

*“Remember to Celebrate Earth Day in April  
and America Recycles Day in November”*



**West Central Solid Waste District's**

## ***Free* “RECYCLED PLASTIC BENCH” GRANT**

**Your school can qualify for a free “recycled plastic bench”  
grant by simply doing the following:**

- Establish a plastic lid/cap recycling program
- Collect 200 pounds of plastic lids/caps (#1-7)

Grant funds will be used to purchase a 6 ft. (185 lb) recycled plastic bench for schools/organizations located within the District that collect the designated amount of plastic lids/caps (see list of acceptable caps and lids/caps on pg. 4). Due to limited funds, the maximum grant award available to each public K-12 school is \$250 a 12 month period/calendar year; on a first come, first served basis.

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### **Who is the West Central Solid Waste District?**

West Central Solid Waste District (WCSWD) is a government agency serving Montgomery, Parke, and Putnam Counties and has been charged through state legislation to reduce the waste stream. WCSWD is dedicated to providing resources to schools in our 3 counties to assist in achieving this goal.

*Our mission is "to be the catalyst for achieving the highest level of waste reduction and resource conservation. In realizing our goals, we will strive to be a leader in these areas, focus on education as the vehicle for change, encourage the use of existing entities, and help develop private enterprise whenever possible."*

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## How do we apply for a Recycled Plastic Bench Grant?

1. Complete the grant application and return to the WCSWD Executive Director by fax, mail or email. Do this prior to starting your collection to ensure available funds. **Once approved, register online w/ ABC Promise Partnership at [www.greentreeplastics.com](http://www.greentreeplastics.com).**
2. Decide how and where to collect recyclable plastic lids/caps (#1-7) (classrooms, offices, cafeteria, etc.). Determine how many collection bins/bags are needed.
3. Establish a “Recycling Mentor and Team” (environmental/science clubs, FFA, life skills class, library, student council, etc.) to weigh and track the collected plastic lids/caps until you reach 200 lbs. Monitor the bins/program making certain the bins do not overflow, that non-plastic recyclables and contaminants are kept out and to keep the outlying collection area picked up and free of litter.
4. Decide who will: (1) transport the 200 lbs. of plastic lids/caps to **Green Tree Plastics** (Evansville, IN) and (2) pick up the 6 ft. bench (approx. 185 lbs) to bring back to your school. *Hint: Enlist the help of a PTA/PTO member or a parent with a truck that would like to help out.*
5. Promote your program through school announcements, newsletters, local newspapers, etc. to encourage participation and reach your ultimate goal! Students and staff may bring lids from home, and/or have a competition between classes or grades. The school cafeteria is an excellent place for lid collection as the lids are larger than average sized food containers, and will make your progress go much faster.

**It's that easy!**

\*Application available below or

Email: [jcollisi@westcentralswd.com](mailto:jcollisi@westcentralswd.com)



# WCSWD BENCH GRANT APPLICATION FORM (Cover page)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Mail or Fax applications to:  
**Jane Collisi, Executive Director**  
**West Central Solid Waste District**  
**1007 Mill Pond Lane, Ste. B**  
**Greencastle, IN 46135**  
Fax # (765) 653-1486

**Please read the entire application before beginning to fill out the form. \*Commit to the collection program until it is complete. THANK YOU and GOOD LUCK!**

\*Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

\*County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorized Grant Manager**

Name:

Phone #:

Title:

Best Time to Call:

Address:

Fax #:

City:

E-Mail Address:

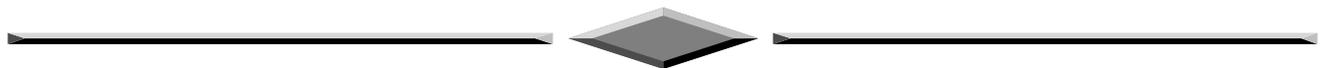
Zip Code:

**School Administrator (Principal)**

Name:

Title:

Email Address:



