

# RECYCLING & ZERO WASTE NEWSLETTER



**DEC '23-JAN  
2024**



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



## IN THIS ISSUE

## WELCOME ...

...to the **DEC 2023 - JAN 2024** 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!

- Reduce Your Carbon Footprint
- Reduce Plastic Use
- Education Spotlight
- Green Your New Year!
- CAELI Survey
- Grants/Contests/Challenges/Awards
- More Opportunities & Resources
- Recycling & Environmental Education Resources
- Dates to Celebrate & More!

[Visit our Website](#)

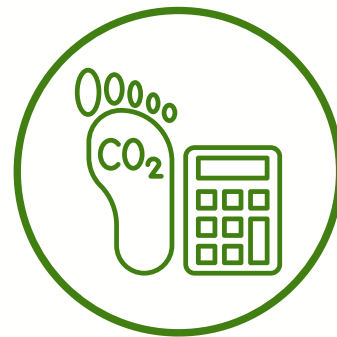


Questions? Contact Janet Whited,  
jwhited@sandi.net

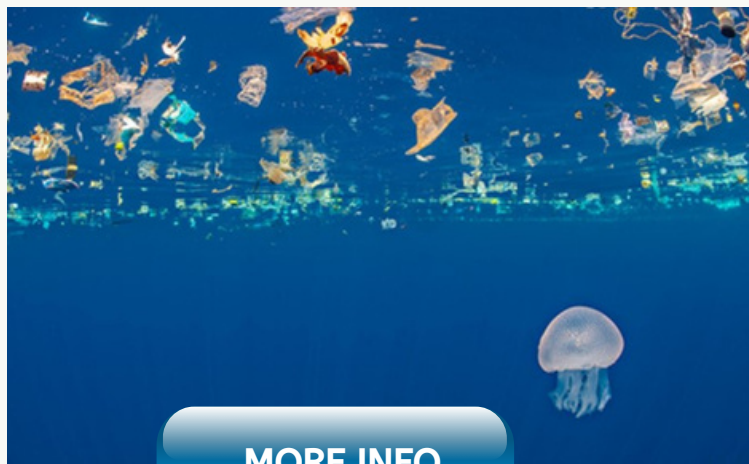
# REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

## WHY REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

Do you want to support the environment in a positive and sustainable way? Reducing your carbon footprint in the new year can be simple and easy to do. Check out these short videos and carbon footprint calculators to learn more.



# REDUCE PLASTIC USE



[MORE INFO](#)

## Help Get Plastic out of Nature!

You can take a stand against plastic pollution. Urge world leaders to establish a global legally binding treaty for a cleaner, plastic-free ocean. Let's protect our oceans together.

## Plastic Free Lunch Day Re-Cap

SDUSD, and schools across the country, celebrated **Plastic Free Lunch Day** on **Wednesday, November 8th!**

This day encouraged the reduction or elimination of single-use plastics during lunch, for both lunches served at school and lunches brought from home. Thanks for participating!



Great student participation! No sporks needed!

### What is single-use plastic?

- a plastic thing that is used once and thrown away



# EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

## Climate and Ecosystems Education

Understanding the climatic cycles and ecosystems on Earth gives students a better vision of how climate change is affecting our environment. Providing students with science-based resources and tools for hands-on exploration create better management of natural resources and promotes the sustainability of the planet. Below are some great resources you can bring into your classroom.



### Weather Systems & Patterns

This collection provides real-world and real-time resources to help educators develop students' understanding of the interactions of these Earth systems.



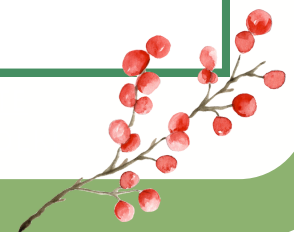
### NOAA Resource Collection

NOAA is like a treasure trove of educational resources! From lesson plans to a whole host of topics, they've got you covered.



### Climate & Energy

CLEAN is here to help you find the resources that you need, without wondering about their scientific credibility or educational value.





# GO GREEN IN THE NEW YEAR!

## 21 Eco-Friendly New Year's Resolutions

Let's make some eco-friendly New Year's resolutions! Small changes can have a big impact, like chowing down on healthy eats and exercising more. But why stop there? Check out 21 fantastic ways you can cut your carbon footprint down to size and stick with them year after year. You'll not only help the planet, but your wallet will thank you too!

