

RECYCLING & ZERO WASTE NEWSLETTER



**AUG-SEP
2024**



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

BACK TO SCHOOL



IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME ...

...to the August - September 2024 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
 - Recycle @ School - Make this Year a Zero Waste Year!
 - How to Recycle Right
 - School Green Teams
 - FREE Recycling Fundraiser
- Grades of Green Eco-Toolkits
- National Green Schools Society - Start a Club @ Your School
- Grants/Contests/Challenges/Awards
- More Opportunities & Resources
- Other Resources

Visit our Website





RECYCLE @ SCHOOL!



Make this Year a Zero-Waste Year!

School year 2024-25 is in full swing! A fresh academic year presents a great opportunity to implement strategies and systems that can minimize waste for the entire year. Waste reduction can be achieved at all levels of the school community, from reusing materials to organizing purposeful community activities.

Access helpful resources to lead your school towards sustainable practices at www.sdusdsustainability.com.

Reuse and Repurpose Supplies: Teachers, download the flyer that outlines how to repurpose and share materials with other educators within SDUSD.

Zero Waste Lunch Initiative: Download and distribute this informative one-page flyer that illustrates how to cut down on single-use plastics by preparing a zero-waste lunch at home.

LEARN MORE



Zero Waste Schools

Event Guide: Transform all your school events into fun, eco-friendly experiences this year. By planning ahead, school picnics, sports events, carnivals, meetings, and more can generate significantly less waste. Click on the guide for creative ideas to support your efforts.



Love Food Not Waste:

Find videos & resources on reducing lunch waste at school!



RECYCLE @ SCHOOL!



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 "rigid" plastics are OK to recycle at school!

Did you know? Just because you spot those "chasing arrows" on a product, it doesn't automatically make it a recycling champ in San Diego schools or homes! Some tricky plastics play hard to get recycled and end up as misfits in the recycling bin. If in doubt, throw it out!



RECYCLING

Clean paper, plastic containers marked ♻️ 1-7, glass, aluminum foil, all bottles, cans, juice boxes, cardboard, magazines, newspapers.



Break boxes down!



Blue Dumpster



Blue Cans





SCHOOL GREEN TEAMS!



Sustainability in Action!

Many SDUSD students aspire to empower themselves to contribute positively to the environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change. What could be more rewarding than students engaging in valuable leadership development by either initiating or joining a campus Green Team, Planet Protectors, or Eco-Club?



division of green LAUNCH Eco-Toolkit

How to Form a Green Team

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



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

Green Teams should involve students, custodial staff, teachers, and administrators. Here are some ways team members can contribute to school sustainability efforts:

- Collect recyclables from classrooms daily or weekly.
- Place recycling bins in hallways and assign Recycling Monitors or Green Team students to empty classroom recyclables into the bins.
- Students can assist in transporting recyclables to the main recycling dumpster for disposal by an adult.





RECYCLING FUNDRAISER



Urban Corps of San Diego County

Urban Corps of San Diego County offers a FREE program for schools to collect CA Redemption Value (CRV) cans and bottles for fundraising!

They provide rolling carts, collection, transportation, and labor, sorting recyclables and sending proceeds to schools. Schools usually receive checks in February and August. Urban Corps does not retain any money from these collections; all funds go directly back to the school.

Accepted materials include plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and glass with CRV value. For more information on this FREE service, contact:

Martha Barajas, Program Supervisor: mbarajas@urbancorps.org

Arturo Perzabal, Director of Operations:

aperzabal@urbancorps.org



[Click Here for more information on CRV Recycling](#)

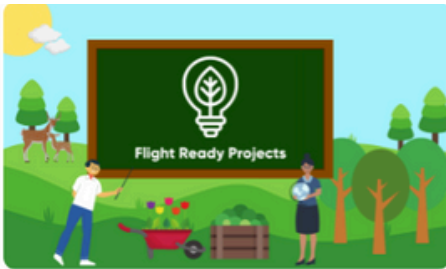


EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT



Grades of Green

Grades of Green, a non-profit organization, aims to educate and empower students to initiate and drive environmental change. Through their LAUNCH Eco-Toolkits, they equip educators and students to spearhead influential eco-projects in schools and communities, fostering enduring environmental transformations.



Flight Ready Projects

By participating in our LAUNCH Eco-Lessons program, you will be able to use over 50 ready made environmental projects that you can implement at any time with your students.



Meet Learning Objectives

Each lesson includes specific learning objectives and alignment with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards).



Educator Stipends

Use these lesson with students and learn how to earn a stipend!

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



EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT



National Green Schools Society



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



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, 2024



Whale Tail® Grants

The California Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants fund projects that connect people to the California Coast and its watersheds through education, stewardship, and outdoor experiences. Grant projects can engage youth or adults and can take place anywhere in California.

Application Deadline: NOV 4, 2024, 8pm





MORE OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES



JOIN Youth4Climate's
Eco Club Coalition

Enter a collaborative space for eco & social justice-minded students and clubs at high schools and colleges!

Monthly meetings with resources, support, ideas, and community!

Collaborate on a social justice initiative with students across San Diego!

@ecc.y4c
Fill out the interest form!



Join the Eco-Club Coalition

Are you a **high school student** looking to get involved with campus activism?

The Eco Club Coalition (ECC) connects students throughout San Diego by creating a space that inspires us to take action on our campuses and communities in support of environmental and social justice issues!

Coastal Clean-up Day is Sept. 21:

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!

One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest Global Awards Celebration - SEP 22ND

[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



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!](#)



Project Hero

Project Hero is a free online platform offering project-based learning experiences for students to act on local environmental issues. Each Quest focuses on threats to local species and ecosystems, culminating in hands-on projects. Educators can access teaching resources, tips, and grant funds by registering for a [free account](#). 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!](#)





DATES TO CELEBRATE



SEPTEMBER 2024

2nd labor Day! Enjoy the holiday!

4th National Wildlife Day

7th California Biodiversity Day

21st International Day of Peace

21st Coastal Cleanup Day

22nd-29th Climate Week

29th International Day of Awareness
of Food Loss and Waste





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.



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](#)