

Live Green

Recognition Program

After Action Report

Project Name: GREEN MACHINE

Number of Youth participated: 23

Length of Project: 2.5 Months

How did your group/organization choose your service project? Did you identify two or three of the most important environmental needs facing your installation or community? The group decided on the Project together at a combined Keystone and Torch Club meeting. The youth tossed around several ideas about a recycling program and there was general consensus that some of these ideas were things that they had already done, or were doing, and/or had become somewhat boring. We suggested the idea of recycling computers in an eco-friendly way, and this sparked their interest. We knew that we had several old computers in storage that were just taking up space, and this seemed like a good opportunity to dispose of them in an environmentally conscious way. Since our community is already very environmentally conscious, they group decided that this was one of the most important projects for the Pre-Teen and Teen Center, and that being able to educate the base community about the need to engage in electronics recycling was a necessary addition to the programs that were already in place.

Describe challenges, if any, faced during your service project. There were some extremely hard challenges in coordinating several agencies on base in order to try and dispose of old computers that belonged to the Teen Center. First of all, these were government assets that can't just be thrown away. There are specific regulations that have to be followed, policies that have to be adhered to, and this can take a long time.

What resources, skills, or assets did you use to get your service project completed? We utilized resources from our squadron Data Automation specialists, the Communications squadron, the privatized housing office, and several people in the community. Community involvement included the local waste transfer station, The Goodwill, a local Staples store, a local recycling agency and many more were involved in helping us reach our goal. We also utilized youth to research EPA guidelines, State of Washington laws and regulations, as well as the problems surrounding the disposal of computers and other electronics in landfills. As a side note, it seemed ironic that the youth were doing this research using computers! Of course these were assets that we had in place within the program, utilizing the research skills of the youth.

Describe your group's long term goal or purpose in conducting your project? Our immediate purpose in this project was two-fold. First, we had all these old computers that were taking up space in a storage facility and we knew that we were never going to use them again. Second, we decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to accomplish this task, and to do it in an eco-friendly way. The long-term goal was also two-fold. First, we were educating youth, staff, parents, and other in the community about the environmental dangers associated with electronics disposal. This was accomplished through research and education within the center, as well as the creation and distribution of informational fliers that were distributed on base and at the local

schools. The second goal is far more reaching and potentially impactful. Through the actual recycling of these products in an environmentally safe manner, our youth have taken a first-step in helping the planet. There are 8 fewer computers and CRT monitors in landfills today because of their efforts. While this may seem like a small number, it will undoubtedly grow due to their efforts towards educating their peers and the rest of the community.

What does success look like for your project? Can it be measured? Is it attainable? Success for our project was the actual recycling of the systems (8 Computers, 8 Monitors), in an environmentally safe manner. Those are tangible, measurable results. We were also effective at educating the community through the distribution of over 400 fliers to base housing and the local grade-school. So, as a matter of attainability, we certainly attained our goal. Sustainability may be a bit more difficult to measure. Our hope is that people will continue this recycling effort on their own, or enlist the assistance of Youth Programs in the future. Obviously, we won't know the success of that part of the project until called upon to help.

Please use additional sheet for comments or suggestions.