

Butte Environmental Council

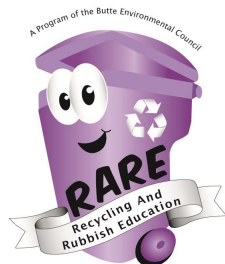
Fiscal Year End Report to Butte County for the Implementation of the Recycling and Rubbish Education Program - R.A.R.E.

2019-2020



Report by Julia May

Recycling and Rubbish Education Program Coordinator



Program Overview and Goals

The Recycling and Rubbish Education (RARE) program has been a staple program of the Butte Environmental Council since 2013. RARE began as an innovative exhibit in 2001 and has consistently provided solution-based education on alternatives to waste for students and community members across Butte County. RARE came to Butte Environmental Council in 2013, where it excelled during a three year contract. The program took a hiatus from 2016-2019, when, after public campaigning and demand, it was refunded for another three year period. The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) has completed its first year back in the three-year contract of the RARE program on behalf of Butte County. RARE informs and educates its many participants about the solid waste stream, recycling, composting, household hazardous materials including e-waste, and the importance of recycling used motor oil. This valuable program offers Butte County schools and community groups the visual and tactile tools to learn about solid waste in the U.S., issues and opportunities in Butte County specifically, and the “Four R’s”: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot/Compost. RARE has reached thousands of students, families, and community members throughout its nearly 20 year history and has supported the educational goal of the mandated Source Reduction and Recycling Element plan set forth by the California State Assembly Bill 939.

Our overall program goal is to educate Butte County students and residents about the solid waste stream and the importance of the “Four R’s” in order to decrease contributions to the local landfill. Awareness is the fundamental first step to action in addressing today’s solid waste issues. The RARE program’s lessons focus on developing an understanding of alternatives such as composting, reducing, reusing, and recycling in order to conserve natural resources and help extend the life of the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility.

Program Objectives:

1. Provide administrative oversight of the RARE program through the hiring of staff, program launch, marketing of the RARE program, website outreach, curriculum development, and implementation.
2. Implement a minimum of 45 in-classroom presentations each year.

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3. Staff a minimum of six public education events per year.
 4. Implement a minimum of five high school and college auto shop oil-disposal/recycling presentations.
 5. Coordinate classroom field trips to the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility.
 6. Maintain the RARE program within a specified budget.

RARE has exceeded its project goals during the first year of its return, despite a loss of several months of events and in class opportunities due to COVID-19. In the 2019-2020 school year, RARE staff conducted 73 in-classroom presentations including five auto shop oil-disposal/recycling presentations, conducted outreach at seven community events, and coordinated four classroom field trips to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility. During the first contract year, the RARE program reached approximately 2,000 students through presentations and field trips alone. Many of the schools that RARE visited reached out for expertise and advice on classroom-led recycling programs implemented and run by the students. In these cases, RARE was able to provide these students with answers to specific questions about best practices and material types - directly impacting the efficiency and effectiveness of their in-house recycling efforts.

1. Provide administrative oversight of the RARE program through the hiring of staff, program launch, marketing of the RARE program, website outreach, curriculum development and implementation.

BEC facilitated a hiring process in April 2019 to fill the position of RARE Program Coordinator. Julia May was selected as the best candidate to fill the position. Julia came to the RARE program with a background in sustainability and education, as well as experience in working with youth in classrooms.

The RARE program kicked off its first year of the contract in July 2019 with the outreach and soliciting of Butte County schools and teachers via email and phone calls. Flyers were sent out electronically in order to cut down on paper waste.

RARE utilized social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and our own website (www.becnet.org/RARE) to advertise the return of the program. Teachers were provided with

an online scheduling tool that allowed them to choose the date, time, and subject of their presentation with ease.

RARE presentations were conducted using a curriculum that was developed in previous years by a CSU Chico graduate student. This curriculum was formulated in alignment with current Environmental Education Initiative (EEI) standards. Operating within these guidelines allowed busy teachers the freedom to take advantage of our program knowing that presentations were educational and met academic standards required in the classroom.