**District Funding Summary**

Cost of one 6 ft. Bench (grey or standard color): \$250 (along with 200 lbs. of plastic lids collected by school)

*\*Optional school colors may be available for an additional fee (to be paid by the school if desired)*

## Recycled Plastic Bench Grant “Questionnaire”

\*Complete and return this page with the application cover page

- 1) Where will plastic lids be collected?
- Lounge/ Breakroom
  - Classrooms
  - Offices
  - Cafeteria
  - Other: *Please list* \_\_\_\_\_

### **Acceptable types of caps and lids include:**

**Caps from:** Medicine bottles, milk jugs, hair spray, toothpaste, deodorant, drink bottles, flip top caps from ketchup, mustard, mayo bottles, spray paint, ointment tubes, caps with recycling numbers 2, 4, and 5.

**Lids from:** Cottage cheese, yogurt, peanut butter, ice cream buckets (under 8”), cool whip, coffee, cream cheese, butter, and prescription bottles with labels removed

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Metal lids, trigger sprayers, fast food drink lids, Styrofoam, soap or lotion pumps

2) How many students / staff will participate in this program? \_\_\_\_\_

3) A requirement of this grant is that a “Recycling Team” be formed or that an existing student group take on responsibility for collecting and tracking the weight of the recyclable plastic lids/caps collected. (*Weight can be determined with a simple bathroom scale by having a student weigh themselves, then reweighing holding the plastic collection bag/container and subtracting the difference*). *Be sure to deduct the weight of the container (empty) if not using plastic bags (32-45 gallon size is suggested).*

4) Briefly outline the education campaign (posters, announcements, pictures to local newspaper, newsletters, special events, etc.) that will be used to promote this program.

*For assistance, please contact Jane Collisi at [jcollisi@westcentralswd.com](mailto:jcollisi@westcentralswd.com), or 765-653-2150 / 800-211-2750.*

*All decisions of the WCSWD are final. All applications become the property of the WCSWD*

## Application Acceptance and Grant Funding

The West Central Solid Waste District has a limited amount of funding for grants each budget/calendar year. Grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis. The highest priority for awarding remaining grant funds will be based on schools that promote recycling programs on a regular basis. First time schools applying for a Recycled Bench Grant will be given priority over a school requesting “additional” bench grants (*which will be determined based on available funding as we serve 3 counties and 37 public schools*). Check out the Education section of our website for other recycling grant opportunities & resources: [www.westcentralswd.com](http://www.westcentralswd.com).

**Before mailing your completed application, check to be sure the following items are included:**

- Grant Application Form / Cover Page** (with completed contact information)
- Questionnaire (page 4)**



### **Completion of Grant Criteria**

If you are a successful grant recipient, the following shall occur:

- (1) WCSWD will issue a \$250 check for the purchase of a 6 ft. recycled plastic bench once:
  - ⇒ School has collected 200 lbs. of plastic lids/caps;
  - ⇒ School has made a check request to the District’s Executive Director; *\*Checks are made payable to Green Tree Plastics and can take up to 4 weeks to process, so please plan accordingly.*
  - ⇒ School will coordinate delivery of plastic lids (with check) and pick up of awarded bench with Green Tree Plastics (800-397-5742 or by emailing [sales@greentreeplastics.com](mailto:sales@greentreeplastics.com)).
- (2) School agrees to promote the completion of this grant with a photo and blurb noting the students’ success and receipt of the bench grant from WCSWD in the school newsletter and a local newspaper through a free public service/news announcement. School will provide a copy of the newspaper photo/PSA to WCSWD within 30 days after receiving the recycled bench to complete their grant and help ensure future funding of this program. *\*Bench grants will continue as long as funding is approved by WCSWD’s Board of Directors and Green Tree Plastics offers the ABC Promise Partnership bench program.*

Email Jane Collisi at [jcollisi@westcentralswd.com](mailto:jcollisi@westcentralswd.com) with any questions. ☺