Community Grants Program

New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYS2I) provides financial and technical support for projects that raise awareness and understanding of pollution prevention practices and lead to implementation at the local level.

Training the Trainers: Prevention Pollution Through Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

Organization & Contact Information
Syracuse CoE Center for Sustainable Community Solutions at Syracuse University
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Project Description
Located at Syracuse University, the Syracuse CoE Center for Sustainable Community Solutions (CSCS) fosters resilience in communities by supporting and connecting natural, built and social systems, particularly those that support pollution prevention. This is done through innovative and collaborative approaches in education delivery and technology transfer.

The goals of this project were to:
- Enable 70 K-12 teachers to incorporate environmental lessons into their current curriculum
- Assist 40 educators in establishing a rain barrel or compost tumbler demonstration project at their school
- Create a network of K-12 teachers interested in, and teaching, environmental curriculum in their classrooms

Project Results
This project resulted in a robust, multifaceted, and dynamic teacher conference held April 30, 2013, with the purpose of sharing pollution prevention education and resources. This was accomplished by providing teachers with the knowledge, community connections, and materials necessary to establish long-term, hands-on projects that both directly reduce waste and pollution and foster lifelong environmental stewardship habits in students. The main subject areas addressed by the conference were green infrastructure and sustainable materials management.

- “Spring Greening: An Educator Conference on Teaching Green.” was attended by a total of 62 people, including 35 teachers and 27 professionals from 17 different local community organizations. Teachers were in attendance from 17 different districts and 23 different schools, including public schools, charter schools, Catholic schools, BOCES, and a special needs preschool.

- A total of 23 compost tumblers and 22 rain barrels were given away to teachers as a result of this program, with an estimated result of 42 demonstration projects established at school

- 12,375 individuals were contacted via the conference and through e-blasts and Facebook.