

RECYCLING & ZERO WASTE NEWSLETTER



SEP
2023



SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT / RECYCLING PROGRAM / WWW.SDUSDSUSTAINABILITY.COM

Back to 
SCHOOL

SDUSD
Recycles



IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME ...

...to the September 2023 Back-to-School edition of the Recycling & Zero Waste newsletter for San Diego Unified teachers, staff, students, parents, and volunteers!

This newsletter is designed to provide information and updates to the SDUSD community regarding waste diversion, recycling, composting, funding opportunities, environmental education resources, and other relevant information.

Check out the resources and information in this newsletter to give you ideas and inspiration!

- Focus on Recycling
 - SDUSD Recycling Challenge
 - FREE Recycling Resources
 - Recycling @ School
 - School Green Teams
- Grades of Green Eco-Toolkits
- Love Food Not Waste Resources
- National Green Schools Society - Start a Club @ Your School
- Grants/Contests/Challenges/Awards
- More Opportunities & Resources
- Environmental Education
- Other Resources

Visit our Website 

SDUSD RECYCLING CHALLENGE



RECYCLE & WIN!

This school year, the District is continuing the tradition of holding its annual Recycling Challenge to encourage schools to divert as much as possible from landfill disposal. This can be done through expanded recycling efforts and reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place! **Here's the scoop....**

All schools that receive waste and recycling pickup through the District's contract with Republic Services are automatically entered in the Challenge.

Once again, this year's Challenge is **points based**. Schools that submit an on-line Recycling Challenge Impact Form that demonstrates their school's efforts to educate and promote recycling, waste diversion, and/or sustainability on campus will receive additional points.



Henry High - High School Winner 2022-23



Standley Middle - Middle School Winner 2022 -23



Marvin Elementary- Elem/K-8 Winner 2022-23



MORE
INFO

Check out the
Recycling Challenge
winners from 2022-23!



FREE OPPORTUNITIES & SERVICES

Recycling & Composting Resources

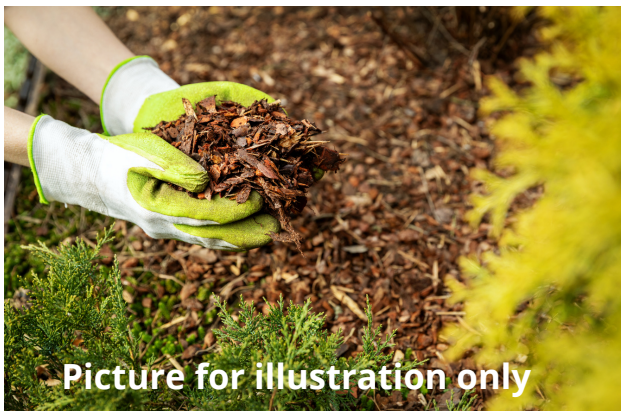
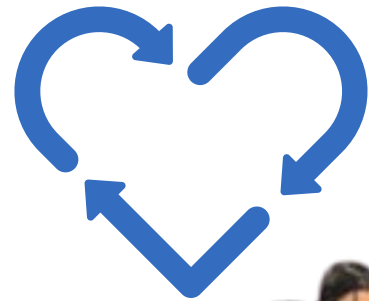


Republic Services Opportunities for SDUSD



The District's trash and recycling collection contract with Republic Services provides a variety of opportunities for recycling education and outreach at our schools. **Check out these FREE opportunities!**

- **School assemblies** on how and what to recycle at school
- **Recycling Ambassadors** to work more closely with school staff and students on proper trash disposal and recycling (help with Green Teams, lunchtime recycling programs, etc.)
- **School Recycling Opportunity Assessments** to help schools identify additional diversion strategies and become more sustainable
- **Recycling bins** and equipment (limited)
- **Staffed booth** at school sustainability fairs or events
- **FREE mulch** for school gardens



Picture for illustration only

School Sustainability Resources

SDUSD Recycling Program

FREE!

