



**Boulder/Broomfield County  
School Recycling and  
Environmental Education Program**

**August 2020 - June 2021**

## **Annual Report: 2020-2021 School Year**

### **BOULDER/BROOMFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

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*"Thank you so much for this helpful Green Star Schools information and fun video. We appreciate all your efforts to help reduce waste in our school and community!"*

*- Kathy Richardson, Southern Hills Middle School Administration*

*"The kids really loved having you. This entire week they have been so mindful about throwing anything away. We were 'rainbow writing' sight words and in my demonstration, I only used one side of the paper. One student said, 'Using only one side of the paper will be wasting it! Do another word on the other side!' So now we are being mindful of using our natural resources and spelling more words. It's a win win!!! We are going to do your recycling activity tomorrow in Seesaw when we are online. Thanks so much for sharing!"*

*-Jillian Larson, Niwot Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher*

Circumstances for the 2020-2021 school year were unprecedented due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the schools. As schools switched between 100% remote learning and various models of hybrid remote/in-person learning, we adapted by redesigning all of our educational offerings. Our overarching goal was to keep as much collection infrastructure in place in the schools as possible, keep our trained staff with years of collective experience employed and provide enough COVID-appropriate services to keep teachers and schools involved and loyal to the program.

For the entire school year, outside presenters and field trips were not allowed by any of the schools. In response, we created and offered teachers a choice of virtual program delivery types for all 25 of our lessons and our three field trips. These included live-virtual and prerecorded-virtual formats. The live-virtual presentations featured a live presenter who could interface with students, answer questions and lead a discussion in real time. The development of these live-virtual presentations included new animated slide shows and new interactive formats for activities using demonstrations, chat rooms, jamboards, etc. These presentations were delivered equally well to students that were learning remotely from home and/or were in-person in the classroom. For any teacher that preferred them, prerecorded versions of all presentations were created and made available. In addition, a live-virtual Q&A/Discussion was offered as a follow-up to any class viewing a recorded lesson.



Extension activities were also developed to meet Colorado math, science and reading/writing/communication standards. These activities used new digital formats including Jamboards, Google Slides, Schoology and Seesaw. Activities were sent to all participating teachers. All programming had an emphasis on integrating reading/writing/communication and math because teachers were required to prioritize those standards over science and social studies. *We are the only environmental education organization that has offered this range and type of options to the schools.*

In addition, we developed new virtual materials to promote Zero Waste to all Green Star School communities. These included new publications, prize drawings and outreach tools for students, staff and families. See the attached 2020-2021 Green Star Schools Report and attachments for details.

## Highlights of 2020-2021

- **The Green Star Schools program received two significant awards this year.** At the September Recycle Colorado Summit, Boulder Valley (BVSD) and St. Vrain Valley (SVVSD) School Districts were jointly honored with an *Outstanding Outreach Award*. This award recognized both BVSD and SVVSD for their leadership in being among the first school districts in the nation to successfully move towards Zero Waste because of their participation in Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools program. The second award received was the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) *Advancing Environmental Literacy Award*. This award recognized Eco-Cycle's innovation in creating unique and successful waste reduction programs, all of which have been popular in the schools for over a decade. The programs honored were the Waste-Free Lunch Contest, the Children's Used Book Project and Locker Leftovers.
- **Despite the effects of COVID-19, we were able to present 1,700 live-virtual or pre-recorded virtual presentations and field trips on a wide variety of environmental topics to 39,005 Boulder County and Broomfield County students and staff.** Contracts and grants (listed below) allowed for these services. Topics delivered included: Zero Waste, recycling, composting, household hazardous waste, litter prevention, rainforests, North American forestry, energy conservation, water conservation, water quality and air quality.



