



Power2Sustain Brings Environmental Education to Santa Clara County

Partnerships with Local Organizations Lend to Environmental Literacy for K-12

SANTA CLARA, Calif., Aug. 10, 2014 – This year [Power2Sustain](#), a Santa Cruz-based non-profit environmental education organization, and Safeway partnered with the County of Santa Clara’s Office of Sustainability, Green Waste Recovery, Inc. and CalRecycle to deliver environmental education programs throughout Santa Clara County. The program reached over 2,000 students in 27 elementary, middle and high schools.

Through a series of lessons, students learned concepts in environmental stewardship, sustainability and how to take personal responsibility for the natural world. At the end of the program, students each received a Bagito™ reusable shopping bag to illustrate what they learned. One poignant message from a 12 year-old student read, “Help Our Planet: There is no time to waste” next to a color drawing of the earth.

KEY NEWS:

- **Power2Sustain** initiated the Santa Clara County project at the beginning of the Fall/Winter 2013 season
- **Partnerships with local organizations** enabled Power2Sustain to deliver integrated environmental lesson plans to over 2,000 students at schools incl San Jose High School, Eisenhower Elementary and [others](#).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Power2Sustain has engaged over 20,000 K-12 students** as of Spring 2014.
- **The program has extended beyond US borders** into Africa, Indonesia and South America.
- **Highly integrated lesson plans** combine information on current environmental issues with core areas of study including: English Language Arts, mathematics and social studies.

SUPPORTING QUOTE:

Mitch Barlas, founder and director, Power2Sustain and Bagito, said:

“As a former educator and school principal I understand the value integrated lesson plans bring to the classroom. Educators can teach the core math skills while simultaneously introducing and exposing students to environmental issues. For example, 5th grade teacher this year engaged students in a different way by incorporating facts and figures on overfishing and deforestation into math lessons on ratios. Students deserve the chance to know and learn about current environmental problems and be given the opportunity to problem solve.”



About Power2Sustain and Bagito:

Power2Sustain is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to teach K-12th grade students concepts about environmental stewardship and sustainability and empower them to take action to preserve and sustain their natural world. Bagitos are full-sized, micro-stuffable shopping bags designed to hang on a key ring. 100% of the proceeds from the sales of Bagitos go to the Power2Sustain project. The Power2Sustain project is available free-of-charge to any K-12 teacher in the US and abroad. For more information, please visit: www.Power2Sustain.org

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