

Dear Watershed Community,

*At the end of a course at Watershed, your work does not land in the recycling bin, it lands on the Senator's desk.*

Just a short note this week celebrating some of the good work happening in a couple of our courses.

In our grade 11/12 *Materials Science* course students are exploring various materials in our world – learning about the science behind them, the impact of their use, and future prospects. As a final project, they are writing a white paper to share with governmental decision-makers. For each of the materials (sand, salt, iron, copper, oil and lithium), the white paper focuses on the current impact of the materials, an assessment of future use and need, and recommendations for future research and practices to reach sustainable use of the material. They've reached out to governmental officials offering to share the report, and have heard back with requests from folks ranging from the local (e.g., the Boulder Planning Department) to the national (e.g., Senator Hickenlooper's office). It is powerful for students to see how they can contribute – and it's motivating. Jenn Campbell-Smith, Ph.D. (the educator for the course) shared one student's comment: "Can we be sure to put in the time to polish this report? I want to make sure it's great if it's going out to these officials."

At the other end of our grade range, the 6/7 *Source to Sea* class will be doing a similar project as their two-trimester course flows into trimester 3. They'll be writing a white paper on "Ongoing and Projected Water Resource Issues in the Front Range." And, like our older students, they'll be sharing their work with governmental decision makers – more to come on that as the next trimester unfolds.

Good stuff!

Thanks for reading.

Warmly,

Tim