REPUBLIC SERVICES

Recycling Resources | Recycling Challenge | Free Mulch

- ✓ School Assemblies
- ✓ Recycling Ambassadors
- ✓ Recycling Assessments
- ✓ Recycling Bins
- ✓ Staffed Booth at events
- ✓ Runs SEP '23 - MAR '24
- ✓ All schools eligible
- ✓ Earn points for efforts
- ✓ Win CASH Prizes!
- ✓ Get recognized
- ✓ Up to 40 cubic yards
- ✓ Free delivery!
- ✓ Great for school gardens
- ✓ Campus beautification
- ✓ Helps retain moisture

There are lots of free opportunities and resources for your school to jump-start or expand recycling & sustainability efforts! Why wait?

Contact → Janet Whited, Recycling Specialist
jwhited@sandi.net | www.sdusdsustainability.com

SDUSD Recycles

For more information on resources for your school, please contact Janet Whited at jwhited@sandi.net

IT'S EASY TO RECYCLE @ SCHOOL!

Be Green & Choose Blue



How to Recycle Right

Recycle clean items: Make sure bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, and plastic containers are relatively clean (i.e. no food, no liquids, no yuck!). Empty and rinse appropriate items if possible. Place MIXED recyclables in blue recycling bins.



LEARN MORE



Recycle plastics by shape: bottles, jars, jugs, tubs, and trays. These are "rigid" plastics.

Fact: The "chasing arrows" symbol on a product doesn't necessarily mean the item is recyclable at school or at home in San Diego. Many single-use and other plastic items are made of hard to recycle plastic and can't be put in recycling bins.



SCHOOL GREEN TEAMS

Sustainability in Action



Many students want to feel empowered to make a difference for the environment and reduce the effects of climate change. What better way for students to get involved and learn valuable leadership skills than by starting or joining a campus Green Team, Planet Protectors, or Eco-Club?!



Green Team Basics

Green Teams should consist of students, custodial staff, teachers, and administrators. Team members can help collect recyclables from classrooms during a certain time each day or on one particular day each week. Some schools place recycling bins in hallways and ask classroom Recycling Monitors or Green Team students to empty classroom recyclables into the hallway bins. In some cases, students help transport the recyclables to the large recycling dumpster where an adult can take it from there.

For more information on starting a Green Team at your school, check out the information below...



GRADES OF green LAUNCH Eco-Toolkit

How to Form a Green Team

Spark environmental change in your school and community by creating a Green Team!



 Skill Level Grades K-5, led by a teacher, parent or school administrator	 Climate Crisis Topic All topics 	 Project Time 1 semester, up to a full school year	 What You'll Need Writing utensil, optional: Computer/Phone
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RECYCLE RALLY

HOW TO START A GREEN TEAM FOR YOUR SCHOOL

LOOKING FOR A HANDS-ON WAY TO GET STUDENTS INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTALISM?

CONSIDERING DIFFERENT WAYS TO TEACH STUDENTS VALUABLE LEADERSHIP SKILLS?

WHAT IS A GREEN TEAM?

WANT TO MAKE YOUR SCHOOL A GREENER PLACE BUT NEED HELP IN DOING SO?

Recycle Resources

GRADES OF GREEN

Teacher & Student Resources



Grades of Green

Grades of Green is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and empower students to take action and lead environmental change.

Their LAUNCH Eco-Toolkits “educate and empower educators and students to lead impactful eco-projects in their schools and communities, creating long lasting environmental change and earning “Leaves” along the way.” Using their “Leaferboard,” LAUNCH participants can track their leaf earnings and compete for recognition as the most impactful LAUNCH team. At the end of the school year, the most impactful team is recognized and rewarded with a well-deserved **\$1,000** stipend!

[Click here to find a LAUNCH Eco-Toolkit for your school!](#)



LOVE FOOD NOT WASTE

Teacher & Student Resources



Love Food Not Waste School Resources for Teachers, Students, & More!

This page is still under construction - Thanks for your patience!

LOVE
FOOD
NOT
WASTE
SDUSD!

New Web
Page
Resources!

A new page was added to the District's www.sdusdsustainability.com website highlighting additional resources for our Love Food Not Waste program.

There is information on sorting recyclables in the lunch court, a song and lyrics encouraging students to only take milk if they will drink it and to recycle at lunch, McKinley Elementary's compost project, food waste curriculum, and more!

As other resources become available, they will be added to the webpage, so check back often! If you have a good resource that others could benefit from, let us know!

