



The ZERO² PLAN

Progress Report #5 on Zero Hunger & Zero Waste Solutions

**Key Accomplishments & Moving Forward
September 2024 through August 2025**

Prepared in Partnership With



The ZERO² PLAN

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I. ZERO² PLAN HISTORY

Zero² Plan Adopted October 2019

In October 2019, Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) Nutrition Services (NS) adopted The Zero² Plan in partnership with the Facilities Department. The goal of this ten-year project is to operate federally funded meal programs in a manner that embraces zero hunger and zero waste solutions.

The original Zero² Plan established a set of Phase 1 Goals organized into three categories:

- NS Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guidelines (EPP Guidelines)
- NS Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Goals (EPP Goals)
- Reuse, Recycling, and Compost Collection for the NC and Schools

These goals establish a financially and environmentally sustainable foundation for future project phases designed to end hunger and reduce waste for SPPS students and the Saint Paul community at large.

Progress Reporting

NS and Facilities Department have published four progress reports:

- Progress Report #1 on Phase 1 Goals: Zero Hunger & Zero Waste Solutions During a Pandemic (September 2019 through August 2021)
- Progress Report #2 on Phase 2 Goals: Zero Hunger & Zero Waste Solutions Back to School During a Pandemic (September 2021 through August 2022)
- Progress Report #3 on Phase 3 Goals: Zero Hunger & Zero Waste Solutions The Post-Pandemic School Paradigm (September 2022 through August 2023)
- Progress Report #4 on Phase 4 Goals: Zero Hunger & Zero Waste Solutions New Initiatives & Opportunities (September 2023 through August 2024)

Each year the team documented goals achieved, objectives delayed, and unexpected accomplishments. The purpose of Progress Report #5 is to summarize NS and Facilities Department outcomes for Phase 5 Goals.

Phase 5 Goals: September 2024 to August 2025

Phase 5 Goals are grouped into three main categories: EPP Guidelines; EPP Goals; and Reuse, Recycling and Compost Collection for the NC and Schools.

NS Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guidelines (EPP Guidelines)

1. Collaborate with vendors to establish meaningful vendor commitments that support the Zero² Plan.
2. Collaborate with vendors to establish an annual plan to decrease waste, and measure vendor performance with the new annual scorecard that will be shared with vendors as part of regular communication and partnership.
3. Utilize RFP language to establish new meaningful vendor commitments that support the Zero² Plan.
4. NS and vendors may shift during the contract period to new environmentally preferable products when such products are readily available at a competitive cost, satisfy performance requirements, and adhere to the contract terms.
5. Utilize the monitoring and tracking system tool to validate vendor compliance with these guidelines, which will include an annual scorecard for vendors.
6. Update multi-year goals and implementation schedule based on priorities, difficulty, and upcoming Requests for Proposals.
7. Report achievements under EPP Guidelines annually.

NS Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Goals (EPP Goals)

1. Continue implementation and advertisement of contract agreements for The Zero² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for Saint Paul Public Schools project.
2. Finalize contract with MPCA to support and launch The Zero² Plan: Glean for Good food rescue project.
3. Gather information and make decisions on compostable and recyclable foodservice supplies for B2Go and the school lunch program identified in data analysis for consideration (plastic bags, compostable rice bowls and lids, compostable cutlery, paper boats, compostable trays, other bowls and lids, cutlery, muffin cups, 12-ounce plastic cups and lids, and 2-ounce portion cups and lids).
4. Monitor disposable trays and cutlery use during meal service at schools.
5. Engage with stakeholders on projects, goals, and commitments.

Reuse, Recycling, and Compost Collection for the NC and Schools

1. Participate in Plastic Free Lunch Day.
2. Continue established work scope for The Zero² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for Saint Paul Public Schools project that replaces one-time use cardboard boxes with RPCs for fresh produce distribution.
3. Launch The Zero² Plan: Glean for Good food rescue project in all schools, collect data, and formulate next steps.
4. Transition condiment services in secondary schools to bulk containers or dispensers to minimize packaging waste and support more accurate portioning.
5. Eliminate individually wrapped items from Choice Bars to significantly reduce both packaging and food waste.
6. Launch best management system for trash, recycling, and organics collection in Nutrition Center at EOS.

7. Re-launch a best management system for trash, recycling, and organics collection in school cafeterias.
8. Launch centralized collection system for trash, recycling and organics in office and administrative buildings.
9. Develop a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) for District Trash, Recycling, and Organics Hauler Services that supports the Zero² Plan's commitment to sustainable waste management and operational efficiency.

II. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & MOVING FORWARD

During Phase 5 of the Zero² Plan, SPPS advanced several high-impact initiatives that reflect key accomplishments on the journey toward sustainability, food justice, and community engagement. As the school district moves forward, these accomplishments lay the groundwork for deeper collaboration, broader impact, and continued innovation in support of the Zero² Plan’s vision for zero hunger and zero waste solutions.

SPPS Board of Education Sustainability Advisory Committee

SPPS continues to advance the formation of the Board of Education Sustainability Advisory Committee, formally established by Board resolution in July 2024. The committee represents a culmination of district-wide sustainability efforts and ongoing collaboration among key groups, including the:

- SPPS Climate Action Network (SPPS CAN)
- Saint Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE) Climate Action Group
- SPPS Energy Action Team

Since the committee’s authorization, representatives from these groups have been working in coordination with the Board of Education to finalize the committee’s operational framework. This work includes defining the structure, recruitment process, student participation strategy, membership composition, meeting cadence, reporting structure, subcommittee formation procedures, and recordkeeping protocols. The committee’s logistics and governance framework are being refined with the goal of presenting final recommendations to the Board at the 2025–2026 School Year Board Annual Meeting, during which Board members will confirm committee assignments. This progress marks a key step in institutionalizing sustainability leadership within SPPS and aligning district operations, educational initiatives, and community partnerships under a unified vision for climate action and environmental stewardship.

Plastic Free Lunch Day

Plastic Free Lunch Day, held on April 25, 2025, aligned with Earth Day celebrations and engaged students, educators, and families in reducing single-use plastics. SPPS distributed curriculum and promotional materials district-wide, with strong support from the Saint Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE) Climate Action Network. They even included screenings of *Microplastic Madness* at two schools and were featured in *The Bridge* under the headline *SPPS Makes Strides in Preventing Food Waste*.

Dakota County School Recycling Workshop

In July 2025, SPPS Nutrition Services shared its sustainability strategies at the annual Dakota County School Recycling Workshop, highlighting the school district’s leadership in food rescue

and waste reduction. These efforts continue to position SPPS as a forward-thinking district committed to environmental stewardship and equity.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Grants

Glean for Good Food Rescue Program

The Glean for Good food rescue program officially launched in January 2025, marking a major milestone in SPPS efforts to reduce food waste and address hunger. Developed with input from families, students, and SPFE, the program now operates in every SPPS school. In its first year, over 39.1 tons of edible food were recovered and donated to local partners including Second Harvest Heartland and Catholic Charities. Glean for Good has established a replicable model for school-based food rescue, integrating structured logistics and community partnerships to maximize impact.

Reusable Transport Packaging Project

In March 2025, the transport packaging for five types of fresh produce was switched from one-time-use cardboard boxes to reusable plastic containers (RPCs):

1. Cucumbers (sliced)
2. Romaine Lettuce (chopped)
3. Onions (green bunches)
4. Onions (diced)
5. Tomatoes (sliced)

By the end of the school year in June 2025, this initiative eliminated 6,237 cardboard boxes weighing a total of two tons. A Life Cycle Assessment, planned in partnership with the University of Minnesota in 2026, will further evaluate the environmental benefits. Outreach efforts continue to build awareness and support for expanding the use of RPCs across the K-12 sector and local agriculture.

Ramsey County Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling Grant

The Facilities Department realized significant momentum in developing a grant application to support the ongoing progress SPPS has made toward achieving The Zero² Plan goals under the category, Reuse, Recycling, and Compost Collection, for the Nutrition Center and Schools. The purpose of this project is to modernize and elevate to best practices the existing trash, recycling, and organics collection system at seven locations within the school district:

1. Education & Operations Services Building (EOS)
2. Washington Technology Magnet School
3. District Administration Building
4. Bridge View School
5. Focus Beyond Transition Services
6. Highland Complex

7. Rondo Complex

This multifaceted, two-year project is comprised of several interconnected parts, where progress in one area directly impacts the progress in other areas. It is anticipated that the grant application will be submitted to Ramsey County in October 2025.

III. PROGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING GUIDELINES

EPP Guidelines encompass the principles and intended outcomes directly associated with purchasing food and supplies. A summary of the objectives written for the EPP Guidelines, from September 2024 to August 2025, is provided in Table 1.

