

Awarded: \$163.00

Project Summary Form

Project Title: Vermicomposting at The Williams School

School / Organization and Teacher / Leader's Name: Sally Marr, 1st grade teacher

Project Outcome (Lessons learned, successes, results, number of youth involved, etc.): 21 students, 1 teacher – hopefully more in the future.

The Can O' Worms arrived the second week of May. The students were able to place the live red wiggler worms into the can of worms. The worms came with the special soil included. The worms were numerous and did well for about a few weeks. I noticed that most of the worms were gone after a few weeks. We do know if they died or if they were taken. We know that this will work but we need time to learn how to manage it effectively.

Lessons learned - We wanted to get it going before the end of the school year but it was a busy time of year for us - The Williams School was on the Garden Tour, conferences – etc. I needed volunteers organize and help maintain this project. I was too busy to do it at this time of year by myself and with the students.

The Williams School is participating in Project Zero Waste so in the fall we will continue with composting in a barrel, composting in a wire container and Vermicomposting.

If applicable, how many volunteers participated and for how many hours did they volunteer?

Wendy Auerbach, a parent helped write the grant for about 2 hours.

What did the students enjoy the most of this project?

The students enjoyed seeing the can of worms, receiving the shipment in the mail, placing the worms in the container, learning that if you so not read the directions completely, the worms may escape to the bottom shelf and feeding the worms with the food scraps.

How could a similar project be improved? (Lessons learned, etc.):

We will start late this summer and buy more worms and start small and maintain the proper levels in the soil and then hopefully get more worms. This summer, we will set up a schedule to maintain the can o worms and also contact the professor at Virginia Wesleyan College who is successful in Vermicomposting(see attached article from the Virginian Pilot). Our business manager is finding success at her home in Chesapeake with Vermicomposting. We would like it here to help maintain the first grade vegetable garden, our flower gardens around the school, and our herb garden for the kitchen. We hope to update you in November to let you see how things are progressing.

Many thanks to HR Planning Commission and HR CLEAN for getting us started on this project.

Please include copies of your receipts, any photos, materials, or program information available on your mini-grant program. Pictures received could be displayed on the websites.

Please fill out and mail or fax to HRPDC, Attention: HR Green Mini-Grant, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320, FAX: (757) 523-4881 *Thank You!*

The Williams School Vermicomposting Project



June 2011

We received the can of worms, soil, and a day later the worms. The students loved picking up the worms and placing them in the soil. We placed it in our garden. We will maintain it this summer but will put it into real use with the students at the beginning of school last week of August.

