

Hello!

The Gilbert School Earth club is a fairly new group. We formed together last spring in an effort institute a recycling program at our school. Believe it or not, The Gilbert School did not recycle paper! Other types of recycling (specifically bottles and cans) were also limited.

So we met and decided recycling would be our primary goal for now. However, we kept running into that age old problem that plagues our schools: lack of funds. For this reason, the club has been working on creating our own paper recycling bins. We have collected and painted twenty-five cardboard boxes that are currently being used to recycle paper in some classrooms. While the whole process has been fun and educational, it has been time consuming. We aren't even close to being done with it seeing as we have around sixty classrooms plus offices, making us short of thirty-six paper recycling containers. It would be nice to have the funds to purchase plastic ones for the remaining classrooms and offices.

Also, the only place in the school where there are recycling bins for cans and bottles is in the cafeteria. And for this reason a lot of cans and bottles end up in the regular trash. So, it is also a goal of ours to have recycling bins in the hallways, classrooms, gym area and even the athletic fields. Therefore, this would be another use of the funds from CL & P.

When The Earth Club first met we laid out a list of possible projects that could be done. The more attainable ones include changing the light bulbs in all the classrooms from the regular T-81 to a more energy efficient ones, trading in the regular paper towels for the recycled paper type and composting food. These are other ideas we have, but they are on the back burner as we get the recycling program under way.

Our club has absolutely no funds so this money would be greatly appreciated for it would allow us to achieve some of our goals that once seemed unattainable. It would also be nice to see more trash cans around town. One of our ideas was to work with the Art Club to customize some cans to make them appealing to young people, so that they will make a point to actually throw their trash in them.

All of these plans are ambitious but we are exited at the mere thought of them becoming more than dreams. Winning this contest or even qualifying as a runner up would make our recycling dreams come true and perhaps even more: light bulbs, composting, and switching to recycled paper towels. Our club has twenty four energetic members who are daily advocates for bettering our planet. Who can make more of an impact on the next generation then that generation themselves?