Table 1.
NS Progress in Achieving Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guidelines

PHASE 5 GOALS	PROGRESS
#1 – Collaborate with vendors to establish meaningful vendor commitments that support the Zero ² Plan.	Task completed. A produce vendor provided valuable support for the MPCA Statewide Waste Reduction & Reuse Grant Program and has committed to partnering on the Zero ² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for SPPS.
#2 – Collaborate with vendors to establish an annual plan to decrease waste, and measure vendor performance with the new annual scorecard that will be shared with vendors as part of regular communication and partnership.	Task completed. NS collaborated with its prime produce vendor to convert seven items from single-use cardboard to RPCs, including romaine lettuce, sliced tomatoes, cucumbers, and melons. Future targets include menu items for school years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027. Surveys, time-motion studies, and collaboration supported implementation and stakeholder engagement.
#3 – Utilize new RFP language to establish new meaningful vendor commitments that support the Zero ² Plan.	Task completed. RFP language supporting Zero ² Plan commitments was finalized in spring 2022 and applied to contract renewals beginning in spring 2024. New contracts for groceries, non-food supplies, Farm to School, and bakery items now include this language. All vendors have acknowledged and agreed to participate.
#4 – NS and vendors may shift during the contract period to new environmentally preferable products when such products are readily available at a competitive cost, satisfy performance requirements, and adhere to the contract terms.	Task completed. Over the summer of 2025, NS' grocery vendor transitioned watermelon shipments from single-use cardboard to large reusable gaylords. This shift supports Zero ² Plan goals and is expected to expand to other items, including corn and individually wrapped apples, in future school years.
#5 – Utilize the new monitoring and tracking system tool to validate vendor compliance with these guidelines, which will include an annual scorecard for vendors.	Task completed. The vendor scorecard was distributed and used in FY25 discussions to assess progress and set future goals. Produce vendors began transitioning to RPCs, and supply vendors worked to source sustainable items within budget. Compostable trays and bowls remain in use where pricing aligns with NS budget expectations.
#6 – Update multi-year goals and implementation schedule based on priorities, difficulty, and upcoming Requests for Proposals.	Task completed.
#7 – Report achievements under EPP Guidelines annually.	Task completed.

IV. PROGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING GOALS

EPP Goals encompass methods and intended outcomes directly associated with internal and external supply use, food packaging, and food transport. Internal goals primarily result in waste reduction from the NC to schools. External goals primarily result in waste reduction from companies who provide food and supplies to SPPS. A summary of the outcomes for the EPP Goals, from September 2024 to August 2025, is provided in Table 2.

Table 2.
NS Progress in Achieving Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Goals

PHASE 5 GOALS	PROGRESS	
#1 – Continue implementation and advertisement of contract agreements for The Zero² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for Saint Paul Public Schools project. Targets the reduction of 17 tons of one-time-use cardboard boxes a year.		Despite a delayed start due to contract finalization, the RPC system officially launched on August 1, 2024. Key milestones included stakeholder outreach, pre- and post-project surveys, and time-motion studies. The project is now operational and expanding toward local farm partnerships.
#2 – Finalize contract with MPCA to support and launch The Zero² Plan: Glean for Good food rescue project. Targets the reduction of 71 tons of food waste reduction a year.		Following a successful pilot in November 2024, the Glean for Good food rescue program expanded district-wide by February 2025, with 100% school participation. In its partial first year, 39.1 tons of food were rescued. SPPS is on track to meet its annual goal of 71 tons, supported by improved communication, daily operations, and key partnerships with Second Harvest Heartland and Catholic Charities.
#3 – Gather information and make decisions on compostable and recyclable foodservice supplies for B2Go and the school lunch program identified in data analysis for consideration.		This task is completed. Based on waste analysis and collaboration with Facilities, NS adjusted procurement to prioritize items that are truly composted or recycled. Key changes included replacing compostable cutlery with a non-compostable option (while maintaining reusable option as the priority for lunch services), reclassifying paper boats as trash, and reconsidering compostable breakfast bowls and lids that are not sorted for compost. The FY26 purchasing plan was adopted in April; staff training was conducted for NS staff, and signage updates were initiated in August 2025.