- **Eco-Cycle collected and processed 143 tons of paper (cardboard, newspaper, magazines, classroom/office paper) and commingled containers (steel, aluminum, cartons, plastic, glass) from Boulder Valley School District.** In addition, **62 tons of compost were collected.** St. Vrain Valley School District recyclables and compostables were collected by Western Disposal.
- **Eco-Cycle and Boulder County Public Health Farm to Early Childhood Education Program partnered again this year to bring 30 recycling, composting and/or healthy soils presentations to nine early childhood education centers in the City of Boulder.** *Healthy Soils, Healthy Food, Healthy Bodies: The Soil to Tummy Journey* is a new lesson developed by Eco-Cycle with the Boulder County Public Health Department to address the importance of healthy soil, how food grown on a farm gets to our plates and the importance of 'eating the rainbow' for proper nutrition.
- **Eco-Cycle, BVSD and the City of Boulder partnered again this year to implement the *Reusables Rule at Our School! Reusable Water Bottle Project*.** Automatic bottle-fillers were installed in Fairview, Boulder and New Vista High Schools.
- **The *Children's Used Book Project* continued to provide local charities and schools with free books.** Through this program, over 6,700 books were diverted from the recycling bins at the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM). Approximately 4,800 of these books were sent through *SCOPE International* to help build libraries in Africa.
- **The two-part water science/water conservation presentation entitled *H2Oh!: A Look at Water in Our Lives* was funded again by the City of Boulder for 12 classes.** In addition, **86 *Rain, Rain: Keeping Our Water Clean* water quality presentations were received by Boulder County elementary classes, funded by the Boulder County Keep It Clean Partnership and Eco-Cycle.**
- **Fifteen classes and 317 students participated in either the live-virtual or pre-recorded-virtual version of the *Kilowatt Kidz* project this school year.** Boulder County funded this four-week energy conservation project, created for fourth-grade classes.



- **It was not possible to launch any new Green Star Schools this school year because outside organizations were not allowed in school buildings for the entire year. Eco-Cycle was very successful, however, at adapting all programming to virtual delivery.** We created new publications, videos, prize drawings and projects for Green Star Schools, which kept waste reduction habits and practices in place. New projects included high school classes making art out of used books for a digital art show and the piloting of an after-school digital story time for primary students. When students were occupying BVSD buildings, recycling and compost collections continued as normal, with the exception that no food was allowed in the classroom compost. Due to COVID, only five out of 15 SVVSD schools were allowed to collect compost. Recycling, however, continued as normal. Please see the attached 2020-2021 Green Star Schools annual report and report attachments.
- **The total number of program participants is now 24,028 students and 3,027 staff.** Green Star Schools have an average of 25% of students qualifying for free/reduced price lunch, 13% of students qualifying as English-language learners and 33% of students identifying as non-Caucasian. Thirty-eight participating schools are elementary level, nine are middle level, two are PK-8th, one is a middle/senior and five are high schools.

### Funding

- Funding was provided by Boulder County (\$55,850) for educational services within both Boulder County school districts, and by Boulder Valley School District (\$62,974) for educational services and recyclables/compostables collection. St. Vrain Valley School District paid Western Disposal for the collection of recyclables and compostables as part of its trash contract.
- A contract with the City of Boulder (\$17,997) provided for expanded opportunities for Boulder schools. These included 13 *Litterless Lunch* presentations, 14 *Wise With Waste* tours, 13 *Growing Green* tours and the *Locker Leftovers/Classroom Cleanout* project.
- A contract with the City and County of Broomfield (\$24,592) provided for classroom presentations, *Follow the Waste Stream* tours and *Wise With Waste* tours for both the BVSD and Adams 12 Five Star schools within City/County limits.



- A contract with the Town of Superior (\$4,141) provided *Wise With Waste* tours and the *Locker Leftovers/Classroom Cleanout* project for the two Superior schools.
- Reusable cloth sandwich wraps (distributed as part of the *Litterless Lunch* project) and the *Waste-Free Lunch Contest* were funded by the Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (\$4,858). Twelve *Growing Green* tours also received County funding (\$6,339).
- The City of Boulder Water Conservation program funded the *Reusables Rule at Our School! Reusable Water Bottle Project* (\$6,600) and the *H2Oh!: A Look at Water in Our Lives* presentations for third-grade classes (\$4,320).
- The Keep-It-Clean Partnership (\$9,536) and Eco-Cycle (\$1,440) funded the *86 Rain, Rain: Keeping Our Water Clean* presentations for Boulder County classes.
- The *Kilowatt Kidz* project was funded by Boulder County (\$9,000).
- Boulder County Public Health funded composting and nutrition education for early childhood education centers in the City of Boulder (\$4,250).
- Extra environmental education programming for Lafayette schools was funded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) (\$1,824).

