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**mY-PLANet**

Brooklyn, NY

WHSAD

12th Grade

Environmental Science

**QUESTION**

Will WHSAD participate in the world’s environmental efforts?

**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

* Instructor: Sarah Tom
* Students: 12th Grade Environmental Science
* Client(s): Principal Cornell
* Community Partner(s): DOE Office of Sustainability
* Other Resources: Y-PLAN Coordinator & Education Consultant

**YOUTH DRIVEN DATA AND INSIGHTS**

* Surveyed 91 students from WHSAD to understand current attitudes and behaviors around recycling:
  + 68% responded with a “5” rating to the question” I think recycling is important”
  + 43% responded with a “5” rating to the question “I recycle at home”
* Conducted Site Mapping and SWOT Analysis of recycling receptacles in school.
  + Posters spreading awareness about recycling are not visible.
  + Teachers are not role models for recycling behaviors
  + Recycling bins are currently in all classes but are not being utilized
  + Students in all schools in building don’t recycle enough

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SHORT-TERM (1-6 Months)**

* Design WHSAD t-shirts to promote recycling.
* Set up recycling bins in public spaces.
* Create more infographics to post around the school.
* Write announcements reminding students to recycle to be read over the loudspeaker.

**LONG-TERM (1-3 Years)**

* Educate younger students (visit neighborhood elementary schools).
* Install recycling bins on the sidewalks surrounding the building.

**Cost Benefit Analysis**

* Cost: $854.22 – blue and green recycling bins for each space (31 total)
* Benefit: a major benefit of investing in recycling bins is that it will lead to students protecting the environment at a young age; which should then spark a change for the rest of they general population.

**NEXT STEPS AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY:**

* For students: Design WHSAD t-shirts to promote recycling
* For the project: Create more infographics to post around the building
* For the school: Set up recycling bins in shared spaces
* For the city: Install recycling bins on the sidewalks surrounding the school