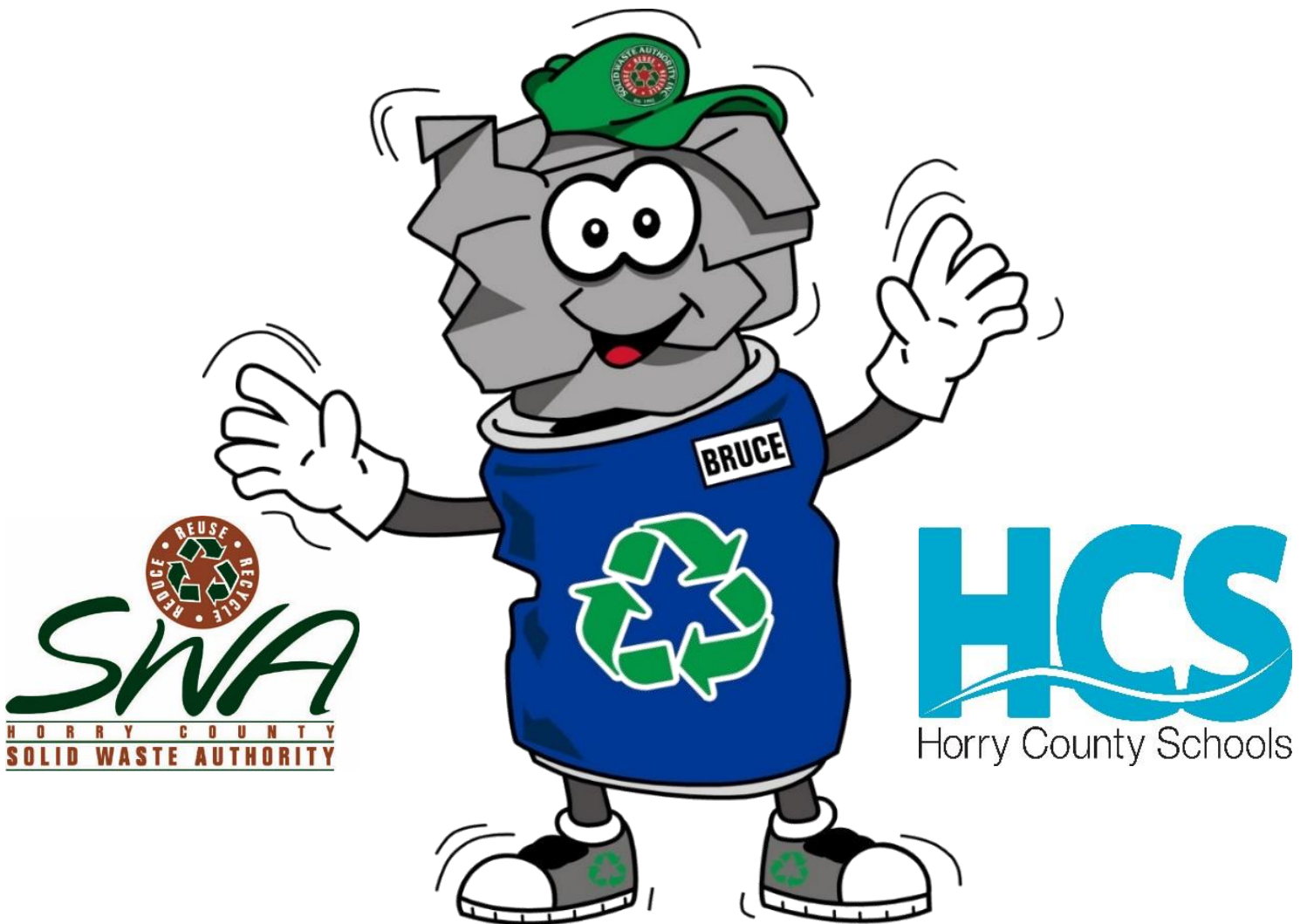


TALKIN TRASH

PROGRAM GUIDE 2021-2022

A Recycling Contest for Horry
County 4th Graders

SWA in Partnership with HCS



ARE YOU READY TO TALK TRASH?

