



JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS
Health & Environment

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Media Contacts:

Brandon Hearn, Environmental Health Specialist
Brandon.Hearn@jocogov.org

Jennifer Dunlay, Risk Communicator
Jennifer.Dunlay@jocogov.org

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment Media Line: (913) 477-8436

Johnson County and Shawnee Mission School District receive recognition and grant for recycling efforts

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (April 20, 2018) – With Earth Day coming up on April 22, it is the perfect time to recognize the importance of caring for our planet, as well as recognizing some of our successes. The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment provides a multitude of programs to protect our citizens and help the environment: we monitor air pollution from businesses, we regulate septic systems to keep our groundwater clean, and we offer a safe disposal option for household hazardous waste, keeping it out of our environment.

In addition to those services, JCDHE in a partnership with the Shawnee Mission School District, has been recognized for their efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency Region 7, and was awarded a grant to further waste diversion efforts. The award given by the United States EPA Region 7 Food Recovery Challenge recognized the work of the Shawnee Mission School District and Johnson County to develop and implement recycling and composting programs in the cafeterias of every Shawnee Mission School and center. After several years of work, the last program rollout occurred the week of April 9. This program diverts cafeteria waste by recycling and composting food and paper materials in a partnership with Missouri Organic Recycling. This program is estimated to reduce cafeteria waste by 80 percent and divert over 230 tons of recyclable and compostable materials each year.

Johnson County and the Shawnee Mission School District were also awarded a grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Waste. This grant will allow the expansion of recycling options to the stadiums located at certain Shawnee Mission schools. The grant will provide recycling bins as well as signage, with Shawnee Mission contributing some additional bins as well as trash cans. These continued efforts show the commitment both Johnson County and Shawnee Mission Schools have to conserving resources, diverting waste and protecting our environment on Earth Day or any other day.

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