

# RECYCLING & ZERO WASTE NEWSLETTER



MAY-JUN  
2023



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



SDUSD  
Recycles



## IN THIS ISSUE

## WELCOME ...

...to the latest 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.

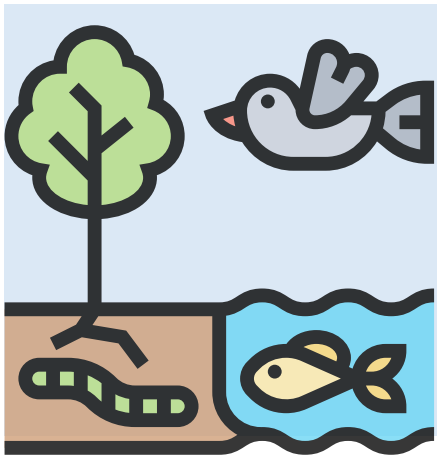
Check out the resources and information in this newsletter to give you ideas and inspiration!

- Celebrate Biodiversity Month!
- CA Recycle Smart Campaign
- Int'l Compost Awareness Week
- End-of-Year Locker Clean-Out
- Supply Exchange
- Grants/Contests/Challenges/Awards
- More Opportunities & Resources
- Environmental Education Resources & More!

Visit our Website



Questions? Contact Janet Whited,  
jwhited@sandi.net



# MAY IS BIODIVERSITY MONTH

CELEBRATE ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY- MAY 19TH!

This year the Endangered Species Act turns 50! Biodiversity is critically important. Each species, no matter how small, has an important role to play in its larger ecosystem. The upcoming Endangered Species Day on May 19th is a good avenue for bringing the topic into the classroom.



## Endangered Species Chalk Art Event!

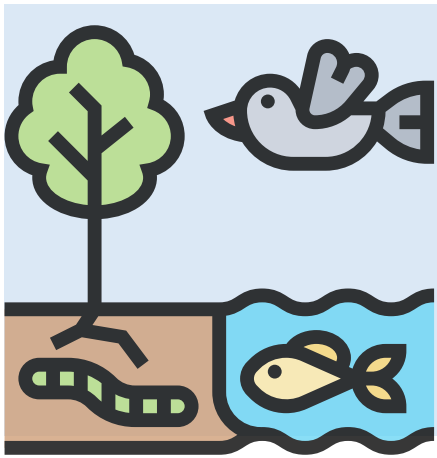
In honor of Endangered Species Day, consider joining in the nationwide, all-ages chalk art competition that anyone can participate in, from wherever you live. This event aims to raise awareness of the importance of endangered wildlife. There are a variety of prizes!



The competition will take place from Friday, May 19th, 2023 to Sunday, May 21st.



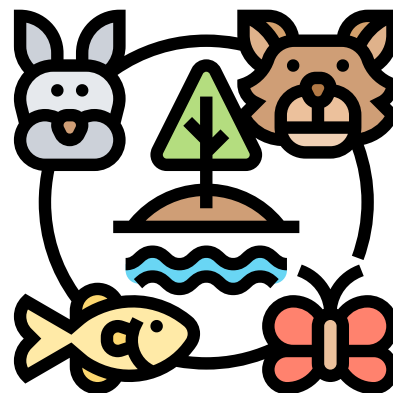
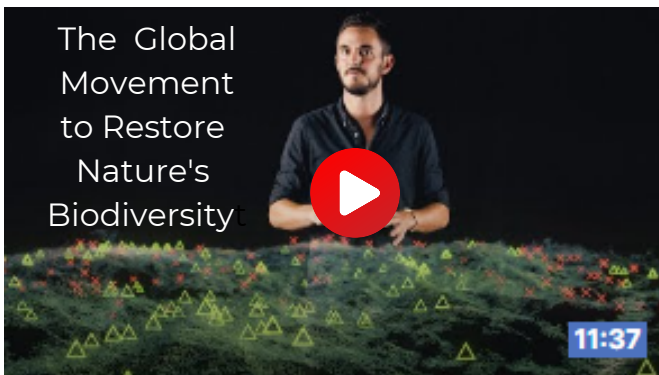
MORE INFO  
HERE



# MAY IS BIODIVERSITY MONTH

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - MAY 22ND!