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Talkin' Trash (TT) is a school recycling and waste diversion competition that encourages elementary schools to engage in waste reduction practices, such as recycling, composting, etc. Created by the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA), the Talkin' Trash program has been introducing students to recycling and environmental awareness since 2000. The program has fostered a mutually beneficial partnership between the Horry County Solid Waste Authority and Horry County Schools (HCS).

The TT program entails recycling material each month as well as completing challenges over the course of the competition to improve the waste management practices at your school and to earn points in the competition. There is no one-size fits all answer for how your school can succeed in this competition. This is especially the case due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

As we have done in the past, the SWA will monitor and collect data on the amount of material being recycled/composted at each participating school. To ensure that all 4th graders can participate-whether they are physically in school or attending virtually-we have modified the monthly and ongoing challenges. Students participating virtually will be required to submit their challenges to their teacher/liaison who will then submit the information to SWA. It is recommended that Dining Services and Building Services are included as they will be able to provide significant insight on how your school operates and they will be active participants in the program too. You know your school best so it will be up to you to determine the best strategy for the competition.

TALKIN' TRASH MISSION

The mission of the Talkin' Trash Contest is to educate HCS students and faculty on the importance of recycling, proper waste management and environmentally sustainable practices.


CONTACT INFORMATION

All challenges should be emailed to education@solidwasteauthority.org.

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

School progress is measured monthly (October – March). Winning schools will be determined by the weight of recyclables each school diverts from the landfill in combination with “Bonus Challenge Points” which is added to the final pound per student each month.

Monthly Challenges and Presentation/Grand Finale Dates

- **October** Monthly Challenge: Recycling Station Poster 2 points
♻️ Talkin’ Trash Presentation: November 9th and 10th, 2021
- **November** Monthly Challenge: America Recycles Day Campaign 2 points
♻️ Talkin’ Trash Presentation: December 7th and 8th, 2021
- **December** Monthly Challenge: Poster Campaign 2 points
♻️ Talkin’ Trash Presentation: January 11th and 12th, 2022
- **January** Monthly Challenge: Classroom/Home Waste Audit 2 points
♻️ Talkin’ Trash Presentation: February 8th and 9th, 2022
- **February** Monthly Challenge: Recycled Art Project 2 points
♻️ Talkin’ Trash Presentation: March 8th and 9th, 2022
- **March** Monthly Challenge: Video Diary 2 points
♻️ Talkin’ Trash Presentation: April 5th and 6th, 2022

Grand Finale Field Trip is scheduled to be held May 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2022

Ongoing challenges

These are to be completed throughout the year to go towards Grand Finale Field Trip Winners

(Must be completed and turned in by April 1st)

- Field Trip Landfill & Recycling Facilities 2 points
- Campus Litter Cleanup 2 points
- Event Recycling 2 points



MONTHLY CHALLENGES

OCTOBER – RECYCLE STATION POSTER

Every classroom in Horry County public schools has the opportunity and should be recycling paper through the Horry County Solid Waste Authority's (SWA) Classroom Paper Recycling Program. Each school is provided with classroom recycling bins and designated roll carts for free from the SWA. Each classroom should have one recycling bin for paper and another recycling bin for all other recyclables (commingle). Commingle containers are provided by HCS Facilities.



Challenge: Have students create a poster for classrooms to utilize to encourage Paper and Commingle Recycling.

To receive points, please submit the photos to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.



NOVEMBER – AMERICA RECYCLES DAY CAMPAIGN

America Recycles Day is held November 15th each year and is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States.

Challenge: Host an event to celebrate America Recycles Day.

Some examples of ARD School Campaign Ideas:

- Encourage students and teachers to recycle more by providing an interactive opportunity to learn what can and can not be recycled in your school (a relay race game).
- Host a school wide "I Recycle!" pledge campaign. Students, teachers, and administrators pledge to recycle for the rest of the school year.
- Invite guest speakers from various environmental agencies out for an Environmental Career Day.



To receive points, please submit photos and/or summary to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.

DECEMBER – POSTER CAMPAIGN

Communicating important information in a fun way is a great strategy to spread awareness about a topic and poster campaigns have proven to be a great way to have students get involved.

