

2026-27 RECYCLING & ORGANICS PROGRAM

Tips & Resources

In 2024, the district rolled out its **Lunchtime Recycling and Organics Program!** Here are some resources and recommendations to make this year a success.

Steps For Success

1. Provide training and education to all students and staff.

Remind staff and students about the program during **all-school assemblies**, **morning announcements**, and **newsletter/flyers**. LBUSD is dedicated to improving our landfill diversion rates, so we need everyone to participate! Contact Dr. Laurel Kruke, LBUSD's Energy and Sustainability Manager at [**LKruke@lbschools.net**](mailto:LKruke@lbschools.net) if you have questions or need help.

2. Identify who can lead the program on your campus.

Find the staff members that are **passionate about sustainability**, and let them lead the way. This could be a **teacher, plant supervisor, administrative staff member, anyone!** Make sure to engage your custodial and cafeteria staff as well.

Student groups can also help! Do you have a **Green Team** or an **Environmental Club**? They can help make posters, volunteer with lunchtime sorting, and build momentum with their peers. **Want help starting a student club?** Contact Laurel at [**LKruke@lbschools.net**](mailto:LKruke@lbschools.net).

3. Check-in with your staff throughout the year.

Periodically **talk about the program with your staff** (custodial, kitchen, teachers, rec aides, etc.) to remind them about sorting, address issues and challenges, and help make sure students are sorting properly and doing what they need to do. If issues arise that you need support to solve, contact Laurel at [**LKruke@lbschools.net**](mailto:LKruke@lbschools.net).



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Campus Events & Community

Special events, campaigns, and campus groups are great opportunities to engage students and staff!

Schools can generate more awareness and excitement around these initiatives when we reward milestones and remind students and staff **why zero-waste makes our schools and communities more sustainable**. Here are some ideas to engage your school community:

- Award and Recognition Programs
- 'Green Teams' - staff-led student group responsible for helping with lunchtime waste program and other green initiatives on campus
- Spirit Days/Weeks
 - Global Recycling Day (3/18)
 - Earth Day (4/22)
 - National Compost Week (first week of May)
- School-wide assembly covering waste sorting and other environmental programs
 - LA County offers [free assemblies](#) for K-5 through the Environmental Defenders!
- School-Wide or Grade vs Grade competitions
 - Between grades, classrooms, or departments
 - Who can return the most recyclables?
 - Who can log the most resource saving actions? (water and energy conservation)
 - Sustainable action pledge poster
 - Student-by-student
 - Art competition using common waste materials
 - Celebrations and rewards to make students more motivated

Communication Ideas:

- Daily PA/classroom announcements
- Incorporate into curriculum & lesson plans
- Take-home flyers and emails to parents/guardians
- School Newsletter/website
- Campus bulletin boards
- Segments during all-school assemblies

Questions or need help?
Contact Dr. Laurel Kruke, LBUSD's
Energy and Sustainability Manager at
LKruke@lbschools.net.



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Additional Resources

For Administrators:

Best Practices and Case Studies

- [Upstream- Reuse in Schools](#)
- [USGBC- Tips for District Leaders](#)
- [Cal Recycle- Waste Prevention Ideas for Schools](#)
- [Cal Recycle- Environmental Preferable Purchasing](#)

Awards and Funding

- [Green Ribbon Schools Award Program](#)

Campus Initiatives/Free Events

- [Clean LA- Environmental Defenders \(K-5\)](#)
 - [Program flyer](#)

Signage and Other Resources

- [Culver City Unified School District](#)
- [The Green Team](#)
- [Waste Prevention Grant Opportunities](#)

For Teachers:

Curriculum and Lesson Plans

- [EPA- Lesson Plans](#)
- [SubjectToClimate - Waste Lessons](#)

Videos

- [Zero Waste International Alliance Resources](#)

Class Activities and Projects

- [Waste Prevention Ideas for Classrooms](#)
- [Zero Waste Heros](#)

Environmental Education

- [Generation Earth- Teacher Starter Kit](#)
- [I Recycle Smart](#)
- [The Ellen MacArthur Foundation \(Middle and High School\)](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)

For Students:

Activities

- [EPA- Community Service Ideas](#)
- [EPA- Quizzes and Games](#)

Educational Resources

- [I Recycle Smart](#)
- [EPA- Homework Resources](#)