#4 – Monitor disposable trays and cutlery use during meal service at schools.		This task is completed. Monitoring confirmed that reusable trays and cutlery remain the standard for lunch service. When disposables were used due to equipment or staffing issues, the approval process was followed consistently, and usage remained within reasonable limits.
#5 – Engage with stakeholders on projects, goals, and commitments.		This task is completed. Stakeholder engagement was achieved through Plastic Free Lunch Day, NS staff trainings, media outreach, and collaboration with Second Harvest and Catholic Charities. Additional efforts included surveys for the RPC project, a presentation at the Dakota County School Recycling Workshop, and active participation in SPPS CAN.

V. PROGRESS ON REUSE, RECYCLING & COMPOST COLLECTION GOALS

Reuse, Recycling, and Compost Collection Goals for the NC and Schools encompass the methods and intended outcomes directly associated with waste management by students and staff. These goals target reuse and collection systems for trash, recycling, organics, and food donations. A summary of the outcomes for these goals, from September 2024 to August 2025, is provided in Table 3.

Table 3.
NS and Facilities Progress in Achieving Reuse, Recycling & Compost Collection Goals
September 2023 to August 2024

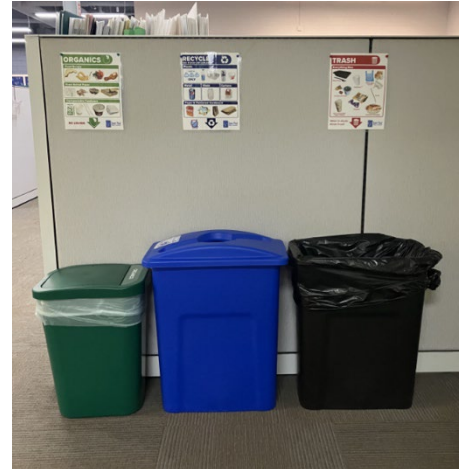
REUSE, RECYCLING & COMPOST COLLECTION PHASE 5 GOALS	PROGRESS
#1 – Participate in Plastic Free Lunch Day.	This task is completed. Plastic Free Lunch Day was held on April 25, 2025, during Earth Day week. Curriculum and promotional materials were shared district-wide, with early engagement from SPPS CAN to encourage stakeholder engagement. Two schools hosted <i>Microplastic Madness</i> screenings, and the event was featured in <i>The Bridge</i> under the headline <i>SPPS Makes Strides in Preventing Food Waste</i> .
#2 – Continue established work scope for The Zero ² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for Saint Paul Public Schools project that replaces one-time use cardboard boxes with RPCs for fresh produce distribution.	This task is completed. The RPC system launched on August 1, 2024, following contract finalization. SPPS became the first district in Minnesota to partner with a produce distributor on reusable packaging, with significant elimination of one-time cardboard use. Outreach included media announcements, pre and post-project stakeholder surveys, and time-motion studies. A Life Cycle Analysis is planned for spring 2026, and expansion to local farms is underway.
#3 – Launch The Zero ² Plan: Glean for Good food rescue project in all schools, collect data, and formulate next steps.	This task is completed. Glean for Good launched district-wide in January 2025, with 100% school participation. In its first partial year, 31.1 tons of surplus food were rescued and donated to a local non-profit charity. The program's structured logistics, stakeholder collaboration, and statewide reach position it as a replicable model for sustainable food rescue.
#4 – Transition condiment services in secondary schools to bulk containers or dispensers to minimize packaging waste and support more accurate portioning.	This task is completed. All secondary schools transitioned from single serve condiment packets to bulk dispensers. Condiment changes included ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise and BBQ sauce.
#5 – Eliminate individually wrapped items from Choice Bars to significantly reduce both packaging and food waste.	This task is completed. Condiments and other items previously offered in individual packaging have transitioned to bulk or unwrapped products. Staff may offer leftover individually wrapped items from other programs (e.g., classroom Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program) to prevent waste, but these are no longer purchased or planned for cafeteria service.
#6 – Launch best management system for trash, recycling, and organics collection in Nutrition Center at EOS.	In progress. The team consulted the NC Spaghetti Diagram and (1) updated the collection container protocol for stationary and traveling sort stations; (2) updated the NC collection container placement plan, and budget. These updated documents were included in the development of a grant application for the Ramsey County School Waste Reduction & Recycling Grant.

