

APRIL 2020

# SDUSD Recycling Newsletter

Republic Services® is proud to provide waste and recycling services to all SDUSD schools and educate everyone on the importance of recycling. Visit Republic Services website for even more tips and tricks on recycling.



## What's inside this issue:

- 2020 SDUSD Winners
- Wise Use of Paper
- Earth Day is Every Day
- Senate Bill 1383
- Waste Adds Up To More Than Garbage
- Pack a Zero Waste Lunch!

## Congratulations to the 2020 San Diego Unified School Recycling Challenge Winners!

To help reduce waste, save resources, help the environment, and increase recycling awareness at SDUSD schools, the District and Republic Services teamed up to reward schools that divert the most waste and increase recycling efforts. The challenge, which ran from September 2019 to March 2020, is split into three main categories based on grade levels, and one category for Most Improved.

### Elementary/K-8 Category

**Sandburg Elementary** impressively had the highest elementary recycling participation efforts this school year at 36.61% diversion, garnering them the top honor and a \$750 prize. Runner-Up and \$500 goes to **Marvin Elementary**, with 36.02% diversion.

### Middle School Category

**Challenger Middle** garnered top

honors in the Middle School Category with 36.48% diversion, earning their school a \$1,000 prize. Securing the Runner-up position and a \$750 prize, is **Taft Middle** with 34.85% diversion.

### High School Category

**Henry High** once again receives top honors in this category with an impressive 40.86% diversion rate, earning their school a \$1,250 prize. Runner-up and \$1,000 goes to **University City High**, with 30.85% diversion.

### Most Improved Category

The school that most improved their diversion rate over last year is **Lewis Middle**, with 22.47% percent waste diversion, up from 14.38% in 2018-19. They will receive \$250 for their accomplishment.



## Wise Use of Paper

Paper is one of the biggest waste streams at schools, yet it can be reduced, reused, and recycled easily, helping to keep this resource from heading to the landfill every year.

### Recycle the following:

- Copy paper
- Computer paper
- Notebook paper
- School letterhead
- Colored paper
- File folders
- Paper lunch bags

### Reduce paper use by:

- Printing fewer handouts
- Always printing double-sided
- Using digital formats for assignments
- Creating electronic files

### Reuse paper by:

- Using scratch paper when possible
- Making paper crafts or art
- Using shredded paper in compost bins as a bulking agent



# RECYCLE



Milk Cartons & Juice Boxes



Plastic Bottles



Cans & Aluminum Foil



Cardboard & Paper



Lunchable Trays & Containers



Yogurt Cups

Recycling doesn't stop in the classroom for many SDUSD schools. Recyclables are sorted at lunch and snack time, too.

## Senate Bill 1383 — Have you heard?

In 2016, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), which targets short-lived climate pollutants for emission reductions. These climate pollutants include methane, which is generated when organic materials, such as yard debris, edible food, food scraps, and paper products, break down in landfills. SB 1383 set goals for recovery of edible food and recycling of other

organic debris. These are being phased in over the next few years, with an ultimate goal of reducing total organics disposal in landfills by 75% and recovering at least 20% of edible food for human consumption. As SB 1383 is implemented in communities across the state, SDUSD will continue working to reduce the amount of organic material disposed at schools and facilities.



## Waste Adds Up To More Than Garbage

Waste prevention not only helps save the environment — it also saves money. For example, buying excess materials and supplies for home or classroom use, or using them inefficiently, can impact your bottom line. Here are some simple tips to prevent waste:

- Reuse products such as scrap office paper, bags and packing materials
- Make environmentally conscious purchases and try to identify companies that are environmentally responsible
- Determine to use food that's blemished or near expiration in creative ways to avoid throwing it out
- Try reusable packaging materials and eliminate unnecessary packaging
- When printing, use recycled content paper and print on both sides
- Choose reusable glassware, utensils and containers

## Earth Day is Every Day!

On April 22, Earth Day is celebrated worldwide, but at Republic Services every day is Earth Day! We strive for a cleaner, safer and healthier world for all. Seemingly small choices add up to make a big impact in taking care of our Blue Planet®.



## Pack a Zero-Waste Lunch!

Did you know that more than 50% of items in trash bins are from food and drink packaging?

### PACK

- Snacks in reusable containers
- Drinks a reusable bottle
- Reusable utensils
- A reusable lunchbox or backpack

### AVOID

- Plastic bags or foil
- Disposable drink boxes, cans, cartons and bottles
- Disposable forks and spoons
- Pre-packaged lunches or single-serve items

For more information on waste reduction and recycling at SDUSD, please visit [sdusdsustainability.com](http://sdusdsustainability.com) or e-mail [jwhited@sandi.net](mailto:jwhited@sandi.net).



We'll handle it from here.®