- ★ Start Recycling
- ★ Plant a Garden
- ★ Use a Reusable Water Bottle
- ★ Become a Better Driver
- ★ Compost Food Waste
- ★ Reuse & Repurpose Old Things
- ★ Upgrade to Energy Star Appliances
- ★ Turn Off Lights
- ★ Use Rechargeable Batteries
- ★ Shop Locally
- ★ Reduce Winter/Increase Summer Thermostat
- ★ Eat Less Meat & Dairy
- ★ Upcycle More, Purchase Less
- ★ Drive Hybrid or Electric
- ★ Carpool
- ★ Take Public Transportation
- ★ Use Low-flow Toilets
- ★ Adjust Water Heater to 120 deg.
- ★ Replace inefficient HVAC System
- ★ Order Fewer Items Online
- ★ Eat at Farm-to-Table Restaurants

Click [HERE](#) for full article with links to each topic - found on LoadUp.com



# CAELI SURVEY



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LITERACY  
INITIATIVE

In Partnership with:

**The Lawrence  
Hall of Science**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

## Calling all California TK-12 Teachers & Site Administrators!

Fill out the survey to tell us about  
environmental literacy at your school.

SCAN ME



Complete the 15 minute  
survey for a chance to win  
one of four \$250 prizes!

<https://bit.ly/caeli23>



### Announcing CAELI's Statewide School Survey

California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) has released their first-ever statewide environmental literacy survey. This survey aims to understand how environmental literacy is being implemented on the ground in California classrooms.

By participating in this survey, teachers, principals, and on-site administrators will contribute valuable insights that will shape the decisions and resources provided by school districts and county offices of education. If you qualify, take the survey for a chance to win one of four \$250 prizes. **The survey is open until midnight, December 31, 2023.** To participate, please: [Take the survey!](#)

# GRANTS/CONTESTS CHALLENGES/AWARDS



## Clean Earth Challenge

Join the movement and take the Challenge! It's as simple as picking up litter wherever you are! Help the planet, because every piece you collect counts!

**Deadline: On-Going**



## Extraordinary Earth Project - Art Challenge

Students from around the world join together in learning about our environment, and the things we can do to protect our earth. Although global environmental issues like climate change affect us all, different parts of the world are impacted in diverse ways. The project's goal is to encourage teachers and students to be thoughtful about how our actions affect both the ecosystems in our backyard and the planet. Get started.

**Deadline: JUNE 2024**



## 2024 Young Filmmakers Contest

Young Filmmakers Contest submissions, from students in grade 3 up through age 25, are **due on June 25, 2024**. Choose topics from climate, energy, food, waste, wildlife & ecosystems, and more! There are no submission fees. All winning films will premiere on September 22, 2024, and some will be selected for the One Earth Film Festival in March, 2025.

# MORE OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES



Ten Strands  
Connecting Education, Environment, and Community

## Climate Change & Environmental Justice Program

K-2 teachers at California schools can still join Ten Strands' compensated field test opportunity coming up in the spring. We'll be testing curriculum units in classroom settings as part of the Climate Change and Environmental Justice Program, and need your input!

If you are interested and/or have questions, please email [victoria@celfeducation.org](mailto:victoria@celfeducation.org) for more information.

## EPA: Applications Open for 2024 President's Environmental Student and Teacher Awards



The EPA's Office of Environmental Education is requesting applications for the 2024 President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) and the Presidential Innovation Awards for Environmental Educators (PIAEE). Each year, these programs recognize the outstanding environmental stewardship and education efforts of students and teachers across the nation. **Deadline: January 15th**

LEARN MORE



## WIN \$10,000 for Your School in Project Green School's Outdoor Classroom & Learning Challenge

Project Green Schools is challenging schools nationwide to develop and implement a meaningful outdoor classroom and learning space. Schools compete for a Grand Prize of \$10,000 to further enhance or create a new space. Schools should submit a formal write-up, proposed budget, and design of their outdoor learning classroom/space by **Deadline: January 19th**.

LEARN MORE





# RECYCLING RESOURCES



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

What can we do with all this stuff? The Green Schools National Network provides a link for a K-5 lesson for students to consider the idea of "zero waste" and their part in making this a reality.



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 at school? Create an eye-catching display! Check out these Recycling Display Ideas for inspiration.



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



**Recycle @ School**  
SDUSD Recycling Program

Find more information and resources on how and what to recycle on our website!



# 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. Each field trip contains a video, teacher guide, and student activities.



# DATES TO CELEBRATE

## DECEMBER 2023

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- 4th [World Wildlife Conservation Day](#)
- 5th [World Soil Day](#)
- 7th [Pearl Harbor Day](#)
- 7th [Hanukkah Begins at Nightfall](#)
- 11th [International Mountain Day](#)
- 21st [Winter Solstice](#)
- 25th [Christmas Day](#)

## JANUARY 2024

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- 1st [New Year's Day - Resolve to go GREEN!](#)
- 5th [National Bird Day](#)
- 15th [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#)



# 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](#)