

Monday, 3/28/11

Dear Principals, Custodians, Teachers, Staff, Students, and Administration--

Hello, I hope this e-mail finds you well. Below, please find our green Tip of the Week, an Energy Update, and a Composting Update.

Thanks for taking the time to read.

- Tip of the Week: *Carpool, bike, walk, or use public transportation to get to work.* Why? Because roughly 19.4 pounds of CO2 per gallon of gasoline is produced when driving.
- Source: EPA <http://www.epa.gov/OMS/climate/420f05001.htm>
- Energy Update: Walk/Ride Days is a great initiative to help cut back on your personal energy use, and reducing our district's carbon footprint. For a list of the Friday official "Walk/Ride Days," please click here: <http://www.gogreenstreets.org/>
- Composting Update: *Meryl Brott, Recycling Manager at DPW, and Kristen are working with schools to establish composting programs.* If your school is interested in composting, e-mail Meryl Brott at mbrott@cambridgema.gov or kvonhoffmann@cpsd.us.
 - The King Open, the 9th Grade Campus, and the Graham & Parks schools are the first Cambridge schools to begin composting their lunch leftovers. From September to February, these schools have composted over 14,500 pounds and saved more than 14,500 lbs of CO2. That's equal to the weight of 1.75 elephants. Well done!
 - The Graham & Parks School started their composting program this past November. Will your school be next? Lunchroom composting can be launched in only six weeks. Leadership from the principal or assistant principal is essential. A committee including the principal, senior custodian, and lead teacher meets with Meryl from the DPW or Kristen from CPS. Much of the initial leg work is done by the DPW, and then after the program is well underway, schools must take ownership of the program going forward.
 - Read about the benefits of composting lunch leftovers instead of sending them to the landfill here: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/rrr/composting/benefits.htm>
 - Please see attached PDF for more information about lunchroom composting.

Have a great week. -Kristen