2. Implement a minimum of 45 in-classroom presentations per year.

In the 2019-2020 school year, RARE gave 68 Recycling and Compost classroom presentations at 30 schools, reaching 1,613 students! Schools from districts across Butte County were represented in our visits, with grades ranging from Kindergarten through Post-Secondary. RARE visited public schools, after school programs, special education classes, and vocational classes such as the California Conservation Corps. Lessons were tailored to the age and grade level of the class or audience. Presentations discussed the concept of waste and the Four R's and utilized visual aids and hands-on learning techniques. Presentations included supplemental activities to accompany lecture material. Compost workshops included a hands-on worm bin building exercise which focused on the science of decomposition, worm anatomy, and components of healthy soil. Recycling workshops included recycling relay races and other sorting activities.

The RARE Coordinator solicited feedback from teachers following each visit using an online survey tool. Of all the responses from educators, RARE was experienced as exceeding expectations. Some teacher responses are provided at the end of this report.

A complete list of all presentations is also included. (Table 2)

3. Staff a minimum of six public education events per year.

RARE participated in seven community events this year including the Endangered Species Faire, the Oroville Salmon Festival, the Snow Goose Festival, and Growing Up Chico's Family Fun Day. The RARE booth at these events provided composting and recycling information for adults and children. Activities included recycling and waste quizzes, a recycling relay race for

all ages. Adult education was provided on topics such as reporting illegal dumping, recycling used motor oil, and disposal of other challenging waste types. When available, free materials were provided to participants. These materials included oil rags for oil changes, magnets with oil recycling information, money pencils, and other items made from recycled oil. All free materials were provided by the County.

RARE conducted outreach at the following community events:



[Endangered Species Faire 5/4/19](#)

[Lundberg Health Fair 5/8/19](#)

[Salmon Festival 9/28/19](#)

[In Focus Film Festival 11/10/19](#)

[Snowgoose Festival 1/25 & 1/26/20](#)

[Bioneers 1/30/20](#)

[Family Fun Day 2/8/20](#)

4. Implement a minimum of five high school auto shop oil-disposal/recycling presentations.

In the 2019-2020 school year RARE visited auto shop classes at Butte College, Oroville High School, and all Agriculture Mechanics classes at Durham High School; conducting 5 presentations in total and reaching 115 students. The oil recycling presentation consisted of an educational PowerPoint lecture followed by a Jeopardy style quiz to check comprehension. Oil rags and candy (not wrapped in plastic!) were handed out as prizes and incentives. Students in these classes learned the importance of responsibly disposing of used oil, how-to's on handling and safety procedures, as well as the environmental implications of improper disposal. Students were provided locations throughout Butte County where used oil can be recycled and discussed the County's Ag Oil recycling program.

Table 1: Oil Recycling Presentations 2019-2020

School	Instructor	Auto-Shop /AG Mechanics Classes	No. of Students
Oroville High	Dan Briggs	1	33
Butte College	Rob Holt	1	30
Durham High	Wes Bill & Kayla Hall	3	52
Total		5	115

5. Coordinate classroom field trips to the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility.

The landfill tours provided a second layer of education after our in-classroom presentations. RARE staff coordinated field trips for teachers and students to visit the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility (NRWRF). RARE staff arranged transportation, and communication, working with county landfill staff to schedule tours. Teachers had the opportunity to apply for a transportation scholarship based on financial need to help offset bus costs.

During the tour, students are able to witness firsthand that there is no “away” when it comes to waste. In the first year of the contract, four field trips were coordinated and many more scheduled but postponed due to COVID-19. Six additional field trips were scheduled but postponed until the following school year. Two of these were also granted a transportation scholarship.

6. Maintain the RARE program within a specified budget

RARE completed the first year of the three-year contract under budget for total expenses, while exceeding the number of presentations and public education events required in deliverables. Of the **\$29,516.01** contracted by the County as compensation, BEC spent **\$25,650.69**. The remaining funds of **\$3,865.32** will roll over to the next fiscal year for the purpose of covering staffing costs, mileage reimbursement, and transportation scholarships. We believe that the program can be expanded and more students can be reached with increased staffing time. Some

examples of program expansion include: RARE attendance at additional public education events, aiding schools in organizing waste audits, and the creation of supplemental presentations. The latter comes after many teachers responded to their first visits with excitement and a desire for RARE to return and build upon the topics discussed. With the current model and hour allotment, secondary presentations were not possible. Educational and material costs are low due to the program goal of mending and restoring old materials to be reused for as long as possible.

