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Over 1.5 Million U.S. Students and Teachers Engaged in “Going Green”

Over 1.5 million students and teachers in the U.S. and around the world are a part of registered Go Green Initiative schools. This program which began on founder, Jill Buck’s kitchen table in 2002, is now the largest and fastest growing environmental education program in the world.

Schools participating in the Go Green Initiative worldwide are reporting remarkable results when it comes to waste diversion. The Go Green Initiative Association, providing a comprehensive environmental improvement plan to schools across the country, is the first program of its kind to teach schools communities to quantify and report these types of diversion numbers.

“We are so excited to see such positive results without mandates or legislation of any kind – to know that so many schools across the globe are involved because they *want* to be, not because they *have* to be,” said Jill Buck, **founder and executive director of Go Green**. “It’s so inspiring to see this level of voluntary stewardship.”

And the numbers speak for themselves. Between Dec. 05 and Dec. 07, Go Green schools kept the following out of the nation’s landfills:

- ◆ Over 5.3 million pounds of paper
- ◆ More than 530,000 pounds of cardboard
- ◆ 60,000 pounds of aluminum
- ◆ 109,000 pounds of plastic beverage containers
- ◆ Nearly 15,000 cellular phones
- ◆ 11,000 printer cartridges
- ◆ More than 435,000 pounds of mixed recyclables
- ◆ 80,000 pounds of food waste

And comparatively speaking, that’s just from a handful of the nation’s schools involved in the Go Green Initiative.

Practically speaking, the cumulative diversion results can be interpreted to learn the real environmental impact the reporting Go Green schools are having on the planet. These schools avoided the use of:

- ◆ 44 billion BTUs of energy use
- ◆ 2,604 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ 18,606,000 gallons of water
- ◆ 1 million gallons of oil
- ◆ 9,653 cubic yards of landfill space, due to paper recycling alone

The reporting schools, along with other schools in the Go Green family, are looking forward to a continuous improvement of their waste diversion in 2007 and beyond. “Our network continues to grow exponentially,” says Buck. “This time last year, our website averaged 5000 hits per month. We now average over 1.2 million hits per month from all over the world. We’ve already translated into Spanish, French and Mandarin, and have been asked to translate the program into Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Russian, Arabic and German.”

About the Go Green Initiative Association – The Go Green Initiative is the nation’s fastest growing fully comprehensive environmental action plan for schools. By promoting environmental stewardship on campuses from elementary schools through universities, Go Green works to involve families, businesses and local governments in the common goal of protecting human health through environmental stewardship. Since its inception in July 2002, the Go Green Initiative has been endorsed by the National School Boards Association, National Recycling Coalition, adopted by eight State PTA Boards, implemented in 46 states and over 1200 schools, along with schools in Europe, Mexico, Asia and Africa. There are currently over 1.5 million students and teachers in registered Go Green schools.

More information is available online at www.GoGreenInitiative.org.