

Live Green

Recognition Program

After Action Report

Project Name: MAFB YP Big Green

Number of Youth participated: 132

Length of Project: Ongoing

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? Many of the projects are ongoing and have been for nearly 6 years.

Environmental - We have been recycling aluminum for nearly 6 years. The funds collected from recycling the aluminum goes toward community service projects that the youth are participating. Can tabs are collected and given to the local Ronald McDonald House. Ink cartridges are recycled at Staples. We use shredded paper for bedding in our animal cages and have bunnies that are litter trained and use the recycled newspaper in their cages. A year ago we began collecting & recycling Capri Sun Pouches, Mars, Nabisco, and Frito-Lay product wrappers. Those are turned into TerraCycle and they make products for resale (pencil pockets, purses, backpacks, flower pots, etc). In May 2009, we began recycling light bulbs, paper, cardboard, newspaper & magazines. This summer we began purchasing & replacing energy efficient bulbs throughout the facility and our homes.

Beautification - We participate in Club Pride days. The youth and staff are always on the lookout for garbage and weeds. In May, Club Pride planted flowers (plants and flowers that are native to the area and resistant to drought) in the front of the facility and weekly the youth have maintained them. In July, they pulled weeds from all of the islands in the parking lot and around the building then put down new wood chips in all the areas. We have also participated in Adopt-A-Highway and recently committed for two years for a 5-mile stretch of highway 52.

Think outside the box - Earlier this year we began offering a cell phone recycling, this is also an ongoing project. We provide an annual easter egg and teen flashlight money hunt which services 300 plus youth. This event uses recycled cardboard boxes that are decorated and placed in recycled,shredded paper for the area in which the youth hunt. This is all provided indoors as we have a harsh winters and usually have snow from October to late April with sub zero temperatures.

Every little bit helps - We recycle office and printer paper. If it has a blank side then in the printer it goes. If there is print on both sides...then in the recycle bin it goes. We collect and use plastic shopping bags - they are perfect for painting, crafts and stuffing our cat & dog beds that are made with recycled clothing (sweatshirts and sweaters) and donated to the local humane society. We also have recycled materials/clothing that were donated and have made animal pull toys for the human society. We also encourage the use of recyclable bags when shopping and as staff, shopping for both personal and work related, we have recyclable bags that are available for use.

Describe challenges, if any, faced during your service project. The only challenge that we see is the actual recycling of the materials. There is no longer a base facility so we have to take our recycling downtown. With

all the items that we collect there is too much to store in our facility for any great length of time. So we make frequent trips and with the inclement weather that we are subject to makes for a dangerous trip to the city of Minot.

Overall, we are fortunate that our community has bought into our recycling programs. Our youth, parents and base community support our efforts. We are fortunate to receive publicity for our program and efforts to help with initiatives.

What resources, skills, or assets did you use to get your service project completed? www.bgca.net and 4-H materials. Our families drop off items in our collection boxes, we receive the boxes from housing maintenance, shredded paper and other recyclable items come from several of the squadron offices on base.

Describe your group's long term goal or purpose in conducting your project? Youth Programs has been interested and recycling for nearly 6 years. We are always reseraching and adding new ways in which to recycle. The base community has bought in to the need and is supporting us in our venture in going green.

What does success look like for your project? Can it be measured? Is it attainable? Every little bit helps and that is our success, our pride and owership in Going Green. We receive checks every June and December from Terracycle, that is 2 cents per Capri Sun, juicepack, and wrapper. We also receive monies from the products that are recycled in the local community (light bulbs, paper products and aluminum).

Please use additional sheet for comments or suggestions.