



**MADISON COUNTY  
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For Immediate Release

February 26, 2009

RE: Revitalizing School Recycling Programs

Students at Cazenovia High School and other schools throughout Madison County want their school to do a better job of recycling and are willing to go the extra mile to insure that their schools comply with New York State and Madison County Recycling laws established in 1990.

Project Café student President Kiley Barr, a senior at Cazenovia High School, contacted Recycling Coordinator Sharon A. Driscoll in December of 2008 asking for her help in improving the school's recycling efforts.

Driscoll outlined a plan for improving the school's recycling program that included getting everyone onboard with the revitalization of this important program. "You can not have a successful program of any type unless everyone involved is aware of the program and its objectives," said Driscoll. "Many school recycling programs fail because only a small portion of the staff and some of the students have been educated about how the program works and what is expected.

"Everyday we see students throw piles of paper in the trash without a second thought," said Miss Barr.

Miss Barr, along with Robby Glass and Hannah Richard, members of the Environmental Team at Project Café, decided to try and establish a better recycling program at their school. "We decided a change was warranted!

"This year we are going to improve the recycling effort in our school by making sure every classroom has clearly labeled bins – not only for trash but papers and cans as well. We know that simply having recycling bins is not enough. We believe that in order to address the root of this problem we must speak to the people," explained Miss Barr.

Driscoll applauded the group's effort to improve their schools recycling program and offered her assistance and expertise. Visible evidence of her support came on February 25, 2009 when new recycling bins were delivered to Cazenovia High School.

The students have met with the administration and custodial staff. "We are proud to say that they are on board with our plan," said Miss Barr. "Once the new bins are placed in the school, we plan to reach out to the students. We will go to every classroom and ask that they help us in our efforts to make our school green.

She explained that she, Robby and Hannah will be graduating in June. "However, in May of 2009, "we will be holding our annual leadership elections. At that time our predecessors will be chosen and we plan to make sure that our efforts continue for years to come at Cazenovia High School."

Recycling became mandatory in Madison County and NYS in 1990. Since that time the County's recycling program has expanded in scope, adding numerous items to an ever growing list of items that can be recycled.

Each year 1,500 to 2,000 Madison County students tour the landfill and recycling center on Buyea Rd in the Town of Lincoln, learning first hand the importance of recycling. Over the past year, students from several schools in the County have contacted the County Recycling Coordinator asking for help in improving their schools recycling programs.

Coincidentally, Driscoll had been working on a plan to contact all of the schools in Madison County to help them improve their recycling programs. Her plan began to take shape in the spring of 2008 when various schools began to cancel their field trips to the county landfill and recycling center due to financial restraints. "If they can't come to me, I will go to them," said Driscoll.

Her plan includes meeting with administrators, custodial staff and students in an effort to help them improve their recycling programs and educate them on what can and can't be recycled in Madison County. A second presentation offered to school districts includes information on products made from recycled material. "Many students and adults are not cognizant of what happens to the material they send off to be recycled. This particular presentation helps round out the recycling effort."

Last month Driscoll put on a two part presentation at the Willard-Prior School, speaking about the County's new Gas Utilization project and the recycling program.

Recycling bins were presented to the Willard-Prior Elementary School in Oneida on Friday, February 27 and in March the Stockbridge Valley High School will be receiving new bins. Last year recycling bins were presented to the Bolivar Rd Elementary. School, Otto Shortell Elementary, Madison Central School, Canastota High School and Canastota Middle School.

With Photo:



Students at Cazenovia High School have joined forces to revitalize the schools recycling program. The group is lead by Kiley Barr, a senior at CHS and Project Café student president. In support of the school and the students, Madison County Recycling Coordinator Sharon A. Driscoll, presented Miss Barr and High School Principal Eric Schnable with new recycling bins on February 25.