

Going Green at Windham Technical High School

So much energy wasted! Lights have been on all weekend because someone forgot to turn them off on Friday. This scenario will never happen here at Windham Technical High School because our lights turn off if there is no activity under them for a certain short amount of time. In other words, at Windham Tech, we love taking care of the environment. We do our best to help the environment in the academic classrooms, the shops, and just basically all around the school and we could really use some money to continue to do so in greater ways than we have already.

First of all, each individual classroom has a way to recycle paper. Recycling paper is a very important thing to do at Windham Tech. Here, we understand that recycling products like paper helps control waste disposal problems and many other problems that come along with just throwing things that can be used again in the trash. Also, in class, a lot of the time students are encouraged to use the back of the paper in assignments instead of going on to using new pieces of paper when the front side of one is filled. Teachers at Windham Tech also now use a lot of PowerPoint presentations to present information rather than handouts which waste tons of paper. Also, there is a club at the school completely dedicated to going around and collecting recyclable materials that may have been missed around the school. We could use money to help further expand helping the environment in the classrooms and in other places.

Secondly, we recycle in the shops. At Windham Tech there are nine shops. Each of these shops has individual ways of recycling materials. In Electrical they recycle every tiny bit of wire. They understand that every little piece of wire, if it can be used again, is important and they will try and use it. In the Machine Tool shop, they recycle coolant. In Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning shop, they work on using solar power and also recover and recycle refrigerants. Culinary is also one of the major shops on contributing to helping the environment. Culinary recycles all their cans, bottles, cardboard, basically anything that can really be recycled in dumpsters labeled for the appropriate material. Culinary also reuses linens until they get dirty, then they wash dry and repeat the process. In the Electronics shop, they have screensavers on the computers saving energy, and they also reuse parts from devices that went bad in new devices. Also, in Electronics, all the computers are turned off at the end of the day and whenever they're not being used, saving a lot of energy. Carpentry also does their best by recycling sawdust chips to be used on a horse farm. In Architectural Drafting, they work on geothermal/solar power home designs. These are just a few of the many ways we try to help the environment and could use money to further fund these ways.

Essentially, all around the school there are ways that we are currently trying to help the environment. All around, you will find recycling bins, sinks and lights with motion detectors that only turn on when there is movement under them, and simply teachers and students doing their best to go green.

Now on to why we need money. It does seem like we have so many ways of helping the environment already however, it is not all that we'd like to do and our current ways are not as great as we would like them to be. At Windham Tech we'd like to use the money possibly for better recycling bins. Currently, many teachers just have a cardboard box which is deteriorating. It would be really nice and helpful if we were able to purchase new bins for recyclable materials. Also, not all the sinks have motion detectors. For example, in the girl's gym locker room, there is an old sink that still has a handle to lift up to turn it on and off. If we had some money to maybe replace that sink and any others that are still like it, we could save a lot of water. We would like to bring in a lot of technology to help save even

more materials than we already do. We could use the money to purchase tools for example Smart Boards, to help educate the students of Windham Tech about going green. Also, if we use more technology to teach the students, we will not need as much paper or other materials that can be substituted by something electrical. Since our school teaches trades which a lot of the students will be actually working in, if we educate them on helping the environment they will be able to apply it in whatever they do next.

Anyone who simply walks into Windham Technical High School can plainly see we try to help the environment and could use some money to help even more. We try to help the environment in the classrooms, the shops, and basically all around the school. We try our hardest to help the earth and we try and encourage others to do so too.