

**ABBREVIATED**

**TALKIN' TRASH**

**PROGRAM GUIDE 2020-2021**

**A Recycling Contest for Horry  
County 4<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Horry County Solid Waste Authority in  
Partnership with HCS**



# ARE YOU READY TO TALK TRASH?

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Talkin' Trash (TT) is a school recycling and waste diversion competition that encourages elementary schools to engage in waste reduction practices, such as recycling, composting, etc. Created by the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA), the Talkin' Trash program has been introducing students to recycling and environmental awareness since 2000. The program has fostered a mutually beneficial partnership between the Horry County Solid Waste Authority and Horry County Schools (HCS).

The TT program includes recycling material each month as well as completing challenges over the course of the competition to improve the waste management practices at your school and to earn points in the competition.

There is no one-size fits all answer for how your school can succeed in this competition. This is especially the case this year as Horry County Schools enter uncharted territory due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Due to the pandemic, the 2020-2021 TT program has been reduced to a 3 month campaign.

As we have done in the past, the SWA will monitor and collect data on the amount of material being recycled/composted at each participating school. To ensure that all 4<sup>th</sup> graders can participate-whether they are physically in school or attending virtually-we have modified the monthly and ongoing challenges. Students participating virtually will be required to submit their challenges to their teacher/liaison who will then submit the information to SWA. It is recommended that Dining Services and Building Services are included as they will be able to provide significant insight on how your school operates and they will be active participants in the program too. You know your school best so it will be up to you to determine the best strategy for the competition.

## TALKIN' TRASH MISSION

The mission of the Talkin' Trash Contest is to educate HCS students and faculty on the importance of recycling, proper waste management and environmentally sustainable practices.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

All challenges should be emailed to [education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:education@solidwasteauthority.org) for points.

 **Kendra Dickerson**, Coordinator of Recycling Programs for Horry County  
Email: [khooks@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:khooks@solidwasteauthority.org) Mobile: 843-458-7462

 **Victoria Johnson**, Coordinator of Recycling Programs for Horry County  
Email: [vjohnson@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:vjohnson@solidwasteauthority.org) Mobile: 843-516-2510

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- **January** Monthly Challenge: Classroom/Home Waste Audit 2 points  
 Talkin' Trash Celebration: Tuesday, February 9, 2021
- **February** Monthly Challenge: Rethink Art Project/Reuse Project 2 points  
 Talkin' Trash Celebration: Tuesday, March 9, 2021
- **March** Monthly Challenge: Video Diary 2 points  
 Talkin' Trash Celebration: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

**Ongoing challenges** - to be completed throughout the year to go towards Grand Finale  
(Must be completed and turned in by April 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Virtual Field Trip of Landfill and Recycling Presentation 2 points
- Campus/Community Litter Cleanup 2 points
- Poster Campaign 2 points

## Monthly CHALLENGES

### CLASSROOM/HOME WASTE AUDIT

#### JANUARY

A waste audit is an assessment of what your school or home is throwing away. Conducting a visual waste audit is a great way to evaluate the waste that is disposed of and how much of that waste could have been recycled, composted or donated.

**Challenge:** Conduct a visual waste audit at home or at school and answer the following questions:

1. What kinds of waste are in the garbage?
2. Are there recyclable or compostable materials in the trash?
3. What could we have done to reduce the amount of garbage?

To receive points, liaisons should please submit photos, and/or student responses to [Education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:Education@solidwasteauthority.org) or text your Recycling Coordinator by Sunday, January 31, 2021.

# RETHINK ART CHALLENGE

## FEBRUARY

The 3 R's are: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! It is important to try to reuse items even before we recycle them.

**Challenge:** Rethink ways to turn trash into treasure! Collect items that would normally be discarded and turn these pieces of trash into something artistic, innovative, and new!

Some items for projects: Old books, bottle caps, plastic bottles, tissue boxes, pens/markers, plastic bags, milk cartons, etc. Check out Pinterest, Etsy, Google and other fun websites for inspiration.

To receive points, liaisons should please submit photos to [Education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:Education@solidwasteauthority.org) or text your Recycling Coordinator by Sunday, February 28, 2021.

## VIDEO DIARY CHALLENGE - TELL YOUR SCHOOL'S ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

### MARCH

The video challenge invites the school, students, teachers, staff, administration, and parents to reflect on not only the basics of recycling, but on sustainability, resource conservation, and environmental stewardship. This activity will empower students and facilitators to demonstrate how their school is conserving resources, reducing pollution, and increasing the life of Horry County's landfill by encouraging increased recycling participation. The contest will also serve as a learning tool for participating students by providing lessons in ecology, art, drama, technology, marketing and team work.

**Challenge:** Create and submit a video encouraging recycling and the efforts being taken to reduce waste. Show and tell us what you did this year during the Talkin' Trash program and why you are the greenest school/home in Horry County!

We really want to see videos and photos of your students completing challenges throughout the competition, but please be mindful of any media-denied students that may be participating.

Videos may be submitted by liaison as a DVD/CD, SchoolTube/YouTube link, or Media File. Links may be emailed to: [Education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:Education@solidwasteauthority.org) or text your Recycling Coordinator by Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

# ONGOING CHALLENGES AND RESOURCES

*Must be completed and turned in by Thursday, April 1, 2021*

## VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP OF LANDFILL & RECYCLING PRESENTATION

### ONGOING CHALLENGE

Have you ever been to a landfill to see where your trash goes? The SWA offers virtual field trips to tour the landfill, recycling facility, and composting area where all HCS food waste goes. Virtual tours and presentations can be found at <http://www.solidwasteauthority.org/education.html#tours>. We also offer live zoom presentations to interact with your students either at school or home.

To receive your challenge points, please submit the following to [Education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:Education@solidwasteauthority.org):

- Teacher/Parent testimonial about virtual field trip and lesson
- At least three student testimonials about what they learned and/or reactions

## POSTER CAMPAIGN

### ONGOING CHALLENGE

Communicating important information in a fun way is a great strategy to spread awareness about a topic and poster campaigns have proven to be a great way to have students get involved.

**Challenge:** Sponsor a poster campaign that promotes sustainability, health and wellness, recycling, composting, environmental stewardship, energy, clean air, litter, nutrition, or any other topic that students connect to sustainability.

Other things you could consider doing:

- Share these posters on your social media page or with parents in newsletters
- Hang posters to raise awareness

To earn your challenge points, liaisons should please email images to [Education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:Education@solidwasteauthority.org).

# COMMUNITY LITTER CLEANUP

## ONGOING CHALLENGE

Litter is a major issue and we should all make efforts to reduce the litter in our communities and clean up where we can. Litter has negative and long-lasting impacts on our environment and wildlife. Students can help educate others and even parents on the importance of keeping our community litter free.

**Challenge:** Hold a litter cleanup! This cleanup can be on school grounds, at home, or you can go off-site to an area in need.

When conducting the cleanup, think about:

- What types of litter are most common in our area? Drink containers, plastic bags, etc.?
- Where did this litter come from?
- Is our campus/neighborhood litter-free? Why is it important to keep litter off the ground?
- What could we do to prevent people from littering?

Our local Keep America Beautiful chapter, Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB), can assist you with all of the equipment and resources that you need for your cleanup including trash grabbers, bags, vests, signage, and safety information. Please visit <https://www.horrycounty.org/Boards/Keep-Horry-County-Beautiful>.

To earn your challenge points, liaisons should please email images or written testimonials to [Education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:Education@solidwasteauthority.org).