

Contact: Ryan Orendorf
Hahn, Texas for Texas Disposal Systems
512.344.2028 or 512.944.9184
rorendorf@hahntexas.com



AISD FIRST IN STATE TO OFFER SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING AND CAFETERIA COMPOSTING PROGRAMS

AUSTIN, Texas – May 2, 2011 – The Austin Independent School District (AISD) is the first school district in the state to offer a single stream recycling program at every facility, and a cafeteria composting program at each elementary school. Both programs, offered by Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) since January, have seen successful starts, with AISD students diverting a total of 711,583 pounds of material from local landfills in the first three months, according to an online reporting system for the programs designed by TDS.

The single stream recycling program allows students and teachers to collect all accepted recyclables in the classroom, workroom, cafeteria and office and recycle them together in one bin. The composting program turns leftover lunch food into a natural compost that helps plants grow.

TDS launched the online reporting system for the programs, which tracks the total weight of the recycling and compost materials each school collects every month. AISD students can use classroom computers to access their school's landfill diversion totals as well as videos and educational resources on recycling and composting at www.greenschoolsolutions.com.

"These programs are a great way for kids to learn about reducing the amount of trash going into local landfills," said Rick Fraumann, director of sales for TDS. "It helps them understand how waste can actually be useful, and hopefully they take these ideas home and teach their families as well."

Recyclables collected through the single stream program are taken to TDS' new materials recycling facility (MRF) just south of Austin in Creedmoor where the materials are separated, processed and sent to market. Cafeteria food waste is also taken to TDS, where it is turned into compost, soils and other products in the Garden-Ville line that are used by gardeners and farmers throughout Central Texas.

"The District has always been committed to forward thinking environmental practices," said Paul Turner, executive director of facilities for AISD. "This recycling and composting initiative also allows us to teach our students how to be good environmental stewards at school and in the rest of their lives."

TDS estimates that AISD students could divert more than of 3.1 million pounds of material from the landfill through the single stream recycling and composting programs in the 2011-2012 school year.

###