Budget Overview

Program and Personnel Costs	Contracted Amount	Spent in 2019-2020	Difference
Personnel Costs	\$19,500.00	\$18,947	\$553.00 UNDER
Payroll Taxes & Workers Comp (11%)	\$2,145.00	\$1,952.01	\$192.99 UNDER
Subtotal	\$21,645.00		
Program Material Costs	\$4,187.74	\$2,857.81	\$1,329.93 UNDER
Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$810.64	\$189.36 UNDER
Subtotal	\$5,187.74		
Indirect Admin (10%)	\$2,683.27	\$1,034.49	\$1,648.78 UNDER
Total Program Costs	\$29,516.01	\$25,650.69	\$3,865.32 UNDER

Table 2 - All Schools and Presentations for 2019-2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>City</u>
8/19/19	Donald Kinslow	5	Rosedale	Recycling	Chico
8/20/19	Ruth Testman	12	Loma Vista	Recycling	Chico
8/21/19	Forough Molina	3	Stanford Ave Elem	Compost	Oroville

8/22/19	Tammy Janos	5	Parkview	Recycling	Chico
8/23/19	Constance Lewis	4	McManus	Recycling	Chico
8/28/19	Alise Kubecki	3-5	McManus	Recycling	Chico
8/29/19	Renee Garcia	1	Wyandotte	Recycling	Oroville
8/29/19	Jill Lowe	2	Wyandotte	Recycling	Oroville
9/3/19	Ruth Testman	12	Loma Vista	Compost	Chico
9/4/19	Mrs. Barker	1	Oakdale Heights	Recycling	Oroville
9/4/19	Mr. Chao	1-2	Oakdale Heights	Recycling	Oroville
9/4/19	Sheng Yang	1	Oakdale Heights	Recycling	Oroville
9/4/19	Mrs. Huru	1	Oakdale Heights	Recycling	Oroville
9/6/19	Kelli Voss	5	Shasta	Recycling	Chico
9/6/19	Kelli Voss	5	Shasta	Recycling	Chico
9/6/19	Gina Newsom-Wang	3	Plumas Ave	Recycling	Oroville
9/10/19	Luke Coulson	9-12	Chico High	Recycling	Chico
9/10/19	Julie Crum	5	Sierra View	Recycling	Chico
9/12/19	Jessica Lansden	K	Parkview	Recycling	Chico
9/13/19	Jill Lowe	2	Wyandotte	Compost	Oroville
9/13/19	Renee Garcia	1	Wyandotte	Compost	Oroville

9/13/19	Katie Meyer	K	Parkview	Recycling	Chico
9/13/19	Nancy Teramoto	K	Parkview	Recycling	Chico
9/24/19	Elisa Huru	1	Oakdale heights	Compost	Oroville
9/25/19	Sandy Schlanser	4	Golden Hills	Recycling	Oroville
9/25/19	Mrs. Webb	4	Golden Hills	Recycling	Oroville
9/26/19	Mrs. Smith	4	Golden Hills	Recycling	Oroville
9/26/19	Mrs. Dailey	4	Golden Hills	Recycling	Oroville
9/26/19	Mrs. Taylor	4	Golden Hills	Recycling	Oroville
9/27/19	Christy Lephart	1	Ophir	Compost	Oroville
10/1/19	Mharia Ross	7	Hearthstone	Recycling	Oroville
10/1/19	Mharia Ross	8	Hearthstone	Recycling	Oroville
10/1/19	Mharia Ross	6	Hearthstone	Recycling	Oroville
10/3/19	Riley Mac Millan	3	Blue Oak	Compost	Chico
10/17/19	Tammy Janos	5	Parkview	Compost	Chico
10/17/19	Lindsey Stallion	1	Ophir	Compost	Oroville
10/22/19	Mharia Ross	8	Hearthstone	Compost	Oroville
10/22/19	Mharia Ross	6	Hearthstone	Compost	Oroville
10/25/19	Gina Newsom-Wang	3	Plumas Ave	Compost	Oroville

