

Adams School Get Water Station To Eliminate Plastic Bottles

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SANTA BARBARA -- Adams Elementary is one of seven schools to get a water refilling station installed on campus to help eliminate plastic bottle use.

The United States goes through 2.5 million water bottles an hour and the majority of those aren't recycled.

In order to cut down on the usage, the Community Environmental Council and the Orfalea Foundation is installing hydration stations in Santa Barbara schools.

At first glance it looks like a typical school water fountain, but this station is equipped with a sensor that refills bottles with cold, filtered water.

"Before we had this water system at Adams School, we would go through about 250-350 water bottles a week, plastic water bottles," said Adams Elementary School Principal Amy Alzina. "So far to date, we've sold zero."



More than 600 reusable water bottles were given to every student and teacher at Adams School.

"They're for putting water in them so you can use the new machine," explained Fourth Grader Nicole Lozano.

Every time the water station is used, it counts the amount of bottles being saved. In just three days since the installation, the school has helped eliminate 719 plastic bottles.

"No more plastic so it doesn't go to the ocean," Lozano said.

The water system price tag is around \$1,500 but comes at no cost for the schools as the Community Environmental Council's "Rethink The Drink" program and the Orfalea Foundation's "s'Cool Food" purchases the machines.

"This is completely eliminating the plastic water bottles and therefore saving our environment," said Principal Alzina.

During recess, the elementary students brought in their bottles to fill up before heading back to class.

"The water tastes really good," said Lozano.

Monroe and Harding School have received their water stations and they should be installed within the next couple weeks. Santa Barbara High School will be getting a third station that will be installed in the gym.

For more information on the Rethink The Drink Program click here:<http://www.cecsb.org/item/renewed-funding-for-rethink-the-drink>

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