

RECYCLING & ZERO WASTE NEWSLETTER



FEB-MAR
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!

- SDUSD Recycling Challenge Award Nomination Forms Due
- Facts About Recycling
- School Resources
- Food Scrap Collection
- New Compost Poster
- Tree Planting
- Grants/Contests/Challenges/Awards
- More Opportunities & Resources
- Environmental Education Resources & More!

[Visit our Website](#)



Questions? Contact Janet Whited,
jwhited@sandi.net

2022-23



SDUSD RECYCLING CHALLENGE



AWARD NOMINATION FORM: DUE
MARCH 1ST!



SDUSD Recycling Challenge Award Nomination - Due by March 1, 2023

As part of the 2022-23 SDUSD Recycling Challenge, we want to recognize schools that demonstrate their efforts to educate and promote recycling, waste diversion, and/or sustainability on campus. Schools can receive up to 20 points out of a total of 100 points in the Challenge for their efforts. Please review the scoring rubric below:

RECYCLING CHALLENGE SCORING RUBRIC (100 points total)

The first two categories are based on trash & recycling service levels and enrollment at each site. Points will be assigned based on a mathematical formula.

- Overall school diversion – volume based (highest %): 60 points
- Volume of Trash Generated/per Student/per Month – (lowest volume): 20 points

- Submission of RECYCLING CHALLENGE AWARD NOMINATION FORM: Up to 20 points total (see breakdown below):
 - Classroom/Office Recycling Program in place: 3 points
 - Lunchtime Recycling Program in place: 7 points
 - Other Waste Reduction and Diversion Efforts (i.e. composting, reuse, etc.): 5 points
- Recycling/Sustainability Education, Outreach, & Awareness Activities: 5 points

Don't forget, the **SDUSD Recycling Challenge** runs through March 1, 2023. Please submit your **Award Nomination Form** so your efforts can be recognized and calculated towards the award totals!

This school year has been somewhat challenging for many, but any and all efforts towards promoting recycling and sustainability on your campus should not go unnoticed! Please submit your Award Nomination Form by end-of-day on March 1st.

Award Nomination QR Code

Scan this QR Code to access the Award Nomination Form on your smartphone!



FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING

RECYCLING FACTS SLIDESHOW



Your students might know a few basic facts about recycling, but this slideshow by PepsiCo Recycle Rally will knock their socks off. Whether you are just starting out teaching about why recycling makes a difference or you've had a program in place for a while, some of these facts will astound you and your students. Use this [recycling facts slideshow](#) to get everyone on board with recycling.



**MORE AMAZING
RECYCLING FACTS
YOU PROBABLY
DON'T KNOW!**

CLICK HERE

School Sustainability Resources

SDUSD Recycling Program



FREE!



REPUBLIC SERVICES

Recycling Resources

- ✓ School Assemblies
- ✓ Recycling Ambassadors
- ✓ Recycling Assessments
- ✓ Recycling Bins
- ✓ Staffed Booth at events



Recycling Challenge

- ✓ Runs SEP '22 – MAR '23
- ✓ All schools eligible
- ✓ Earn points for efforts
- ✓ Win CASH Prizes!
- ✓ Get recognized



Free Mulch

- ✓ Up to 20 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



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SDUSD
Recycles



FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION

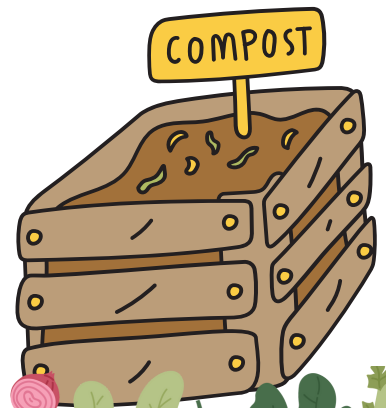
COMING TO A KITCHEN NEAR YOU!



SDUSD is excited to roll out a new program to keep food waste and other organics out of landfills. When food waste decomposes it produces methane gas, which contributes to climate change.

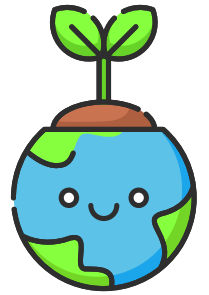
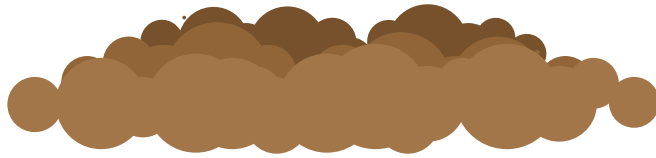
This school year, kitchens at schools south of I-8 freeway will collect leftover salad bar waste and other unwrapped food, prepared, but not taken by students. The food scraps are picked up by the District's waste and recycling hauler, Republic Services, and processed for composting. This means our school food is going full-circle!

FOOD RESCUE - We are also working hard to "build back better" the District's food rescue program. Several hunger relief organizations are partnering with us to rescue commercially packaged food from schools to help those in our community facing food insecurity.





COMPOST POSTER



NEW! WHAT IS COMPOSTING? POSTER

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance's new poster: [What is composting?](#) explains the basics of composting and is now available for download. The poster covers key ingredients of compost, the importance of microbes and microorganisms to the composting process, and schematics of different composting systems.

This poster is available for use (with attribution to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance) free of charge, along with a version in Spanish.

