vocabulary and spelling words
 - Science:
 - How recycling works
 - Composting
 - The cycle of water, air, earth, etc.
 - Art
 - Bookmarks
 - Recycle boxes
 - Music
 - Eco-themes for programs throughout the year
 - Physical Education
 - Outdoor classrooms

8. Monthly Eco-Tips

- Have students in each grade research and prepare eco-tips to be included in the monthly HES newsletter
- Include tips on the HES sign on Route 9

SPONSORS

The Newton Marasco Foundation is proud to partner with Hillsboro Elementary on this effort, and to have the support other sponsors that are providing talent and resources for the Foundation's efforts at Hillsboro.

MAJOR SPONSORS

- **Loudoun County Public Schools**, LCPS will provide resources through the Energy Education Department to support the energy component of this program.
- **Project Performance Corporation**, which is donating graphic support and printing
- **Tetra Tech**, which is going to help with the Eco-Science Fair
- **SRA International**, which is helping with the green earth book award program, and donating Green Earth Book Award books to HES
- **Cadmus**

LOCAL SPONSORS

- **Loudoun Valley High School**, which is helping with the Wildlife Refueling Station and other efforts.
- **Giant Food Store**, which donated 200 reusable grocery bags for the kick-off
- **Bloom**, which donated 200 reusable sandwich containers for the kick-off and waste-free lunch program
- **Premier Promotional Products**, which produced various items with the new logo at a discounted rate
- **Gardens of Delight**, which is donating plants for the butterfly garden
- **Epling Landscaping**, which is donating the water feature for the wildlife refueling station
- **Master Gardeners**, which will be helping with the gardens

The Foundation continues to add to this growing list of sponsors and partners.

PLANNED FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Throughout the year, the Foundation, working in partnership with the Hillsboro Elementary PTA, is planning to raise funds for the Going Green efforts in the following ways:

- Identifying and pursuing grants

- Selling t-shirts with the HES Going Green logo
- Selling water bottles with the HES Going Green logo
- Selling reusable shopping/grocery bags with the HES Going Green logo
- Securing additional corporate sponsors and donations