

Town Times

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Trash Busters

By Dana Hoffman

The CRHS Eco-Club, along with Boy Scout Troop 27 of Durham and Middlefield, has taken an active role in the maintenance of recycling and composting at the fair. Each morning before the fair starts, students and scouts collect the compost and recycling from the vendors between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m., as well as re-line all the containers and bins.

Even before Coginchaug science teacher and Eco-Club adviser Mrs. Michael and her husband were involved with the program, the Eco-Club had been in charge of the recycling and composting for six years.

"We really wanted to start gaining the bottles out of the garbage stream," Michael said. "It's such a

waste because you could recycle it."

In the pilot year, six years ago, twenty-one vendors acted as non-profit volunteers. This year, forty-one vendors participated in composting through Eco. These volunteers were responsible for giving their compostable waste to Eco members when it came time to collect it. The Eco team collected 1.67 tons (or 3,000 pounds) of compostable waste. Eco aims to collect 5,000 pounds of compostable waste next year.

Donations from Durham-Middlefield Clean Energy & Sustainability Task Force, CAT, or Coginchaug Area Transition group, HQ dumpsters and Recycling LLC, and Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation (CVEF) cover most of the expenses for the supplies.

Last year, the Durham-Middlefield Clean Energy &

Sustainability Task Force, a group of Durham and Middlefield residents, completed several projects using part of a \$1200 CVEF grant in an attempt to reduce the community's carbon footprint and global impact. The team was able to pay for posters, gloves, bins, liners for containers, and other supplies.

This year Mrs. Micheal joined the Durham Fair Committee and the maintenance crew in order to gain more say in the organization of this program. She highlighted the diversity of the group as a showcase of the Durham-Middlefield community's commitment to sustainability and one another.

Mrs. Michael said, "I love that it's so many people from so many different aspects and age groups coming together to do some good for the environment. It's really fun."