



Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

Fall 2019

The Four Rs Newsletter



Is your school a Wastebuster too?

Every school can reach a 75% recycling rate and all schools are required by state law to recycle and compost.

RecycleSmart provides schools with the tools and resources to reach 75% and beyond while helping our students learn waste prevention, recycling and composting utilizing Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Contact us for more information and resources.

www.recyclesmart.org/schools

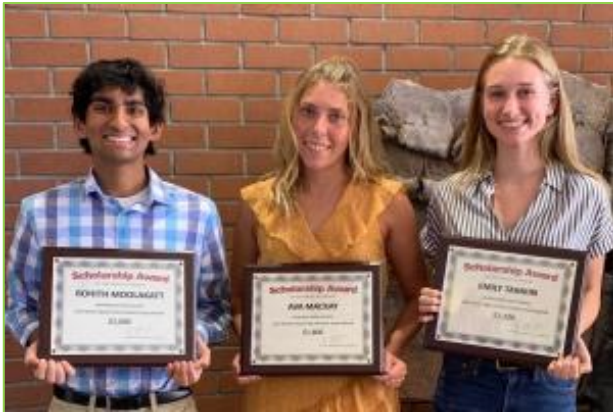
2018-19 Wastebuster Awards

Schools within the RecycleSmart service area can earn \$1,500 for reaching 75% their first year, and \$1,000 every subsequent achieving year. Congratulations to the 18 schools achieving 75% or greater!

Athenian School	85%	Danville
Indian Valley Elementary	83%	Walnut Creek
Parkmead School	83%	Contra Costa County
Buena Vista Elementary	82%	Walnut Creek
Walnut Creek Intermediate	82%	Walnut Creek
Glorietta Elementary	81%	Orinda
Springhill Elementary	81%	Lafayette
The Meher Schools	81%	Lafayette
Tice Creek School	81%	Walnut Creek
Donald Rheem Elementary	80%	Moraga
Murwood Elementary	80%	Contra Costa County
Walnut Acres Elementary	80%	Walnut Creek
Holden High School	79%	Orinda
Wagner Ranch Elementary	79%	Orinda
Happy Valley Elementary	78%	Lafayette
Camino Pablo Elementary	77%	Moraga
Los Perales Elementary	76%	Moraga
Lafayette Elementary	75%	Lafayette

RecycleSmart Student Scholars

RecycleSmart initiated the student scholarship program in 2015 to inspire and reward student leaders who have made significant contributions to reducing waste at their high schools. This year, RecycleSmart is expanding the scholarship to students interested in making a difference in their community. Student projects can include working with local businesses or elementary schools to recycle and compost more. The 2018-19 scholarships were awarded to:



Rohith Moolakatt – Northgate High School

As a lifelong environmentalist, Rohith co-founded the Northgate Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) in his junior year. NEPA has rejuvenated the recycling and composting program at Northgate, promoted reusable water bottles and the new water filling stations, and hosted beach clean ups with the Surfrider Foundation.

Ava MacKay – Acalanes High School

Ava became the head of the Environmental Board of the Leadership Program at Acalanes High School her senior year. The Environmental Board has helped to make other changes on campus, switching from ketchup packets to ketchup pumps and from styrofoam cups to compostable paper cups in the cafeteria.

Emily Tamkin – Campolindo High School

Emily joined the Environmental Club as a freshman and helped to transform the recycling and composting program at Campolindo from “a sea of black trash cans” to a fully integrated three-bin system. The new system was implemented in 2017 and gradually, students, faculty and staff have developed the “muscle memory” of sorting the trash instead of dumping it all.

Are you interested in applying for the RecycleSmart Waste Reduction Student Scholarship for 2020?

Check out the RecycleSmart website. www.recyclesmart.org



Green Sporks at Buena Vista Elementary



Buena Vista Elementary is helping to reduce waste in the lunchroom by eliminating plastic cutlery.

Science teacher Deborah Walker has led her 60+ student Green Team, SWAT (Students Wild About Trash) to replace plastic sporks with compostable sporks.

The “Green Spork” from the brand Perfect Stix are made from 100% compostable birch wood. Buena Vista’s SWAT Team funded an order of 10,000 Green Sporks at 4 cents apiece, but hopes that lunchrooms will soon adopt this sustainable transition districtwide.



RecycleSmart Student Summit November 1st

RecycleSmart is hosting a Green Team summit for middle and high school students. Green Teams will be able to share their current projects, gain new ideas, and consider joining forces.

Join us for good food, drink and conversation on November 1st, 5:30-7 at Las Lomas High Cafeteria. RSVP [here](#) or by contacting Nancy Deming at nancyldeming@gmail.com.

Resources for Schools:

RecycleSmart's award-winning program provides free resources and technical assistance to all public and private K-12 schools in our service area. In addition to the Wastebusters Award Program, Field Trips, and Waste Reduction Student Scholarships, we offer:

- Waste audits
- School assemblies
- Lesson plans
- "Binventory"
- Dumpster watch
- Green Team training
- Custodial support
- Recycle & Compost bins
- Stickers & Posters
- Aprons & Grabbers

Interested in any of the above for your school?

Contact:
 Ruth Abbe
 RecycleSmart
 School Recycling Program
 415-235-1356
ruth.abbe@abbeassociates.com

Reusable Lesson Plans

The RecycleSmart Sorting Lesson is now available as a reusable poster. Students show their knowledge about what is recyclable and compostable (and teachers can check their answers with the "Teacher Key").

Teacher Key

For use with the "Mealtime Sorting Poster"

Please store on the back of the poster.

Blue Bin

Recycle

Green Bin

Compost

Gray Bin

Landfill

Straws Film

RecycleSmart has licensed the movie [Straws](#) to show in classrooms and at assemblies and community events. The film provides information about the concerns of single-use plastic and inspires students to take action.