Celebrate biodiversity this month with these video discussions and resources in honor of [International Day for Biological Diversity](#):



NatGeo Kids:  
13 Ways to  
Save the  
Earth from  
Declining  
Biodiversity

[CLICK HERE](#)

Learn about food's impact on nature and then test your knowledge with World Wildlife Fund's [Biodiversity course on Kahoot!](#)





**California kids  
recycle smart.**

## CALIFORNIA'S NEW RECYCLE SMART CAMPAIGN

California's Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery (CalRecycle) has updated information on recycling, a new mascot, Turner the turtle, and resources on how to recycle smart at schools and at home.

Resources for Schools



Resources for Homes



### HOW TO SAVE THE PLANET: A KIDS' GUIDE!

Check out our top tips for becoming  
an eco-hero...

### BE AN ECO- HERO

Check out this cool on-line guide from NatGeo Kids' (UK) for their [top tips on becoming an eco-hero](#).

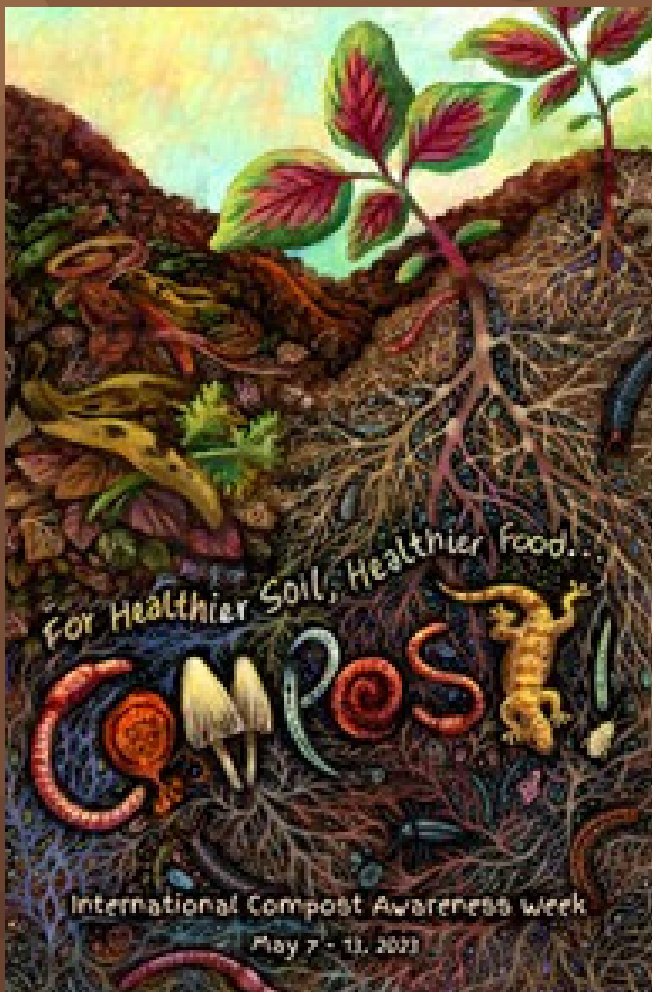
# INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK



**MAY 7-13**

International Compost Awareness Week's goal is to increase the diversion of organics from the waste stream through awareness of and participation in composting. This year's theme is "For Healthier Soil, Healthier Food...Compost!"

Learn more [HERE](#).



## California Academy of Sciences Lesson Compost: A Scientific Investigation (3rd-7th)

In this two-part inquiry-based activity, students will practice using the scientific process while learning about decomposition, exploring how some types of garbage will decompose while others will not. Lesson [HERE](#).

---

K-2nd Students! Learn about composting in this short video!





# END OF YEAR LOCKER CLEAN-OUT & SUPPLY EXCHANGE

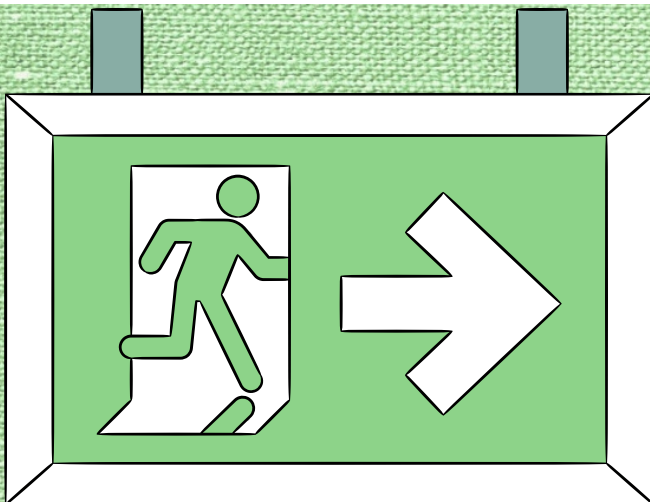


## Host a Green Locker Clean-Out!

Re-use, Recycle, and Donate! Check out these Green Locker Clean-out guides for ideas to reduce waste at the end of the school year.

