



**For Immediate Release
January 23, 2007**

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Over 1 Million U.S. Students and Teachers Engaged in “Going Green”

Over 1 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. 06, Go Green schools kept the following out of the nation’s landfills:

- ◆ Nearly 3 million pounds of paper
- ◆ Over 223, 000 pounds of cardboard
- ◆ 30,000 pounds of aluminum
- ◆ 58,000 pounds of plastic beverage containers
- ◆ 1971 cellular phones
- ◆ 10,906 printer cartridges
- ◆ More than 222,000 pounds of mixed recyclables
- ◆ 21,000 pounds of food waste

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

”The figures present proof that even a small group of dedicated students and citizens can truly make a significant difference,” said Edwin Pinero, the White House’s Federal Environmental Executive. “These schools are on the right track and are setting an example for others to follow in the true spirit of cooperative conservation in America.”

“Schools nationwide are looking for an environmental stewardship program and GGI provides them with the ability to create, execute, and accomplish a fully comprehensive environmental action plan promoting

environmental stewardship,” according to GGI Board Member and **former President of the National Recycling Coalition**, Meg Morris. “It’s all about simple behavioral changes, not curriculum”.

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:

- ◆ 22.9 billion BTUs of energy use
- ◆ 1,389 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ 10,234,000 gallons of water
- ◆ 555,560 gallons of oil
- ◆ 5,194 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 350 hits per month. We now average over 5,200 hits per month from all over the world. We’ve already translated into Spanish, and have been asked to translate the program into French and Mandarin.”

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 six State PTA Boards, implemented in 30 states and over 440 schools, along with seven schools in Europe and one school in Africa. There are currently over 1 million students and teachers in registered Go Green schools.

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