

In our school's community, "Green Technology" is not a phrase commonly heard. Inside our school community however, it is a phrase we hope to live by. We are the Green Technology Club of E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, one of 17 technical high schools in the state. Our club is only a year old but we run the paper and cardboard recycling program at the school and promote a recycling program for electronics, and for cans and bottles. We have participated in community cleanups and fundraisers, take care of the school gardens and have even built birdhouses for the community. We believe that we can do more in our school to lighten our carbon footprint.

If we win the Live Green Win Green grant, our club will use the funds to provide a fully equipped greenhouse(\$9,995), composting bin(\$500), rain barrel(\$300) and related items such as tools, work benches, planting materials, garden carts and other miscellaneous items (\$ 5000) which for our school. We believe that this greenhouse will serve many purposes and be very beneficial to our students. One of the purposes of the green house will be to educate not only our club members but also our science classes studying plant life, the atmosphere and global warming. It will also provide an important means of being able to do environmentally related research if desired. We hope that this experience will give our students a better understanding and greater interest in science overall.

Another purpose we want to fulfill is to provide fresh herbs and vegetables for our culinary arts program at our school and to begin composting food waste from the cafeteria and the culinary shop. This will allow opportunities for students in that shop to further their education.

The last purpose we're striving for is to educate our peers and community about the importance of green technology in our world now. Our Green Technology Club constantly discusses ways to lighten our carbon footprint and this is information we wish to share with everyone. If our school had a greenhouse it would strengthen our community's knowledge and concern about the environment. We plan to collaborate with a local organic farm that has graciously offered to train students in how best to utilize the greenhouse. This includes what to plant, how to plant, and comparing various methods for optimum growth of plants including organic and hydroponic.

Hopefully with this giant step toward a greener school, others will follow our example and join us. Should we be successful in providing a greenhouse for the school, other plans in the future for our club will include the ability to grow flowers that can be made available for the school grounds and local community. Having the greenhouse would also allow us a means of producing items to be used for fundraising efforts down the road which in turn can fund future projects to continue increasing awareness and becoming a greener school.

Green Technology is more than just a catchy phrase to us. It's becoming a way of life and with this grant money we can make it a part of our future for years to come.