

## ScSEED Recycling Project Proposal

I. Need: The Saguache County Landfill needs investment in equipment and infrastructure to have an efficient and sustainable recycling program. The need to maximize collection of recyclable materials from our communities is highly important to the success of the landfill program. There is also a great need to educate our youth about the responsibilities of recycling and civic involvement. Community collection centers maintained by the students at the five (5) schools\* within the county would benefit all Saguache County Residents and provide the needed volume of materials needed for the landfill to operate a profitable recycling program.

\* potential for Sangre de Cristo School Program and Villa Grove Volunteer Center

II. Benefits: Saguache County will benefit from investment in recycling infrastructure at the landfill site and Community Collection Centers by the following:

- **Improve collection of materials to support the landfill.** In order to sustain a recycling program and promote its profitability in the county, the landfill needs maximum collection of materials. Citizens have demonstrated that convenience is an important factor for their waste disposal. Saguache County residents are most likely to recycle if there is a convenient disposal service available. Schools are frequented central locations in each community. This program will increase citizen awareness of the importance of recycling and responsible consumer behavior.
- **Promote Colorado State Education Standards.** There are several requirements of the Colorado Department of Education *Model Content Standards* met by student participation in this recycling program. Under the *Civics Standard 4.4* students must learn about the responsibility of participating in society and government. *Science Standard 5* teaches that the nature of science involves building on knowledge and making meaning of the natural world. Learning the process of recycling teaches students about how great of an impact our consumption and waste practices have on our planet. Maintaining a facility also provides the opportunity to teach *Physical Activity Standard 3* which is how to be active safely, to know the benefits and risks and to set personal and group activity goals. Students and parents increase their awareness of the impact of recycling and promote responsible consumer trends.
- **Provide a community service opportunity for youth and improve working relationship between communities.** Young people around the world are learning the importance of working together to strengthen local communities and improve our world. Saguache County provides a unique rural landscape where young people have not had many significant opportunities to collaborate. This program would require each school's students, parents and staff to fulfill equal responsibilities to themselves, their towns and their county.

III. Program Description: Initial investment is needed to supply the landfill with electricity, buy an industry standard baler and build a structure within which to operate the baler and store dry materials. Community Collection Centers (see below) will provide the necessary volume of materials needed for landfill employees to bale and sell recyclables at a sustainable and potentially profitable rate.

- Investment: funded through grants and fundraising by ScSEED
  - Power landfill with electricity (est. 4 power poles needed)
  - Buy industry standard electric baler
  - Materials and construction of building to operate baler and store bales
  - Fourteen (14) enclosed trailers with deposit slots
  - Seven (7) flatbed trailer with six secured barrels each (42 barrels total)
  - Seven (7) 3ft x 3ft containers with lid
  - Eighty-Four (84) indoor collection bins (Moffat and Saguache may already have 12 bins each (24 total) from previous program)
  - Seventy (70) orange vests
  - Seventy (70) pairs of orange gloves- various children's sizes

\*Budget for investment to follow (initial estimate = \$550,000)

- Landfill Operation: funded through Road and Bridge Department Budget  
Landfill Director will coordinate pick-up of trailers from Community Collection Centers, oversee landfill operations for sorting and baling, market and sell baled materials.
- Community Collection Centers: directed by school superintendents and operated by students grades 4-12  
Each school would conduct the same program. Structure as follows:

Physical Description:

Each school will designate an area accessible to the public on the school site where three 8ft x 15ft trailers would be parked. Two trailers with cage-enclosure and deposit slots for cardboard and plastic. One flatbed trailer with six secured barrels for tin (1), aluminum (1), clear glass (2), brown glass (1) and green glass (1). One container with a lid will be either on the flatbed trailer or in the cardboard trailer for paper and magazine collection. The site must be accessible for community deposits and student maintenance.

Materials: All materials will be provided by ScSEED through grants and fundraising. Each school will receive the same materials.

- Two (2) enclosed trailers with deposit slots
- One (1) flatbed trailer with six secured barrels
- One (1) 3ft x 3ft container with lid
- Twelve (12) indoor collection bins
- Ten (10) orange vests
- Ten (10) pairs of orange gloves- various sizes

Roles and Responsibilities:

ScSEED Liaison- A board member or volunteer from ScSEED

1. Act as a representative of the organization.
2. Provide necessary materials.
3. Coordinate maintenance of equipment with the Landfill Director.
4. Conduct training for the Program Director and Students.
5. Assist the Program Director when needed.
6. Provide networking support between Program Directors, the Landfill Director and the Board of Commissioners.

Program Director- School Superintendent

1. Supervise students maintaining facility.
2. Call Landfill Director for hauling when receptacles are full.
3. Contact ScSEED Liaison for problems or assistance.

Students- All members of each class grades 4 – 12

Each holds the following responsibilities during one (1) designated month\* of the year (see Designation Suggestion):

1. Receive and sign on purpose, sorting and safety training.
2. Sign out orange vest and gloves from Program Director.
3. Collect recycled materials from the four (4) sets of bins within the school and sort them into the appropriate receptacles in the outdoor Collection Center.
4. Check Collection Center for trash and commingled materials in receptacles. Prevent contaminated loads from being hauled to the landfill.
5. Inform the Program Director when receptacles are full.
6. Return vest and gloves to Program Director.

\* Summer months of June, July and August would be maintained by civic groups such as Student Council and National Honor Society.

Designation Suggestion:

Grade 4= Sept, Grade 5= Oct, Grade 6= May, Grade 7= April,  
Grade 8= Nov, Grade 9= Dec, Grade 10=Jan, Grade 11= Feb,  
Grade 12= March.

Within the class, create four (4) teams to collect and sort on a weekly schedule. This suggestion is designed to have the younger students work the warmer months.

Landfill Director- County Road and Bridge/Landfill Director

1. Designate department employees to haul full receptacles back to the recycling facility within the landfill.
2. Contact ScSEED Liaison for assistance needed.

IV. Potential Problems and Solutions:

Problem- Funding this program requires a large upfront investment which will be difficult to finance given the current economic realities.

Solution- Apply to a wide range of foundations, government programs and other funders for grant money demonstrating greatest need for our county.

Problem- Students could be resistance to participate.

Solution- Opportunity for Superintendent to engage with students and instill civic responsibility.

Problem- Community trash dumping and commingling at Collection Centers.

Solution- Students keep area clean, dispose of trash and check sorting in receptacle trailers.

Problem- Small landfill budget could cause insufficient staff for transportation of trailers to landfill site and operation of new equipment.

Solution- ScSEED organization of volunteers to transport trailers until sustainable solution is found. For example, increasing landfill rates to cover cost of additional employee/s.