



Saint Louis County

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For Immediate Release

START

The Ely School District has been awarded a \$3,595 Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant from St. Louis County.

St. Louis County through the Environmental Services Department established the grant program to support and encourage waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs and education in local school districts. Schools with qualifying projects were eligible to apply for grant funding based on the number of students and classrooms.

The 2010-2011 School Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant program was put into place by the County Board and implemented by the Environmental Services Department. “Records show that a significant amount of recyclable material ends up in our landfill every year” said Mike Forsman, St. Louis County Commissioner. “We want to help schools set up sustainable programs for recycling that will reduce waste, cut their garbage costs and increase material recovery in St. Louis County.”

All schools within the County’s North Solid Waste Service Area were eligible to apply for the grant funds. A total of eight school districts have requested grants totaling \$54,000. The schools will use the funding to purchase classroom recycling bins, curriculum and other items to encourage recycling activities.

As a part of the grant agreement each school district will set up teams to facilitate recycling in the schools. Having bins available for students to collect paper and other recyclables is only part of the process. The teams will work with County staff and student groups to make sure that a system is in place to get the materials to the recycling processing facility.

Iron Range Youth in Action is leading the recycling efforts in area schools. “I think the

students and faculty are ready to make some changes,” said Shelby Maidl, Ely High School IRYA student leader. “Iron Range Youth in Action has been interested in making our school greener for some time, and this grant will allow us to really make a difference. We want to make recycling a normal part of the school day and curriculum.”

END

(Grant information attached)