#7 – Re-launch a best management system for trash, recycling, and organics collection in school cafeterias.	In progress. Evaluated the current collection system and condition of 81 cafeteria sort tables by conducting a district-wide survey. Survey results identified the need to repair, refurbish and replace a total of 45 tables. Lorna Sherwood Caballero, the MN Greencorps member serving with SPPS-Facilities developed several outreach tools such as a physical waste sorting activity with actual example items to sort into Recycling (blue) Organics (green) and Trash (black) bins, waste sorting slide deck for elementary schools, lesson plan that corresponds to the slide deck, waste sorting quiz, recycling and composting coloring sheets, and waste sorting magnet game classrooms.
#8 – Launch centralized collection system for trash, recycling and organics in office and administrative buildings.	In progress. The team launched a pilot centralized collection system for trash, recycling and organics in the Facilities office area; comprised of three centralized sort stations and the addition of organics in the employee breakroom and bathrooms (paper towels) New office centralized collection signage was designed and waste sorting training was administered to all Facilities staff who use the Centralized Collection station prior to launch.
#9 – Develop a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) for District Trash, Recycling, and Organics Hauler Services that supports the Zero² Plan’s commitment to sustainable waste management and operational efficiency.	In progress. Extended the existing hauler contract until February 2027.

Do More with Less: Centralized Collection Pilot Study

As a strategy to do more with less custodial labor, the Facilities Department conducted a pilot study in its office space located in the Education and Operations Services Building (EOS). The purpose was to study the feasibility of switching from emptying individual trash and recycling bins at each employee workstation to a centralized collection system where custodians only empty trash, recycling, and organics bins grouped in sort stations that are centrally located in common spaces. This change required staff to transfer discards from their offices to the centrally located sort stations.

The successful centralized collection pilot launched with Facilities staff at EOS featured custom signage designed and specifically tailored for an adult office environment with collection stations for trash, recycling, organics, and paper. Unlike school cafeterias, where materials are largely items served by Nutrition Services, office spaces must accommodate a much broader range of potential discards brought in by staff. These signs were designed to help staff categorize and sort diverse, unexpected items, ensuring proper disposal and minimizing contamination. The SPPS office centralized collection signs are illustrated below.





Time & Motion Study

The Facilities Department designed a Time & Motion Study to baseline the process of emptying individual bin collection and assess the pilot study process of emptying bins grouped in centralized sort stations. One custodian participated, and baseline and pilot study videos were produced to document the amount of time and motion required to complete specific tasks. Overall, the centralized collection system reduced custodial time and labor cost by 45% and motion from 5% to 72%. Table 4 summarizes these findings.

Table 4.
Time & Motion Study
Baseline & Pilot Study Comparison

	TIME			MOTION					LABOR COST	
	Total Time	Time to Empty Collection Containers	Time Recycling/Trash Compactor & Organics Round Trips	# of Steps Taken	# of Times Bend at the Waist	# of Times Lift Over Shoulders	# of Times Push with Arms	# of Times Pull with Arms	Engineer \$41.26/hour \$0.69/minute	FSW \$26.87/hour \$0.45/minute
Aug 19, 2024 Baseline	40 minutes	16 minutes	24 minutes	1,989	64	50	20	12	40 minutes $\$0.69 \times 40 = \$27.60$	40 minutes $\$0.45 \times 40 = \$18.00$
Dec 4, 2024 Pilot Study	22 minutes	8 minutes	14 minutes	1,118	18	18	19	7	22 minutes $\$0.69 \times 22 = \$15.18$	22 minutes $\$0.45 \times 22 = \$9.90$
% Change	45% Reduction	50% Reduction	42% Reduction	44% Reduction	72% Reduction	64% Reduction	5% Reduction	42% Reduction	45% Reduction	45% Reduction

Collection Bin Audits

As part of the Centralized Collection Pilot Study in the Facilities office, daily bin audits were conducted to track waste volumes, weight, and identify contamination trends. With the implementation of the centralized sort stations, organics collection was introduced as a new waste stream being diverted from trash. Between November 2024 and April 2025, bins were monitored four to five times per week to assess usage, fullness and contamination. During this period an average of 66 pounds of organics were generated, resulting in an estimated 792 lbs. of organics now being diverted annually from the Facilities office area waste stream.

The audits were completed to ensure collection stations were appropriately sized and located for the building's waste generation patterns. Data collected indicated variable bin fill levels depending on staff presence and events such as trainings occurring in the office pilot area. Findings from this pilot will be used to refine bin placement, labeling, and educational strategies to expand the Centralized Collection System to the North side of EOS, and additional administrative sites throughout the district.