- St. Vrain Valley School District funded presentations for their Weld County schools (\$5,000).
- This year's funders of the Green Star Schools program were: Eco-Cycle (\$56,849), Boulder County (\$30,000), Boulder Valley School District (\$30,000), Oracle Grants Program (\$25,000), Ball Foundation (\$18,000), City of Boulder (\$15,000), St. Vrain Valley School District (\$10,000), City of Longmont (\$5,000), Northrop Grumman (\$800) and BVSD Trip Tracker (\$236). BVSD and SVVSD paid for the hauling of their compostables.
- Eco-Cycle (\$6,000) provided funding for the *Children's Used Book Project*.

## **Program Details**

### **A. Staffing**

1. Cyndra Dietz (Program Director), Kim Orr (Green Star Schools Program Manager), Alycia Bouyounan (Registrar/Project Administrator), Tina DeLisa-Bosse (Master Educator), Halie Cunningham (Master Educator), Kristi Meyer (Master Educator/Book Project Coordinator), Brittany Nicolaysen (Master Educator) and Mark McMullen-Bushman (Program Services and Outreach Manager) were the staff for the 2020-2021 school year.



### **B. Participation**

1. **All 84 BVSD and SVVSD schools in Boulder and Broomfield Counties participated in both the collection and education aspects of the program. In addition, seven Adams 12 Five Star Schools within the City and County of Broomfield and six Weld County schools participated in the educational offerings.**
2. **The total number of virtual presentations given (both live-virtual and prerecorded-virtual) was 1,700 and the total number of student and faculty contacts was 39,005.** All presentations are correlated to support Colorado State, Boulder Valley School District and St. Vrain Valley School District academic content standards.
3. **The following is a breakdown of the total number of presentations (live-virtual and prerecorded-virtual) delivered by topic and by grade level:**

<u>Topic</u>	<u># Presentations</u>
Recycling/Waste Reduction	251
Waste Stream & Wise With Waste Tours	82
Earth Friends Storytime	36
Farm to ECE	30
Composting	192
Growing Green Tours	51
Household Hazardous Waste	31
Holiday Waste Reduction	171
Litterless/Waste-Free Lunch	77
High Tech Trash	28
Zero Waste Around the World	30
Litter Prevention	86
Rainforest	83
North American Forestry	157
Air Quality	76
Indoor Air Quality	21
Energy Conservation/Kilowatt Kidz	135
Water Conservation/Quality	132



Green Star Schools (GSS)	16
Locker Leftovers	0
Water Fountain Retrofit Project	0
New Contact Meetings (non-GSS)	11
Green Teams (non-GSS)	0
Special Projects/School Fairs	3

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u># Presentations</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u># Presentations</u>
Pre-K	83	6th	32
K	146	7th	17
1st	169	8th	100
2nd	220	6th-8th	127
3rd	259	9th-12th	4
4th	207	multi-age/families	0
5th	207	adults	18
mixed elem.	111		

### C. Collection Method for Recyclables

1. St. Vrain Valley School District continued single-stream recycling collection. Students and staff put all materials together in their classroom boxes, hall bins and the recycling dumpster behind each building.
2. Boulder Valley School District also continued single-stream recycling. All recyclables are combined in the outside recycling dumpster(s) at each district site. Inside the school and administrative buildings, materials are collected in two streams (cardboard/paper and commingled containers). Limiting the number of receptacles for the collection of drink containers reduces the amount of custodial/staff/student labor needed to clean sticky liquids from hall and classroom collection bins.

### D. Ongoing Curricular Offerings to Boulder and Broomfield County Public Schools

1. The **core educational offerings** of the program (funded by Boulder County, BVSD, and the City and County of Broomfield) bring teachers a wide variety of environmental topics, presented to preschool through twelfth-grade classes, in various hands-on instructional formats. Boulder Valley, St. Vrain Valley and Adams 12 teachers choose from the following list of presentations available on an ongoing basis. (Each parenthesis set below indicates a separate format for that presentation and the grade levels that receive each format, for a total of 25 different formats.) Presentations are given to individual classes. Additional presentations, dependent upon other funding, are described in # 2-9 below. All presentations were offered this year in live-virtual and prerecorded-virtual formats.



