



## **The Smart Waste Strategy of Prof. Muharrem Ergin Middle School**

We as the members of Prof. Muharrem Ergin Middle School keep that saying in mind The First Lady of our country said ‘It will be too late for everything if we don’t pass human-centric approach beyond egocentric approach. Therefore, I invite you to take part in solutions to environmental problems’

“Zero Waste” is a goal defined as waste management philosophy that involves preventing the wastage, using the resources more efficient, reviewing the reasons for waste formation, preventing or minimizing waste formation, and collecting and recovering waste at source separately. We know that in the recycling and recovery process of wastes disposal without evaluation causes serious resource and energy losses.

The project aims to control waste within the framework of sustainable development principles and to leave a clean and developed Turkey and a livable world to future generations.

### **How is the process for Zero Waste in our school ?**

#### **Create Your Team**

Zero Workteams are set up to monitor the process from installation to application and monitoring of the waste management system.

#### **Plan**

Zero Waste Management System is carried out before the application of the waste management system for the most effective structuring.

#### **Arrange Training and Carry Into Practice**

Required equipment is provided and placed in appropriate places. Trainings are organized for employees and practitioner to raise awareness about the application. The produced wastes are collected in the waste box placed. Wastes according to their types are collected in temporary



storage area. The collected wastes are delivered to environmentally licensed facilities for recycling.

### **Watch, Record, Revise**

Regular monitoring of the application is carried out. Measures are taken for failures and updates are made if necessary. The practical outputs such as the amount of waste collected and sent to the facilities and the gain obtained are recorded.

### **The system of waste collection**

The first step was to prepare the system of waste collection in our school. Recycling bins for batteries, paper, glass, electronics, plastics were put in our school corridors and two bins for each class for organic and paper, glass and plastics. Every day after the classes finish, people in charge collect them and put them in place so that municipal employees can take them.

### **Start using waste!**

Other things that we do is about our Technology and Design lesson. Students with the help of teachers started to use waste materials to create new objects during the classes and end of the term in summer, they present their products in the exhibition in our school. Students from different schools, teachers, people in town, district director of national education and also other employees and staff visit and see the exhibition so that we can disseminate all the things about our strategy and project.

### **Results**

By taking part of this project and our waste management strategy, we became a member who helped achieve those ;

- From the collected waste, 356 million kilowatt-hours of energy was saved, equivalent to the use of 1.5 million families for one month and 130 thousand families for one year.
- With the Zero Waste Project, water savings equivalent to 1 month's use of 16 million families were achieved. It has also been calculated that the 437 million cubic meters of water saved is equal to the amount that 175 thousand Olympic swimming pools will receive.



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- In addition, 52 million cubic meters of storage space with a height of 1 meter and a width of 7 thousand football fields were also saved.
- 265 million trees saved.
- With the project, 3 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions were prevented, 265 million trees, equivalent to 1.5 million decares of forest area, were saved.
- 62 million barrels of oil equivalent to 70 million vehicle tanks of gasoline and 409 million tons of raw materials were saved.
- With zero waste, last year, 4 million tons of paper, 1.1 million tons of plastic, 470 thousand tons of glass, 75 thousand tons of metal, 280 thousand tons of wood, 80 thousand tons of textiles, 18 thousand tons of waste vegetable oil, 19 thousand tons of electronic goods and 1.2 million tons of organic and recyclable mixed wastes were collected separately at the source and recycled.

With our strategy and the project we are in, we try to help our kids, parents , community, workers, staff and any person to :

- Increase productivity,
- Increase performance with the help of clean environment,
- Reduce costs as waste is avoided,
- Ensure the reduction of environmental risks,
- To have a sense of “sensitive consumer” as it contributes to the development of environmental protection,
- To have the title of “Environmentalist”