

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



**Campbell County  
High School**  
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Jacksboro, TN 37757  
[www.campbell.k12.tn.us/](http://www.campbell.k12.tn.us/)



1-800-734-3619  
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## Beta Club Collects Hundreds of Printer Cartridges

### The Member

Campbell County High School opened in 1975, combining Jacksboro and LaFollette High Schools, with an enrollment of about 1400 students. Through the science department's participation in TDEC's School Chemical Cleanout Campaign and sign-up for the TP3 Green Schools Program, Campbell County High School became a Green School Partner in 2004.

The AP Biology class and the after-school Biology Club, sponsored by teacher Shelley King, as well as the Beta Club, sponsored by teacher Mary Ann Cummins, have been school leaders in environmental efforts.

### The Story

In 2006, the Beta Club did internet research and found out about a company in Nevada that would pay a small amount for used printer ink cartridges. Because so many ink and toner cartridges are used here at the high school, the Beta Club decided to make a project of collecting them. A box was set up in the teacher's workroom, and flyers were placed in each mailbox telling about our project. We collected several hundred cartridges and used the free mailing cartons and free labels from Fed-Ex to send them to Nevada. A large box was sent, and we waited for our check. We made a call to the company and were told the check was in the mail. As we had collected another box by then, we sent it. Nothing was ever heard from this group. Their website no longer existed, and the phone number was "not in use at this time." So we assumed it was a scam of some sort, but we were not going to let this stop our efforts to recycle the cartridges. The following school year, a place called Rapid Refill was

found in Knoxville that would take our used cartridges for a small amount of money. A large box was taken to them, and after many phone calls, we finally received a check for \$56.00. A second box was taken, but nothing was ever received for it. Again, we were not discouraged. Another company in Oak Ridge was found this year. This company gladly took our empty cartridges and sent us a check for \$156.00.

### The Success

We are currently collecting from the school, our families, and local businesses to take empty cartridges to the Oak Ridge company again this summer. This project has given the Beta Club an opportunity to participate in "going green." The money also assisted with transportation to the state Beta Club Convention. It has been a major effort to get the money for this, but I always told the students even if we don't get a dime, we are still helping our planet by not throwing all these cartridges in the landfills.

### The Pollution Prevented

Hundreds of printer ink and toner cartridges have been collected and sent to different companies for remanufacturing since 2006. Although the Beta Club did not get paid for all of the cartridges, they were kept out of the landfills and used a second time through the remanufacturing and refilling process. The Beta Club students learned about reducing waste from their school and community businesses, while earning money at the same time.

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