- *Mr. Turtle's Mishap: A Look at Litter's Impact on the Environment* (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- *Ready, Set, Recycle!* (Preschool)
- *Recycling and Our Environment* (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- *Papermaking and the Solid Waste Dilemma* (4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- *Papermaking and the Recycling Process* (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) (3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- *Zero Waste Making A Difference* (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- *Follow the Waste Stream tour* (4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- *Eco-Elf Holiday Program* (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- *Be an Eco-Star for the Holidays* (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- *A Day in the Life of Wormie* (Preschool)



- *The Secret Life of Soil: Critters Creating Compost* (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- *Nature's Recycling and Composting* (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
- *Friends with the Forest* (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- *America's Forests, Recycling and Papermaking* (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- *Forestry and Conservation* (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- *The Rainforest and Recycling* (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) (3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- *Energy and the Environment* (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)
- *I Care About Clean Air* (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
- *Household Toxins: A Safe Environment Begins at Home* (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- *High Tech Trash: Responsible Stewardship in the Digital Age* (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

2. ***Rain, Rain: Keeping Our Water Clean*** was funded for the sixth year by the Keep-It-Clean Partnership and Eco-Cycle. The presentation was given to 86 Boulder County classes. Of these, 58 were given as live-virtual and 28 were given as prerecorded-virtual. The presentation is designed with adaptations for all elementary grade levels. The central message is that storm drains drain into creeks, and therefore, water draining into storm drains must be kept clean and free from litter, car oil, soaps, pet waste and other pollutants. An *EnviroScape watershed* model is used to simulate how pollutants are washed into lakes and streams.
3. The water conservation presentation ***H2O!h!: A Look at Water in Our Lives*** was implemented for the eighth year. This two-presentation, two-week program, funded for twelve classes by the City of Boulder, is designed to support third-grade science curriculum. Activities during Day 1 include an interactive matching game about the states of matter, visual aids exploring water in our landscapes, a hands-on game to identify where water is needed throughout society and a review of the water cycle. Students are given homework asking them to survey how water is used in their homes, as well as a packet of toilet-tank leak-tester tablets.

Day 2, given one week later, involves a calculation of how much water is lost by leaky faucets over time, small group creation of a bar graph using student water-use priorities and water-conservation bingo with ideas for students to try at home.



4. Fifteen classes and 317 students participated in either the live-virtual or prerecorded-virtual version of the ***Kilowatt Kidz*** project this school year, funded by Boulder County. Eight classes did live-virtual programming and seven classes opted for the prerecorded-virtual lessons. This four-presentation, four-week offering on energy conservation was developed for fourth-grade classrooms. The lessons include hands-on experiments, songs and skits with a superhero theme. Students were asked to try behavioral changes to save energy and families were exposed to the offerings of Boulder County's EnergySmart program for home retrofits.
5. The ***Litterless Lunch*** project enjoyed a popular seventeenth year. Thanks to Boulder County and City of Boulder funds, 32 third, fourth and fifth-grade classes participated in this two-presentation, two-week project which examines the pros and cons of packaging and the importance of waste reduction. Each participating student receives a reusable cloth sandwich wrap. Changes in students' packaging choices are reinforced with a graphing activity during both the initial and follow-up presentation. Thirty classes signed up for live-virtual presentations and two classes chose prerecorded-virtual.



Recycling Center. Finally, they participated in a live-virtual follow-up discussion/Q&A with an Eco-Cycle educator to wrap up the unit.

6. A total of 30 third, fourth and fifth-grade classes participated in **Growing Green** tours funded by Boulder County, the City of Boulder and the Lafayette GOCO grant. The tour was delivered virtually this year as a three-part unit. First, students received a live-virtual preparatory presentation called *Nature's Recycling and Composting*. Second, students viewed prerecorded tours of the Agricultural Heritage Center and Kilt Organic Farm. Finally, they participated in a follow-up discussion/Q&A with an Eco-Cycle educator to wrap up the unit.

