

**NEWS
RELEASE
FROM:**

Dripping Springs

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



DATE: May 22, 2017

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STYROFOAM RECYCLING INTRODUCED AT DSHS *Food Waste Reducer Also Added to DSHS Cafeteria*

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas—The Dripping Springs ISD Child Nutrition Department has rolled out a new recycling and composting program at Dripping Springs High School to reduce waste of materials and leftover food. The program is two-fold: a machine to compress and recycle Styrofoam trays and a food compost accelerator.

DSISD Child Nutrition has purchased a “StyroGenie,” which is a thermal densification machine that basically reverses the foam manufacturing process. DSISD is the first school district in Central Texas to implement this program. When Styrofoam trays are placed in the machine, the trays are transformed into a liquid resin, which can be cooled and formed into cubes that are returned to a manufacturing facility and incorporated back into production of future trays. This process reduces waste by 95 percent, thus reducing landfill materials.

Another aspect of the program will target waste of leftover food material. A compost accelerator that reduces food waste volume by 90 percent is being installed at the high school cafeteria. The machine converts food leftovers into a nutrient-rich material, which can be used for a variety of purposes. In fact, DSHS ag students are planning to use the material as an ingredient in compost bagged by students in the ag barn for potential use in landscaping.

Both recycling programs are being introduced at Dripping Springs High School, with potential expansion to other campuses in future years. There will be three “sorting stations” where students will divide their trash between food, cans/bottles, landfill material, and trays. Students in high school Environmental Science classes will be involved in facilitating the behavioral change in students as they adjust to sorting their waste products.

“Both of these processes will help keep organic waste out of landfills,” said Director of Child Nutrition John Crowley. “We are thinking globally but acting locally. I believe our students will get on board and be motivated to do what is right for Planet Earth.”

Secondary benefits of the program include use of fewer trash bags, potentially fewer pick-ups by the waste company, and disposal behavior that will lighten the load on custodians at lunch time.

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