

North Brunswick Township High School

North Brunswick Township, Middlesex County

About three years ago, North Brunswick Township School District contracted with an outside vendor to help achieve substantial energy savings. The facilities director led the initiative, which has achieved success as the district nears \$3 million in energy savings. The same facilities director started out as the NJSSP team leader but transferred responsibilities to a teacher in the high school for the remaining 18 months in an effort to increase the number of colleagues in the district who were involved with sustainability initiatives. As a result of his recent experience initiating behavior change across a district, he offered his support to the new team leader to help her achieve the goal of waste reduction in the high school.

Not long after the team leader accepted the responsibility, she was promoted to an administrative position where she found it easier to communicate with the superintendent than when she was a teacher because she felt more at ease asking for his time and attention to this work.

The team leader led a waste reduction initiative in the high school that involved students, staff and administrators. During the Fall of 2014, the North Brunswick Board of Education passed a Sustainability Resolution, which gave the team leader and her team the support necessary to ask leadership for compliance. After applying for, but not receiving, a Green Ribbon Schools Award in 2014, North Brunswick began working with outside partners to address opportunities for improvement in recycling. This is an excellent example of the strengths of the diverse North Brunswick community. Understanding that time and capacity are increasingly rare in school districts, the team leader and her team have engaged the county recycling coordinator, sustainability consultants, Rutgers University, neighboring districts and others in an effort to achieve their goals.

MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES

Reduce landfill waste from cafeteria by **5%**;
Increase recycling compliance by **5%**

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

curiosity
determination
motivation
patience
objectives

WORDS OF WISDOM

Change is difficult in any dose. Change in behavior is especially difficult. My advice is to never take things personally. Individuals want to do the right thing, but there is a constant need for modeling the needed behavior.

Remember words can fall on deaf ears; actions speak louder. So I suggest that you broadcast the change desired through videos, posters, actions, reminders, contests, and anything else that may cause a spark. From sparks we just may be able to set a fire to change.

Be conscious of others and what sits on their plates. Always be respectful.

Amy Rafano,
Assistant Principal

