



NOAA B-WET Project: Alpena Public Schools

LUNCHROOM WASTE



"They saw that even a kid can make an impact! We can all help the environment."



Maia Proulx, Lincoln Elementary School Teacher

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

5th graders at Lincoln Elementary School looked for ways within their school to reduce marine debris. They quickly realized that lunchtime was the school's biggest trash generator and that roughly 130 styrofoam trays were being used each day! Since styrofoam is so light there is always the worry of it blowing away and ending up in local waters. This inspired the idea to reuse the lunchroom waste by creating "ecobricks". Styrofoam and plastics collected in the lunchroom were torn into small pieces and stuffed into 2-liter bottles until they became solid "bricks". The class also did a trash clean-up at a local park to collect for the bricks. The bench now has a home in the school hallway!

87 pounds of trash reused

5'5 x 2 ft bench created

150 ecobricks created

45 students involved

BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECT PARTNERS



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