Composting is...
the controlled decomposition of raw organic materials (such as food scraps and dry leaves) that creates compost, a valuable soil amendment. This process is driven by fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms.
There are 5 key ingredients:

1 Water
Like us, composting microbes need water to thrive! They require a thin layer of water around materials in the compost pile in order to be active.

2 Air
Composting is an aerobic process—the microbes need air to live!
Air flow in the pile can be maintained by regular re-mixing or use of a special fan.

3 "Greens"
These are materials relatively high in nitrogen, providing microbes with protein to grow and reproduce.

4 "Browns"
These are materials relatively high in carbon, providing microbes with carbohydrates for energy.
Bulky browns help make space for air in the pile.

5 Living Organisms
Microbes
Microorganisms, or microbes, are the powerhouses of your compost pile. Bacteria are the most numerous and diverse, and consume a wide variety of materials. Actinobacteria and fungi both work to break down leaves, stems, nut shells, bark, and wood.
Macroorganisms
These larger organisms eat microbes and shred materials into smaller pieces.

Recipe
1 part greens
2 parts browns

Microbial activity causes the pile to heat up. Monitoring temperature can reveal how well the composting process is progressing.

Finished compost is dark, crumbly, and earthy smelling.

Lots of ways and sizes!

Home Composting, In-vessel, Aerated Static Piles (ASPs), Windows, Vermicomposting

Learn more about how to compost: [www.ilsr.org](#)

ILSR
INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE

“The following comes from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (www.ilsr.org), a national nonprofit organization working to strengthen local economies, and redirect waste into local recycling, composting, and reuse industries. It is reprinted here with permission.”

GRADES OF GREEN TOOLKIT

TREE PLANTING

Planting trees addresses many environmental justice issues such as Grades of Green, a non-profit environmental education organization, encourages us to find our inner green thumb by planting trees throughout the community!

At your school or in your neighborhood, planting trees can have a variety of aesthetic and technical benefits. From providing shade to creating oxygen, trees are essential to our ecosystem and your participation can lead to positive environmental impacts! Planting trees also addresses environmental justice issues such as deforestation, air pollution, and the Urban Heat Island Effect. Check out Grades of Green's [Tree Planting Toolkit!](#)

grades of green LAUNCH Eco-Toolkit

Tree Planting

Make your community a cleaner, greener and cooler place using our Tree Planting Eco-Toolkit!

 Skill Level Grades 6-12, student-led	 Climate Crisis Topic Plants & Animals 	 Project Time One week, up to a full school year	 What You'll Need Gloves, shovels, tree saplings/ seeds, soil, water & popsicle sticks
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[CLICK HERE](#)



GRANTS/CONTESTS/ CHALLENGES/AWARDS



EPA Pollution Prevention Challenge

Pollution Prevention Works: A Storytelling Challenge for Students

invites high school and college students to tell stories through writing, story maps, and videos showing how U.S. businesses use pollution prevention practices to positively impact the environment. \$5,000 prize! **Deadline: FEB 17, 2023**



World of 8 Billion Student Video Contest

Population Education is sponsoring a video contest open to all middle and high school students (grades 6 - 12). Students create a short video of 60 seconds or less that illustrates the connection between population growth and one of the three following global challenges: (1) climate change; (2) gender equality; and (3) waste. **Deadline: FEB 22, 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: March 15 through July 15**



Project Green Schools Green Difference Awards

Project Green Schools honors and recognizes Outstanding Energy, Environmental & STEAM Education efforts led in Schools & Communities across the country at their Annual Green Difference Awards. Nominate a Green Difference Maker today! Applications are available [HERE](#). **Deadline: MAR 24, 2023**

MORE OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES



CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
LITERACY
INITIATIVE

Join the [California Environmental Literacy Initiative](#)'s District Innovation Hub in an interactive online series showcasing the work of inspiring equity-focused leaders in environmental literacy and school sustainability. From 4:00 - 5:30 pm, on the third Thursday of each month.

February 16 - “Shared Leadership for Green Schools: A Systems Approach to Environmental Literacy Planning”
Featuring: Encinitas Union Elementary School District

March 16 - “Green Giants: Schoolyards, Gardens, Forests and the Champions Who Support Them”
Featuring: Val Verde Unified School District

o Register [HERE](#) for all upcoming series



San Diego Zoo
Wildlife Alliance

The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance offers [2023 Teacher Workshops in Conservation Science](#). These are free, three-day, grant-funded professional development opportunities for middle and high school science educators, based at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, with all room and board included. The application for the summer 2023 Teacher Workshops in Conservation Science is **open through April 9**.



[One Earth Film Festival: March 3-12, Virtual Watch Parties](#)
Join One Earth Collective for their annual One Earth Film Festival. This environmental film festival creates opportunities for understanding climate change, sustainability, and the power of human involvement. Join in the Virtual Watch Parties for opportunities to view your choice of films!

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

FEBRUARY 2023



- 2nd [World Wetlands Day](#)
- 11th [International Day of Women & Girls in Science](#)
- 14th [Valentine's Day](#)
- 17th SDUSD celebrates President's Day
- 20th SDUSD celebrates President's Day
- 27th [International Polar Bear Day](#)

MARCH 2023



- 3rd [World Wildlife Day](#)
- 11th [Solar Appreciation Day](#)
- 17th [St. Patrick's Day](#)
- 20th [First Day of Spring](#)
- 21st [International Day of Forests](#)
- 22nd [World Water Day](#)
- 25th [Earth Hour](#)
- 27-31st Spring Break! Enjoy!

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](#)