

Applicant's Information

- **Name:**
- **Position:** Teacher
- **School/Department:** Maureen M. Welch ES
- **Cell Phone Number:**

Grant Type

Which type of Innovative Learning Grant are you applying for?

- Teacher/Classroom Grants (single CRSD school; up to \$6,000)
- Districtwide/Collaborative Grants (multiple CRSD schools; up to \$10,000)
- CRSD Alumni Grant (Social Studies; up to \$5,000)

For Districtwide/Collaborative Grants, include at least one applicant from each participating school and the principal/administrator's name. They must also sign the signature page.

Project Background

Project Title: WhatSUPcycling

Location: (Select all that apply)

- Hillcrest ES
- Maureen M. Welch ES

Grade Levels Benefiting: (Select all that apply)

- Grades 1-6

Main Curricular Area:

- STEAM

Secondary Curricular Areas: (If applicable) NA

Curriculum Support: How does this project support the curriculum (state standards)?

This project aligns with state standards in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). It integrates hands-on engineering activities with environmental education, promoting sustainable practices and critical thinking skills.

PA STEELS Standards: 3.4.3-5 Environmental Literacy and Sustainability

Innovation

Project Description: Briefly describe your project. What makes it unique? How will it enhance educational outcomes?

The Sustainability Stations in STEAM project focuses on upcycling single-use plastic (SUP) products to manufacture sustainable Strawbees. This unique initiative combines environmental stewardship with practical engineering experience, allowing students to create and take home their own projects. It enhances educational outcomes by providing real-world applications of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and fostering a collaborative learning environment.

Distinctive Features: How is your project different from similar initiatives in the district?

This project stands out by involving the entire school community, including PTOs, in the collection and preparation of materials. It emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning and sustainability, making it a comprehensive and engaging educational experience.

Student Impact: Approximately how many students will directly benefit from your project?

Approximately 900 students across grade levels 1-6 will directly benefit from this project, gaining valuable skills in engineering, problem-solving, and environmental awareness.

Demonstration of Need

Current Situation: What are the existing conditions, challenges, and needs related to your project?

Currently, students have access to Strawbees and Strawbees Robotics Kits, but there is a need for more sustainable practices and materials. The challenge is to educate students about the importance of upcycling and providing them with the tools to do so.

Project Solution: How will your project address these challenges and meet the needs of students and educators?

The Sustainability Stations will address these challenges by providing a dedicated space for upcycling SUP products into new Strawbees. This will not only reduce waste but also give students hands-on experience in engineering and sustainability.

Sharing Results: How will you share the results and successes of your project with others?

Results and successes will be shared through staff meeting, social media, photographs, PTO meetings and school newsletters.

Comprehensive Plan

Goals and Objectives: What do you hope to accomplish with your project?

- Educate students on sustainable practices and the 3Rs.
- Provide hands-on engineering experience.
- Foster community collaboration in sustainability efforts.

Timeline: Outline a realistic schedule for the implementation of your project, including key milestones and deadlines.

- **July-August:** Project planning and ordering Sustainability Stations.
- **September-October:** Set expectations for a successful year in STEAM and reintroduce Strawbees, as a building material. Teach about the threat trash poses to Earth and our future. Begin the collection and preparation of SUP materials and learn how to use the Sustainability Stations to turn the SUP materials into Strawbees.
- **November-Ongoing:** Implementation of Sustainability Stations and student activities in engineering.
- **April-May:** Documentation and sharing of project outcomes.

Completion Criteria: How will you know your project has ended and/or your goals are achieved?

The project will be considered complete when students have successfully upcycled SUP products into new Strawbees and have demonstrated their understanding of sustainable practices.

Success Metrics: How will you measure the success of your project? (e.g., test scores, surveys, rubrics, anecdotal notes, etc.)

- Rubric measuring student ability to solve problems.
- Student feedback and reflections.
- Amount of plastic upcycled.
- Community feedback and engagement levels.

Project Sustainability: How will you sustain the project after the grant period ends? Discuss plans for long-term sustainability. If further funding is needed to sustain your project, what are potential funding sources

No further funding is needed to sustain the project. The Sustainability Station uses upcycled SUP products to create new Strawbees. This ensures the project remains cost-effective and environmentally friendly in the long term.

Scalability: Can the project be used and/or duplicated by other classrooms/grades/schools? Explain.

This project can be replicated in other classrooms, grades, and schools by sharing the process and outcomes with educators and administrators. The model of upcycling and hands-on

engineering can be adapted to various educational settings. Additional Sustainability Stations will need to be purchased for use in other STEAM classrooms.

Grant Budget

Amount Requesting

\$2,000.00

Please give a brief overview of what you are planning to purchase and how it contributes to the project's success (1-3 sentences).

We plan to purchase 2 Sustainability Stations to use at Maureen M. Welch and Hillcrest Elementary Schools. These stations will enable students to create new Strawbees using upcycled SUP products, allowing them to build and take home their projects.

Itemized Project Budget Upload

Additional Funding Sources: Include any additional components of the project to be funded by other sources (e.g., PTO, curriculum budget, or other grants). Describe how these funds will expand or enhance the scope of the project.

No further funding needed. Single Use Plastics will be donated by the school community.

Budget Modification: Can your project be modified if cost saving measures are needed? Please explain.

This project cannot be modified. The Sustainability Stations are essential for the project's success and cannot be replaced or reduced with compromising the project's goals.