



**Alaska Association of Student Governments**

**Resolution #7**

**Alaska School Recycling Resolution**

**Homer High School Student Council**

**October 22, 2021**

**Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:**

- 1. Whereas,** we are using the planet's resources at an increasing and unsustainable rate. Our current rate of consumption requires the resources of 1.75 Earths, and at this rate by 2030 we will be using the resources of 2 Earths;<sup>1</sup>
- 2. Whereas,** schools are often among the largest waste generators in countries, and up to 80% of school waste is recyclable;<sup>2</sup>
- 3. Whereas,** more than 40% of waste from schools is paper, and recycling paper takes 70% less energy than creating paper from virgin wood;<sup>3</sup>
- 4. Whereas,** low-income and subsistence communities contribute less to pollution and climate change but are disproportionately impacted by its negative effects;<sup>13</sup>
- 5. Whereas,** coastal communities, where the majority of Alaskans reside, are more vulnerable to the effects of poor waste management practices due to waste more easily entreating waterways and oceans;
- 6. Whereas,** recycling programs develop important experience for students in community service and promote a connection to world issues;

7. **Whereas**, previous and current efforts at Alaska schools to recycle paper and use reusable lunch trays have been extremely successful;
8. **Whereas**, a Minnesota study found that recycling programs broke even or were more cost efficient;<sup>4</sup>
9. **Whereas**, the Kenai Peninsula Borough already has recycling guidelines and programs in place;<sup>9</sup>
10. **Whereas**, school recycling programs create further opportunities for fulfilling academically required service projects;
11. **Whereas**, recycling programs in schools can be designed as team activities to promote leadership and compromise, such as in the Green Team model replicated in other school systems;
12. **Whereas**, the Anchorage Municipality has an app called “recycle coach” which educates on the recycling process that can be used as a resource;<sup>10</sup>
13. **Whereas**, climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time and we can do our part to make the world a better place by addressing it;

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments** urges the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to implement a recycling policy within all K-12 public schools.

**Action Statement:** if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution would be submitted to the Resilience and Security Advisory Commission and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board.

#### Sources

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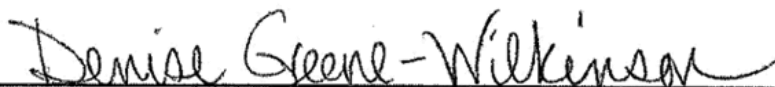
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  4. "School Recycling Costs and Benefits." *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*, 17 Mar. 2021, [www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/school-recycling-costs-and-benefits](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/school-recycling-costs-and-benefits).
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  8. "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in Alaska." *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in Alaska*, ADEC Solid Waste Program, <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/solid-waste/reduce-reuse-recycle/>.
  9. "2020 SWS Recycling Report." *Municipality of Anchorage*, [www.muni.org/Departments/SWS/Recycling/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/SWS/Recycling/Pages/Default.aspx).
  10. "Denali Zero-Landfill Initiative." *Denali Borough, AK*, [www.denaliborough.org/index.asp?SEC=FA05E52D-BBE0-4D9A-AA20-B838AAC9962F&DE=50961BBA-C77F-4C42-8324-526DCF6296C0](http://www.denaliborough.org/index.asp?SEC=FA05E52D-BBE0-4D9A-AA20-B838AAC9962F&DE=50961BBA-C77F-4C42-8324-526DCF6296C0).
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11. <https://unity.edu/hybrid-learning/climate-change-inequality/>.

Passed by the 2021 Virtual Fall Conference GA Hosted by Palmer High School



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