



School News: Repurposing Scrap Materials

Fall 2018



In Larry Robjent's metal shop class at North Country School (NY), resources are transformed not just into something new but into something beautiful.

The concept of reuse is deeply embedded in the school's ethos. Compost from the dining room goes to the school's farm, thinned trees heat campus buildings, and Leave No Trace principles are practiced in the surrounding wilderness.

So when the school's electrician Bill Domenico commissioned a sea serpent sculpture, Robjent's class of seventh- through ninth-graders looked at what materials they could reclaim. The design, created using entirely repurposed materials, incorporated old electrical equipment, such as outlet faceplates, along with old roofing and greenhouse parts.



The resulting sculpture, a 10-by-45-foot sea serpent named Tessie, currently lives in public view in front of Domenico's home in nearby Saranac Lake. Courtesy of Becca Miller

What's happening at your school? Share your story with us at ismag@nais.org.