7. Students in 27 Boulder, Superior, Nederland and Broomfield classes (second through fourth grade) participated in the **Wise With Waste** tour this year thanks to funding from Boulder, Superior, Boulder County and Broomfield. The tour was delivered virtually this year as a three-part unit. First, students received a live-virtual preparatory presentation called the *Recycling Process*. Second, students viewed prerecorded tours of CHaRM, ReSource and the Boulder County

8. Two Broomfield classes opted for a virtual version of the **Follow the Waste Stream** tour. The tour was delivered virtually as a three-part unit. First, students received a live-virtual preparatory presentation called the *Solid Waste Dilemma*. Second, students viewed prerecorded tours of a landfill and the Boulder County Recycling Center (after which they completed a precycling classroom activity). Finally, they participated in a live-virtual follow-up discussion/Q&A with an Eco-Cycle educator to wrap up the unit.
9. In the spring, School Program staff revised and revitalized the **Healthy Indoor Air** curriculum for live delivery in the classroom after COVID. We also created a prerecorded version of the lesson and new follow-up activities that are now available to middle school teachers. The *Healthy Indoor Air* program has not been available to teachers for the past four school years due to funding cuts. Because we feel that this is an important topic both for human health and the environment, this revised version will be available to teachers into the future, funded by Eco-Cycle.

## E. Municipal Contracts

1. The **City of Boulder Local Environmental Action Division** funded Eco-Cycle for the nineteenth year, providing expanded opportunities for city schools:
  - a. Fourteen *Wise With Waste* tours and 13 *Growing Green* tours were implemented this year. These tours were done virtually, with a pre-trip live-virtual presentation, prerecorded-virtual tours of each of the traditional field trip stops and a live-virtual follow-up discussion for each class.
  - b. Thirteen of the classes that participated in the *Litterless Lunch* project (described in D.5) were funded by the city.
  - c. All city schools participated in the *Locker Leftovers/Classroom Cleanout* project (described in F.5).
2. The **City of Boulder Water Conservation Program** funded a virtual version of *H2Oh!: A Look at Water in Our Lives* for third-grade classes (described in D.3 above) and the *Reusables Rule at Our School! Reusable Water Bottle Project* (described in F.3).
3. Eco-Cycle contracted for the twentieth year with the **City and County of Broomfield**. This contract provided for 100 virtual classroom presentations, two virtual *Follow the Waste Stream* tours and seven virtual *Wise With Waste* tours for the 13 schools within City/County limits. Six of these schools are part of Boulder Valley





School District and seven are part of Adams 12 Five Star School District. The presentations and field trips are described in D.1 and D.7,8.

4. The nineteenth year of Eco-Cycle's contract with the **Town of Superior** provided for virtual *Wise With Waste* tours and the virtual *Locker Leftovers/Classroom Cleanout* project for the two schools within its boundaries. Six virtual tours were conducted for second and third-grade classes as described in D.7. The COVID-adapted *Locker Leftovers/Classroom Cleanout* project is described in F.5.

## F. Special Projects

1. Eco-Cycle renewed its contract with **Boulder County Public Health** for their **Farm to Early Childhood Education Program** again this school year. The partnership results in Eco-Cycle staff traveling directly to private childcare centers in Boulder County to deliver two lessons. In the fall, the presentations were *A Day in the Life of Wormie* (about composting and soil ecology) and *Ready, Set, Recycle* (about the importance of recycling). For the spring semester, we developed a new lesson to replace *Ready, Set, Recycle* called *Healthy Soils, Healthy Food, Healthy Bodies: The Soil to Tummy Journey*. These lessons reinforce messages and experiences that the students have been receiving from Boulder County Public Health about healthy lifestyles, the importance of fresh farm produce and how that produce is grown. Thirty separate presentations were given to nine early childhood education centers throughout the City of Boulder. Four were delivered in person and 26 were delivered virtually.