Contact: jwhited@sandi.net

Click Here!

LOVE FOOD NOT WASTE SORTING RESOURCES

 SCIENCE STANDARDS For Grades, by State	 SDUSD CAFETERIA SORTING SONG To the tune of "Frere Jacques" VERSE 1 Only take milk if you drink it, if you never open it, feed others! VERSE 2 Empty your bin!	 LOVE FOOD NOT WASTE CAFE SORTING SONG To the tune of "Frere Jacques"
CAFE' SORTING SLIDES Learn why sorting in the school cafe' is easy, fun, and helps meet standards!	CAFE' SORTING SONG Lyrics for the Cafe' Sorting Song - sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques"	DINGEMAN ELEMENTARY 5th graders sing the Cafe' Sorting Song while playing their ukuleles!
 Love Food Not Waste	 PACKING TIPS FOR A WASTE-FREE LUNCH	 COMPOSTING at your school
CAFE' SORTING VIDEO Tierrasanta Elementary students help their school learn about sorting in their lunch court	PACK A WASTE FREE LUNCH Save money and help the environment!	COMPOST @ SCHOOL McKinley Elementary students share about their Cafe' to Compost program!

FOOD WASTE CURRICULUM RESOURCES

 What is Food Waste? GRADES K-5	 FoodSpan Teaching the Food System	 UNDERSTANDING FOOD AND CLIMATE CHANGE An Interactive Guide
FOOD WASTE WARRIOR CURRICULUM World Wildlife Fund's "Be a Food Waste Warrior" Lessons, Activities, & Toolkit	FOODSPAN LESSONS Teaching the Food System from Farm to Fork - Free downloadable curriculum for high school students	FOOD & CLIMATE CHANGE Explore how food systems and changing climate interact. Ideal for grades 6-12

NATIONAL GREEN SCHOOLS SOCIETY

Start a Club @ Your School



Another great way for students to get involved and gain recognition for campus and/or community sustainability efforts is to start a **National Green Schools Society** club.



National Green Schools Society

A recognition program for environmentally focused students who achieve extraordinary impact in schools and communities.

Students are awarded pins and certificates based on hours served and level of impact.

Seniors can achieve a graduation stole by completing a capstone project.

LEARN MORE



Project Green Schools provides a structured program and process for students. It helps to develop bright, civic-minded, energy and environmentally literate citizens. By incorporating this club in your school, students in grades K through 12 will advance their passion for preserving the environment through service projects, leadership, and activism.



GRANTS/CONTESTS/ CHALLENGES/AWARDS

Join in!



Project Green Challenge

High school students can sign up to receive themed challenges each day in October that are geared to inspire students to work towards a healthy, just, resilient planet and future. Prizes are awarded daily!

New Challenges go live daily: OCT 1-30, 2023

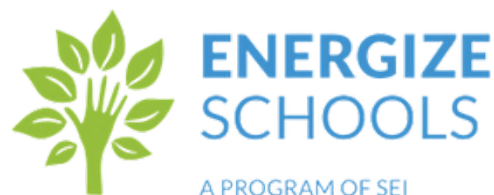


CRRA K-12 Technical Council Mini-Grants

The California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) K-12 Technical Council is awarding \$100 mini-grants to K-12 teachers. Teachers will be asked to explain how they would use the funds to advance students' understanding of recycling & waste reduction. The grant application can be found [HERE](#).

People and Planet Challenge

Energize Schools is launching their annual People and Planet Challenge! Students will complete weekly challenges to learn about air quality and sustainability. Winners will receive prizes valued at \$3,000! Open to **middle and high school students, teachers, administrators. Register by: OCT 27, 2023.**



LEARN MORE 



MORE OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

Check it out!



Coastal Clean-up Day is Sept. 23:

By 2050, there could be more plastic than fish by weight in the world's oceans if we don't defend our waterways from litter.



I Love A Clean San Diego is coordinating Coastal Clean-up events all over the County. Click [HERE](#) to join in to protect our watersheds and coastline!

