



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Solid Waste Division

## HAZARDS ON THE HOMEFRONT - MINI GRANT REPORT

CARLIE JONAS  
MCKNIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

### **What was the project? Describe the project and the goal.**

The project was to teach the community about household hazardous waste, how this waste gets into the environment, and safer alternatives to hazardous products. We accomplished this by first teaching the eighth grade students, then sending the students home with projects involving family, then inviting the community to the school for a Green Cleaning Products Show.

### **Who was involved? Please provide specific numbers of students, faculty/staff, parents and others participating in the project. Please estimate the numbers of others affected by the project.**

The three eighth grade science teachers planned the project. Three hundred and fifty eight-graders were involved. One hundred and seventy-five staff and community

members attended the Green Cleaning Products Show.



### **What was the project outcome? Was the goal accomplished?**

The project outcome was the Green Cleaning Products Show at which the students presented their experiments about how safer alternative cleaning products compared to hazardous products. It included a cost analysis and background to why the product was dangerous in the first place. Yes, our goal was accomplished- a

community turnout of 175 people at a middle school event is quite good. Many staff and parents noted that they learned a lot about hazardous products, and that the students were professional and prepared.

### **What changes about household hazardous products or waste resulted from the project, if any?**

Students and community members are more aware of how household hazardous products can harm them. They are aware of which alternatives work and which alternatives don't work as well. Community members mentioned how excited they were to try safer alternatives.

**How did you use the funds?**

To buy supplies for the safer alternatives experiments, supplies for the Green Cleaning Products Show, and a small stipend to train the two other eighth grade science teachers on the *Hazards on the Homefront* curriculum.

**Would you recommend this project to other teachers? Why or why not?**

Yes, because the students get to practice experimental design, the family is involved and the county's environmental health should be better because of this unit.