[Locker Clean-Out Guide](#) from Seven Generations Ahead (Illinois)

StopWaste.org's [Locker Leftover Guide](#)



## TEACHERS:

Don't forget to make preparations to **reuse, repurpose, and recycle** unwanted items at the end of the year! Offer reusable items to other teachers at your school, post them on the [District's Classified Ads and Supply Exchange](#) (District access only) , or donate them to local thrift stores or non-profits.

Click [HERE](#) for the flier.



# GRANTS/CONTESTS/ CHALLENGES/AWARDS



## Chick-Fil-A True Inspiration Awards

Awards are offered that support the areas of caring for people, food, communities, and planet. Supported programs or projects include educational initiatives that foster character, leadership development, academic excellence, and community involvement in underserved youth; and environmental education.

**Deadline: JUN 1, 2023**



## NOAA Planet Stewards Funding Opportunity

Formal and informal educators can apply for funds for projects in the areas of marine debris, habitat conservation and restoration, carbon footprint reduction, and carbon sequestration. Projects "must make a substantive, measurable impact on an environmental issue related to the educator's community."

**Deadline: JUN 4, 2023**



## Young Filmmakers Contest

One Earth Collective invites students from 3rd grade through age 25 to submit their short environmental films to the Young Filmmakers Contest. **Deadline: JUN 25, 2023**



## ecoTech Grants

The Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) is offering grants to support inquiry-based projects in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields that leverage technology or use nature-based designs to address environmental problems in local communities. Ideal projects are youth-led, project-based, and integrate technology to address an environmental problem

**Applications are accepted: Through July 15**

# MORE OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES



More Info

## NatGeo Explorer Classroom – May and June events

Join [Explorer Classroom](#) – a live interactive session that connects young people with National Geographic Explorers – to hear behind-the-scenes stories and interact with cutting-edge scientists, researchers, and more!

All events are free and include an instructional guide to help learners get the most out of the experience.

**Live Events for ages 4-8:** Mondays at 8am PT

**Live Events for ages 9-14:** Thursdays at 7am & 11am PT



## [MobilizeGreen 2023 Youth Conservation Program](#)

Applications for the 2023 Youth Conservation Program are open! Individuals between the ages of 15-18 are invited to apply for this amazing opportunity. Participants will learn about forest preservation along with beautification,, invasive species removal, and trail building. Participants will also receive a weekly stipend of \$350. To apply, click [HERE](#).



## [Living Schoolyards Act lecture series](#)

**May 10th & May 25th** - Join Green Schoolyards America for their webinar series to learn more about the Living Schoolyards Act. These webinars highlight the benefits of living schoolyards and their impact on children and the community.

More Info



# TEACHING ABOUT WASTE & RECYCLING



Grades of Green provides a pathway of programs to empower and inspire students of all ages and backgrounds to become environmental leaders of the future. Every program is FREE for teachers, students, and parents.



**GREEN SCHOOLS**  
NATIONAL NETWORK

Learn how to be a healthy, equitable, and sustainable school! Check out GreenPrint from the Green Schools National Network.



The City's Environmental Services Department has short videos on "What happens at a landfill?" and "What happens to recyclables?" Check them out!



How can you easily teach about what can be recycled and how to avoid contaminating recycling bins? Check out these videos and resources for inspiration.



Green Strides offers numerous links to environmental and sustainability themed resources. Search for curriculum, program, toolkit, videos and more!



The American Museum of Natural History's Ology website has lots of information and resources for students and educators on topics like Biodiversity, Climate Change, Earth, Water, & more!

# DATES TO CELEBRATE

## MAY 2023



- 3rd [Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day](#)
- 19th [Endangered Species Day](#)
- 18th [SANDAG Bike Anywhere Day](#)
- 20th [World Bee Day](#)
- 22nd [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 23rd [World Turtle Day](#)
- 29th SDUSD celebrates Memorial Day

## JUNE 2023



- 3rd [National Trails Day](#)
- 8th [World Oceans Day](#)
- 14th LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!
- 19th [Juneteenth](#)
- 22nd [World Rainforest Day](#)

**Have a  
Happy Summer!**

Congratulations to all  
SDUSD graduates!

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

---

## **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

## [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 the San Diego Unified Food & Nutrition Newsletter

[CLICK HERE](#)