*A Day in the Life of Wormie* is about compost, soil and the characteristics of worms and other invertebrates that make up the ecosystem of a compost pile. Students examine samples of compost and soil, and practice composting by 'feeding' objects (represented on cards) to 'Wormie', a hand puppet. *Healthy Soils, Healthy Food, Healthy Bodies* addresses how food grown on a farm gets to our plates, the importance of 'eating the rainbow' and how healthy soil contributes to making food nutritious and our bodies healthy. In this new lesson, fruit and veggie puppets teach 'Wormie' about their journey from the healthy soil he helped create to feeding and nourishing children's bodies. Along the way, they learn about the *Harvest of the Month* from the Farm to ECE newsletter and curriculum. These two lessons complement one another giving even the youngest students a chance to understand how nutrients that come from adding compost to the soil are good for their health.



2. This was the fourth school year of the five-year GOCO funded project, **Jovenes De La Naturaleza/Nature Kids**, which brings continuous environmental education to public school students in the City of Lafayette. The project is coordinated by Thorne Nature Experience. As one of the partner organizations, Eco-Cycle is providing classroom education on multiple environmental topics to all grade levels at the three Lafayette Elementary schools in the program. *Growing Green* tours are also provided for the third-grade level. In addition, GOCO funding made possible the launch of Centaurus High School as a Green Star School in the 2018-2019 school year and the beginning of the launch of Angevine Middle School in the 2019-2020 school year. Unfortunately, the finalization of the Angevine launch is still delayed due to COVID restrictions. The majority of the classroom presentations and field trips were delivered virtually this year, either live or pre-recorded. Only two grade levels out of 15 dropped out of the program due to COVID.
3. This year, Eco-Cycle, BVSD and the City of Boulder once again partnered to fund **Reusables Rule at Our School! Reusable Water Bottle Project**. The goals of this project are to: 1) raise awareness about the high quality and drinkability of Boulder water sources, 2) eliminate waste from single-use water bottles from both the trash and recycling streams, and 3) increase students' use of tap water and reusable water bottles by making it easier for students to refill their bottles at school.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 on schools, CDC guidelines recommend that students only get their water from automatic, no-touch water bottle filling stations (as opposed to traditional water fountains), making this project even more valuable.

Building on the success of previous years, the same Elkay automatic bottle fillers (with a digital refill counter) were installed with City of Boulder funds. Boulder High School, Fairview High School and New Vista High School each received a filler. All were slated to receive an education campaign with city funding. However, due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to complete the education campaign this school year. We are currently designing a family publication to go out for Colorado Recycles Week in November 2021 to all 55 Green Star Schools. The publication will promote the use of reusable water bottles and of the fillers that have been put in place since the beginning of this multi-year partnership. Please see the attached Green Star Schools 2020-2021 annual report for more details.

4. This year's **Waste-Free Lunch Prize Drawing: Explore a Waste-Free Lunch** is a COVID-adapted virtual version of the *Waste-Free Lunch Contest*.



It offers a new way for students to discover how to reduce lunch waste at home and at school through reuse, recycling and composting. Two versions were created. The kindergarten through second-grade version featured a short video and a follow-up sorting activity in Seesaw. The third through fifth-grade version featured an interactive Google Slideshow, with embedded mini-video lessons, followed by a short fun-fact quiz. Participating schools earned one drawing entry for each grade level that assigned

the activity. Family letters offering at-home Zero Waste tips were provided to all participating grade levels.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, two participating grade levels were randomly selected to win \$100 each, and one school was randomly selected to win \$400. The \$400 prize-drawing winner was Bear Creek Elementary. The two grade-level \$100 prize-drawing winners were University Hill Elementary kindergarten and Eisenhower Elementary first grade. Please see the attached Green Star Schools 2020-2021 annual report for more details.

5. The **Locker Leftovers** project is funded each year by the City of Boulder for seven Boulder schools and by the Town of Superior for Eldorado PK-8. The goal of this project is to divert reusables and recyclables from the waste stream at locker clean-out, which is one of the highest waste-producing times of the school year. Eco-Cycle normally staffs stations for students to sort their locker contents during each middle or high school's clean-out times. Due to COVID, students were not using lockers this year. They did, however, still use school supplies and other personal items at home, at their desks and in classrooms. To help students and their families reduce waste, save natural resources and save money, we created two short videos with ideas on how to reuse school supplies and instructions for proper sorting of waste including items like planners, spiral notebooks, classroom papers, used pens and broken pencils.