Waste Sorting Educational Resources

In partnership with Bruce Vento Elementary School, the Facilities Department and a Minnesota GreenCorps member led a 2024–2025 initiative to develop and pilot educational resources to improve cafeteria waste sorting, increase awareness about organics, and strengthen school garden composting practices. The project aimed to reduce contamination in recycling and organics streams, empower students to make informed sorting choices, and connect the concepts of what goes where, why, and what happens to it after they put it in the bins.

The project involved observing current cafeteria sorting practices, assessing understanding of organics and composting, and collaborating with staff and students to develop and pilot educational tools. Training sessions were led by the Minnesota GreenCorps member and tested by teachers, followed by evaluation and refinement of materials. Outreach tools were developed such as a physical waste sorting game, magnet waste sorting game, printable waste sorting game, waste sorting slide deck lesson, waste sorting quiz, and coloring sheets. The project resulted in improved waste-sorting, increased student understanding of composting systems, and the development of new educational materials on waste sorting. The next step is to expand the use of these educational materials to other elementary schools.

Recycling

- Cartons
- Glass
- Hard Plastics (# 1. # 2. # 5)
- Food-Free Paper and Cardboard
- Metal Cans

Trash

- Soft Plastics
- Plastic Wrap
- Wrappers and Packaging
- Plastic Bags

Organics

- Food Scraps

Compost

- Napkins and Paper Towels

Name: _____

Scissors cut along the lines. Color in the items that do go in the Organics Bin, and cross out the items that do not!

Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**MY SCHOOL
RECYCLES ORGANICS!**

Did you know that our cafeteria food scraps turn into compost?

Color me green!

PLASTIC BAG
PLASTIC BAG
PLASTIC BAG

CAN

Name: _____

Cross out the items that do not go in the Garden Compost Bin, and color in the items that do!

Hint: Compost is made up of organic materials!

VI. NEXT STEPS

To continue to honor the intent of the Zero² Plan, the team developed Phase 6 Guidelines & Goals, which include a renewed focus on several objectives as well as the development of new ones. Phase 6 Guidelines & Goals are listed below, and the team will complete Progress Report #6 to summarize NS and Facilities Department outcomes for the reporting period, September 2025 through August 2026.

Phase 6 Guidelines & Goals

NS Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guidelines (EPP Guidelines)

1. Collaborate with vendors to establish meaningful vendor commitments that support the Zero² Plan.
2. Collaborate with vendors to establish an annual plan to decrease waste, and measure vendor performance with the new annual scorecard that will be shared with vendors as part of regular communication and partnership.
3. Utilize RFP language to establish new meaningful vendor commitments that support the Zero² Plan.
4. NS and vendors may shift during the contract period to new environmentally preferable products when such products are readily available at a competitive cost, satisfy performance requirements, and adhere to the contract terms.
5. Utilize the monitoring and tracking system tool to validate vendor compliance with these guidelines, which will include an annual scorecard for vendors.
6. Update multi-year goals and implementation schedule based on priorities, difficulty, and upcoming Requests for Proposals.
7. Report achievements under EPP Guidelines annually.

NS Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Goals (EPP Goals)

1. Continue advertisement of contract agreements for The Zero² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for Saint Paul Public Schools project in hopes of expanding to local farms.
2. Research and evaluate the opportunity to purchase a blast chiller for a high school pilot with the intent of reducing total food waste through food waste prevention.
3. Monitor disposable trays and cutlery use during meal service at schools.
4. Engage with stakeholders on projects, goals, and commitments.

Reuse, Recycling, and Compost Collection Goals for the NC and Schools

1. Participate in Plastic Free Lunch Day.
2. Coordinate and complete life cycle analysis for The Zero² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for Saint Paul Public Schools project in collaboration with the University of Minnesota.

3. Continue established work scope for The Zero² Plan: Reusable Transport Packaging Solutions for Saint Paul Public Schools project that replaces one-time use cardboard boxes with RPCs for fresh produce distribution.
4. Continue established work scope for the The Zero² Plan: Glean for Good food rescue project and reach targeted food waste reduction.
5. Launch best management system for trash, recycling, and organics collection in Nutrition Center at EOS.
6. Re-launch a best management system for trash, recycling, and organics collection in school cafeterias.
7. Launch centralized collection system for trash, recycling and organics in office and administrative buildings.
8. Develop and submit a grant application for a Ramsey County School Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant to support the accomplishment of goals 5, 6, and 7.
9. Develop a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) for District Trash, Recycling, and Organics Hauler Services that supports the Zero² Plan's commitment to sustainable waste management and operational efficiency. It is anticipated that a new hauler contract will be effective February 2027.