

In September of 2007, three other students and I teamed up with a teacher to solve the major problem of massive amounts of recyclable materials being thrown away on our school campus. Bottles, cans, cardboard, and paper were being disposed of in astronomical amounts, so TECH (Together Everyone Can Help) Recycles was born, and dealing with trash in our school has never been the same.

We installed a DSWA recycling center on our campus, and received almost \$3,000 in grants from Timberland Pro and Delmarva Power. We purchased recycling bins for every classroom and public space on campus. By June, we were recycling about 25,000 pounds every month, and saved our school over \$1,000 dollars in landfill costs. Our project earned us sixth place in the 2008 SkillsUSA National Community Service competition and DE Senator Carper commended our environmental efforts.

This past fall, we wanted to help other Delaware schools start recycling programs. We have received about \$20,000 in grants from TimberlandPro, the Lowes Corporation, and DNREC. We began recycling programs in eight schools in the state of Delaware, six of which are in Sussex County.

My involvement in this process has included writing grants, educating students, meeting with school and government representatives, speaking to the press, and generating many ideas for promotion and fundraising.

TECH Recycles has recycled hundreds of thousands of pounds of materials. Students are being educated about recycling habits, and will carry these habits to their homes and continue them throughout their lives. The bottom line is that TECH Recycles helps Sussex Tech help the world, and I am immensely proud of the programs we have established, and my involvement in them.