



2023 Recycling Grant Winners

In 2023, the RCRSWMD's Board of Directors chose to award and recognize 6 Richland County school programs with the \$500 Recycling School Grant.

* Shelby Middle School expanded their education programs to the community through electronic recycling drive in Richland County, frog and toad day, and activity book!

* Lexington Jr. High created a "Rethink Waste Display" to bring awareness to the community!

* Lexington Jr. High "Minutemen In Action" did a school clean-up project!

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*Butler Elementary won for establishing a new recycling program at their school, focusing on establishing recycling habits within the student body that will last for years.

*Central Elementary, Lexington, also established a new recycling program. The grant will help them purchase bins and create flyers into 2022/23 school year.

*Crestview HS applied for a grant to beautify the front of the school with the replacement of old bins with new bins, hanging flower baskets, and adding solar lights along the main sidewalks.

*Lexington Jr. High created an activity/coloring book for Jr. High mentors so that the engagement with elementary students will foster mentoring, leadership skills, and environmental education.

*Sacred Heart's project is titled "Project Parish" and honors a former teacher for his impact on students and love of the outdoors. This project will promote recycling through the collection of 100 lbs of bottle caps, which will be made into a bench contributing to the beautification of the parish campus.

*Shelby Middle School created an activity/coloring book to engage with younger students to promote the union of their new K-8 building. The book will help foster leadership skills within the Middle School's recycling mentors during their Frog Day Awareness Day this Spring. As they engage with younger students, the next generation of Ego-Whippets will emerge.

All programs focus on increasing awareness of recycling and learning to be responsible for stewarding the Earth.

2020 and 2021 Winners of Recycling Grants for Schools

The 2020 winners: **Crestview High School** received a \$500 grant for the water bottle study completed in their school. The **Green Team** learned that 626 plastic bottles were used by students while in school within a 3 week period. Crestview HS has installed refillable water bottle fountains. **Shelby Eco-Whippets from Shelby Middle School** studied the negative effects plastic straws have on the environment. Because of this study, straws are only distributed if students ask for them during school meal times.

The 2021 winners: The **CACY team of Lexington Junior High**. The team built a community of outreach for recycling during COVID19. Through emails, announcements, and consistent follow-up with recycling, the team created best recycling practices for Lexington Junior High while instilling “A sense of caring for the environment” and for each other. The **Shelby Eco Whippets, Shelby Middle School**, won a grant for their “Save the Frogs Day” promotion. The Eco Whippets will educate and fascinate younger students on the importance of frogs and toads in Richland County. Their program focuses on environmental awareness, the positive interaction with wildlife, the role of recycling in the community and how recycling promotes stewardship and responsibility to nature and wildlife.

Honorable Mention goes to Claire at Eastern Elementary. She demonstrated the power of making a difference by sharing posters/flyers, conducting studies, and installing simple recycling bins throughout her school to increase recycling efforts while promoting the importance of recycling at Eastern Elementary.