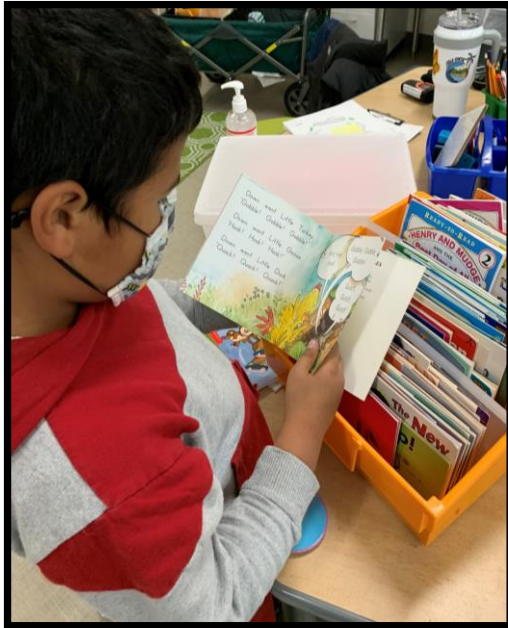
Three Eco-Cycle staff members collaborated to create the two new videos: *Classroom Cleanout* for elementary schools and *Locker Leftovers* for middle and high schools. In addition to covering what to do with unwanted school supplies, the videos covered the topic of reuse as it relates to gently used items like clothing, shoes and books. Students learned about reuse options like giving items to family and friends, donating to local thrift and resale shops, as well as shopping at resale businesses. A family letter was created as a written companion piece to each video, including a link to Eco-Cycle's *Tour de Thrift* map. This map helps users locate local establishments where they can donate items and shop resale.





The video links were not only sent to the seven schools that normally participate in the project, but to all 55 Green Star Schools and the three schools in Superior, providing a much wider promotion than usual for these important waste-reducing behaviors. Please see the attached Green Star Schools 2020-2021 annual report for more details.

**6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, ReREAD!** The Eco-Cycle School Program continued the *Children's Used Book Project* throughout this school year. The program's goal is to



to distribute the gently used books that Eco-Cycle receives at the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM). Gently used children's books are separated from books that are too damaged to recover, sorted into age categories, labeled with a promotional label for CHaRM and distributed to local charities, schools, teachers, students and Little Free Libraries.

Due to the effects of COVID on schools, the number of books distributed this year was reduced. School Program staff took this opportunity to reach out to private preschools and charities in the community. We donated and delivered more than 900 books to charities and preschools to be distributed to children in need of books at home during the school closures. Some of those organizations included *Wild Plum Center, Boulder County Housing and Human Services, Emergency Family Assistance and Martin Park Shelter's Free Library*. In addition, we donated 4,800 books to *SCOPE International* for shipment to libraries in Africa.

Despite Covid restrictions, we were also able to put almost 1,000 books into the hands of teachers and students for classroom libraries and take-home summer reading. Whittier Elementary received 250 of these books for their school's annual book sale. In total, the Children's Used Book Project distributed over 6,700 books during the 2020-2021 school year.

**G. Green Star Schools**

The Green Star Schools program continues to expand throughout Boulder County. A detailed 2020-2021 report is attached.

**H. Fairs, Special Events and Green Team Activities**

1. During the summers of 2019 and 2020, Eco-Cycle staff supported waste reduction during several BVSD graduation ceremonies, held at Boulder High School. Large capacity recycling containers were cleaned, relabeled, delivered for use and subsequently picked up, serving multiple outdoor ceremonies for different high schools.
2. Students from the Silver Creek High School Environmental Club, their school principal, the SVVSD Energy and Sustainability Manager, Sustainable Resilient Longmont and Eco-Cycle held a meeting to discuss the path the school would take to become a Green Star School. Eco-Cycle shared resources for the Environmental Club to distribute including the *Wise with Winter Waste* publication, Eco-Cycle's Holiday Guide and Eco-Cycle's high school presentations flier.
3. More special events and Green Team activities are described in the attached 2020-2021 Green Star Schools Annual Report.

