

Cutting Cafeteria Waste

USDA Program Shows 85% Decrease in 1st Phase

Monticello Central School District has seen a drastic drop in cafeteria waste in the first phase of a USDA program implemented by HospitalityGreen.

"Before the program began K-5 classes were creating 100 bags of cafeteria garbage a week. That number has been cut by 85 percent," says Evadne Giannini, founder of HospitalityGreen LLC, environmental consultants.

The secret?

in the past all the students' cafeteria waste would end up in a garbage can – heavy, bulky, and full of sloshing, spoiling milk.

Now student volunteers work with newly trained cafeteria staff to make sure each child disposes of their waste at a fun recycling station.



Leftover milk is drained. The now-empty milk cartons are recycled. Styrofoam trays are neatly stacked, significantly reducing their bulk. The result? One hundred bags of trash per week is down to 15, plus five bags of recyclables.

"Our children love their recycling and draining station. By creating a special system, all want to participate. It is a student led program," says Principal Sandra Johnson-Fields of Monticello's George L. Cooke Elementary School.



PARTY CAN CUTS WASTE FOR ROCKLAND KIDS

What do you see? To amateurs it's a simple trash can.

But to kids in Rockland County schools it's The Party Can!

But for the experts at Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority (RCSWSMA) and their partners at HospitalityGreen, it's the clever solution to a vexing problem – the first initiative in a complete waste reduction assessment program.

"Every day at Stony Point Elementary it seems like it's someone's birthday. There's cake and juice and... the classroom's recycling bins get contaminated by mistake," says

Evadne Gianninia, founder of Hospitality Green LLC, environmental consultants.

The solution? The Party Can.

Any teacher can request a Party Can. The custodians roll it in to the classroom early in the morning and remove it at the end of the day. All the extra mess winds up on one spot, keeping the recycling bins uncontaminated.

Beth Shusterman, assistant principal and project leader says, "Teachers, custodians and students love the Party Can! The Party Can lets us continue to limit the num-

ber of garbage cans to one per classroom and accommodate those fun messy times we all have in the K-5 classroom."

