

# HOW THEY DID IT.

## MARY HOGAN SCHOOL

Middlebury, VT

The Middlebury Safe Routes to School (SRS), recognized with the highest achievement award in 2012 by the Vermont SRS program, continues to be a prominent program at Mary Hogan School. Volunteers are organized and committed, sustaining grassroots efforts to advance safety and the quality of walking and biking in Middlebury for more than a decade. Today, their active listserv of 100+ volunteers works with Town officials to install low-cost practical solutions to improve walking and rolling safety. Volunteers continue to engage through workshops, projects and awards recognition including the popular Golden Shoe Award and Fancy Fruit Plate.

Monthly "Walking Wednesdays" continue at Mary Hogan School. Using Google Maps, coordinators plan routes and lead students, parents and teachers to practice green commuting. Kids are incentivized by stickers, mood pencils and more. The Middlebury Safe Routes Coordinator, Laura Asermily, is sporting her Banana suit to highlight bicycle safety first.



## Salisbury Community School

Salisbury is a rural area where walking and biking to school can be difficult. Thus, the fifth grade students convinced the town Select Board to close the access roads going into the school one morning in June, and got the entire school community to walk the last half mile to the school. They calculated the carbon dioxide emission savings from keeping all cars and buses from driving the one mile round trip, and represented this visually using large inflatables that showed an air equivalent of the carbon dioxide emissions saved.



The students also learned and taught the community about other ways they could reduce their transportation footprint, such as walking short distances instead of driving and making sure that car tire pressures are pumped appropriately. In addition to educating the students and community, this project was empowering for the 5th grade project leaders.

## Shelburne Community School



As the 2016 winner of the Way to Go! School Challenge, SRS approached the event with a great spirit of cooperation between faculty, staff and the XC team students. Following three years of supporting the Cancer Patient Support program at UVM, the XC team chose to jump onto the Way to Go! Challenge, after reading the notice from VEEP.

The XC students and faculty quickly went to work on the Challenge, as the online tools made it easier to promote health and well being at school, aligning well with the school's environmental goals. "Way to Go! connected beautifully with all of the health and wellness initiatives already in place at SCS, said Devon Morrill, co-lead teacher. Participating in the challenge seemed like a natural extension of our Walking Wednesdays, VEHI path adventures, and the Environmental Club's participation in Idle Free Vermont".

Student athletes promoted the challenge by word of mouth, two of our eighth graders wrote posts for the school blog, and they worked in small teams to deliver and collect the tally sheets and then organize the data from each K-8 classroom. Thank you so much, we are truly looking forward to this fabulous and exciting opportunity to celebrate our mutual commitment to changing our world for the better, one small piece at a time".