Challenge: Sponsor a poster campaign at your school that promotes sustainability, health and wellness, recycling, composting, environmental stewardship, energy, clean air, litter or any other topic that students connect to sustainability at your school. This can be made into a contest for added fun and share winners on social media!

To receive points, please submit photos and summary to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.



JANUARY – CLASSROOM/HOME WASTE AUDIT

A waste audit is an assessment of what your school or home is throwing away. Conducting a visual waste audit is a great way to evaluate the waste that is disposed of and how much of that waste could have been recycled, composted or donated.

Challenge: Conduct a visual waste audit at home or at school and answer the following questions:

1. What kinds of waste are in the garbage?
2. Are there recyclable or compostable materials in the trash?
3. What could we have done to reduce the amount of garbage?

To receive points, liaisons should please submit photos and student responses to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.

FEBRUARY – RECYCLED ART PROJECT

The 3 R's are: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! It is important to try to reuse items even before we recycle them.

Challenge: Rethink ways to turn trash into treasure! Collect items that would normally be discarded and turn these pieces of trash into something artistic, innovative, and new!

Ideas for projects include using old books, bottle caps, plastic bottles, tissue boxes, pens/markers, plastic bags, milk cartons, etc. Check out Pinterest, Etsy, Google and other fun websites for inspiration.

To receive points, liaisons should please submit photos to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.



MARCH – VIDEO DIARY

The video challenge invites the school, students, teachers, staff, administration, and parents to reflect on not only the basics of recycling, but on sustainability, resource conservation, and environmental stewardship. This activity will empower students and facilitators to demonstrate how their school is conserving resources, reducing pollution, and increasing the life of Horry County's landfill by encouraging increased recycling participation. The contest will also serve as a learning tool for participating students by providing lessons in ecology, art, drama, technology, marketing and team work.

Challenge: Create and submit a video encouraging recycling and the efforts being taken to reduce waste. Show and tell us what you did this year during the Talkin' Trash program and why you are the greenest school/home in Horry County!

Ideas for project include using photos from previous challenges. We really want to see videos and photos of your students completing challenges throughout the competition, but please be mindful of any media-denied students that may be participating.

Videos may be submitted by liaison as a SchoolTube/YouTube link or Media File. Links may be emailed to Education@solidwasteauthority.org or text your Recycling Coordinator.

ONGOING CHALLENGES

FIELD TRIP OF LANDFILL & RECYCLING PRESENTATION

Have you ever been to a landfill to see where your trash goes? The SWA offers virtual field trips to tour the landfill, recycling facility, and composting area where all HCS food waste goes. Virtual tours/presentations and in-person tour applications can be found at <http://www.solidwasteauthority.org/education.html#tours>. We also offer in school presentations or live zoom presentations to interact with your students either at school or home.

Challenge: Take a virtual or in-person field trip/presentation.

To receive your challenge points, please submit student testimonials to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.

COMMUNITY LITTER CLEANUP

Litter is a major issue and we should all make efforts to reduce the litter in our communities and clean up where we can. Students can help educate others and parents on the importance of keeping our community litter free.

Challenge: Hold a litter cleanup! This cleanup can be on school grounds, at home, or you can go off-site to an area in need.

Our local Keep America Beautiful chapter, Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB), can assist you with all of the equipment and resources that you need for your cleanup including trash grabbers, bags, vests, signage, and safety information.

To receive your challenge points, please submit photos or written testimonials to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.

EVENT RECYCLING

Does your school make efforts to recycle during special events? Is there anything that you could do to promote recycling and waste diversion when you have special events?

Challenge: Choose at least one event during the school year and plan to offer event recycling to attendees. You can obtain temporary event recycling containers from the SWA for this if needed. You may also choose to utilize the containers and equipment currently on-site and make containers available to attendees during the event. Make sure that you have signs available to tell everyone what should go in the containers.

This is a great opportunity to introduce recycling and composting to parents and guardians! The students have likely told them about what is going on in their school and this a great chance to have students teach their family how to be good environmental stewards.

To receive points, please submit event information and photos to Education@solidwasteauthority.org.