10/28/19	Lindsay Stallions	1	Ophir	Recycling	Oroville
11/5/19	Dan Briggs	9-12	Oroville High	Oil Recycling	Oroville
11/7/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Recycling	Oroville
11/7/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Recycling	Oroville
11/7/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Recycling	Oroville
11/7/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Recycling	Oroville
11/14/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Compost	Oroville
11/14/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Compost	Oroville
11/14/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Compost	Oroville
11/14/19	Erin Jackson	6	Central Middle	Compost	Oroville
11/18/19	Rob Holt	Post-Secondary	Butte College Auto	Oil Recycling	Chico
11/20/19	Jennifer Cooper	1	Ophir	Recycling	Oroville
1/7/20	Heidi Gysin	Post Secondary	CCC	Recycling	Chico
1/21/20	Dean Passanissi	5	Sierra View	Compost	Chico
1/22/20	Dean Passanissi	5	Sierra View	Recycling	Chico
1/27/20	Dean Passanissi	5	Sierra View	Recycling	Chico
1/28/20	Dean Passanissi	5	Sierra View	Compost	Chico
1/29/20	Sheng Yang	1	Oakdale Heights	Compost	Oroville

2/3/20	Kristen Thomas	4-5	Little Chico Creek	Recycling	Chico
2/5/20	Kristen Del Real	6-8	Chico Jr. High	Recycling	Chico
2/5/20	Heidi Gysin	Post Secondary	CCC	Compost	Chico
2/6/20	Susie Smith	4	Hooker Oak	Recycling	Chico
2/11/20	Michael Stollman	1-3	Chapman ASP	Recycling	Chico
2/11/20	Michael Stollman	3-5	Chapman ASP	Recycling	Chico
2/13/20	Alan von der Mehden	10-12	Las Plumas High	Recycling	Oroville
2/19/20	David Coffee	5	Durham Elem.	Recycling	Durham
2/19/20	Justin Peek	9-12	Inspire	Recycling	Chico
2/20/20	Kasey King	2	Durham Elem.	Recycling	Durham
3/5/20	Krizia Garcia	5	Rosedale Elem.	Recycling	Chico
3/5/20	Sheila Penman	5	Neal Dow	Recycling	Chico
3/6/20	DeAnna Holman	5	Paradise Ridge	Recycling	Paradise
3/9/20	Wes Bill	9-12	Durham High	Oil Recycling	Durham
3/9/20	Kayla Hall	9-12	Durham High	Oil Recycling	Durham
3/9/20	Kayla Hall	9-12	Durham High	Oil Recycling	Durham
<p>Total Presentations = 73 Composting = 20 Recycling = 48 Oil Recycling = 5 Total Schools = 30</p>					

Teacher Testimonials

“Our children loved RARE's visit and can't wait for the next time. The activity met students at their level of knowledge and understanding - and built from there. The presentation was informative and engaging - kids learned a lot and had fun. The instructor was knowledgeable, responsive and energetic. It's a well thought out program teaching critical information.”

- Michael Stollman, Chapman Elementary ASP



“The RARE program is an excellent opportunity for students to think out of the box on a topic that is so familiar, trash, yet so unknown, what happens once it leaves our trash cans. Julia makes the presentations engaging by including hands-on opportunities for the students to learn about and explore these complex topics.” - Erin Jackson, Central Middle School

“The RARE Program has been an amazing resource for my classroom over the years. The students get a high quality, hands on lesson; taught by a passionate teacher. What an important and caring community connection for teaching our children conservancy for their future!”

- Elisa Huru, Oakdale Heights Elementary

“RARE gives students from a variety of backgrounds, opportunities to think about how they (kids) interact with their world, with fun, hands-on activities and, best, ongoing interaction/investigation long after the presentation via the worms(class pets)! Thank you!”

- Forough Molina, Stanford Ave. Elementary



Thank you, Butte County, for funding the RARE Program here at the Butte Environmental Council! Your support of this program has allowed us to provide thousands of community members with the knowledge and tools to help reduce our waste and make a positive impact on the planet!