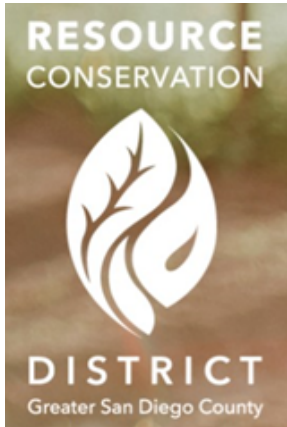
Resource Conservation District

of Greater San Diego County

The Resource Conservation District (RCD) hosts an annual Conservation Education Speak-Off - a speech competition for **high school students**. There are cash prizes available! **Deadline for submission: OCT 9, 2023**

LEARN MORE 

The RCD also provides [Pollinator Presentations](#) and [Watershed Education Presentations](#) for grades 2nd - 6th. Call their office at 619-562-0096 or email info@rcdsandiego.org for more information .



One Earth Youn Filmmakers Contest Global Awards Celebration - SEP 17th

[One Earth Film Festival](#) is hosting its global awards celebration for a viewing of the best short environmental films from youth around the world. Watch virtually and learn how we can all work together to improve the health of the planet. To learn more, click [HERE](#).



MORE OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

Check it out!



Eco-Club Coalition



The Eco-Club Coalition (ECC), a Youth4Climate program, is an alliance of hundreds of students at over a dozen high schools all across San Diego County. Their goal is to build community among a diverse group of students, educate youth on climate issues, and use their collective power to mobilize students and organize impactful events. Please fill out this [ECC sign up form](#) for more information on how you can join an Eco-Club or establish one at your school.

Solana Center School Presentations

Solana Center's new presentation - Grow, Eat, Compost, Repeat - teaches how to incorporate composting and proper waste sorting into daily life to promote a healthy planet! Includes hands-on activities, and is appropriate for all ages! Learn more [HERE!](#)



EcoSchools U.S.

EcoSchools U.S. offers a certification program for elementary through secondary schools that nurtures environmental learning and climate action. Their award-winning, curriculum-linked framework supports school communities as they assess, track, benchmark, and celebrate environmental excellence. Learn more [HERE!](#)



PepsiCo Recycle Rally

Check out PepsiCo's Recycle Rally for K-12 schools! There are lots of resources for hosting a collection drive and fun ideas on how to inspire, boost awareness, educate, and more!. Earn points & redeem for rewards & supplies. **ON-GOING**



SEPTEMBER DATES TO CELEBRATE

So many special days!



September 2023: Hunger Action Month

4th: National Wildlife Day

4th: Labor Day Holiday!

7th: California Biodiversity Day

17th - 24th: Climate Week

21st: International Day of Peace

23rd: Coastal Cleanup Day

29th: International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Check Out What's Available



California Academy of Sciences: Flipside Science

Flipside Science is a youth-powered series that tackles complex environmental topics and empowers viewers to make a difference.

California EEI

The California Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) is a part of a statewide effort to foster environmental literacy among California K-12 students. They provide educators with a free standards-based curriculum that teaches history and science through an environmental Lens.

California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI)

CAELI works statewide to create systems change in support of environmental literacy with a focus on access, equity, and cultural relevance for all students.

Green Schools National Network

Check out the ideas and articles for tips, strategies, and resources for incorporating sustainability topics in K-12 curriculum.

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

NEEF is full of resources for educators, including: [Environmental Education Resources](#)

The Nature Conservancy

Explore the world with the Nature Conservancy's Virtual Field Trips. Designed for ages 9-15, but customizable for all ages, these videos allow students to travel the world and explore natural environments without leaving their home or classroom. Each field trip contains a video, teacher guide, and student activities that have a special focus on making the connection between what students see on the screen and taking action in their own cities and towns.

DISTRICT RESOURCES

Useful Information



[Composting at San Diego Unified Schools - Best Practices](#)

This helpful guide includes great information and resources about bringing composting programs to your school. Additional resources include:

- [Free Mulch Flier](#)
- [Cafe to Compost Flier](#)
- [Compost Sign](#)



[Recycling Signage & Resources](#)

[Download printable recycling signs that can be attached to recycling and trash bins or posted on the wall.](#)



[Nutrition Education Resources - San Diego Unified](#)

Check out Food & Nutrition Services webpage for videos, curricula, books, and links to help bring nutrition education to your classroom!

Sign up to receive San Diego Unified's Farm Fresh Bites Newsletter

[CLICK HERE](#)