

*\*Remember to Celebrate Earth Day April 22  
and America Recycles Day November 15!*



**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 Parke and Putnam Counties that has been charged through state legislation to reduce the waste stream. WCSWD is dedicated to providing resources to schools in our counties to assist in achieving this goal.

Our mission is "To inform, educate, and inspire our citizens about proper waste disposal, waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; and to provide programs and services in these areas... Educating citizens, along with convenient/effective programs and services, enables West Central Solid Waste District to protect the environment, fulfill all regulatory and legislative objectives, and benefit our communities today and tomorrow."

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

