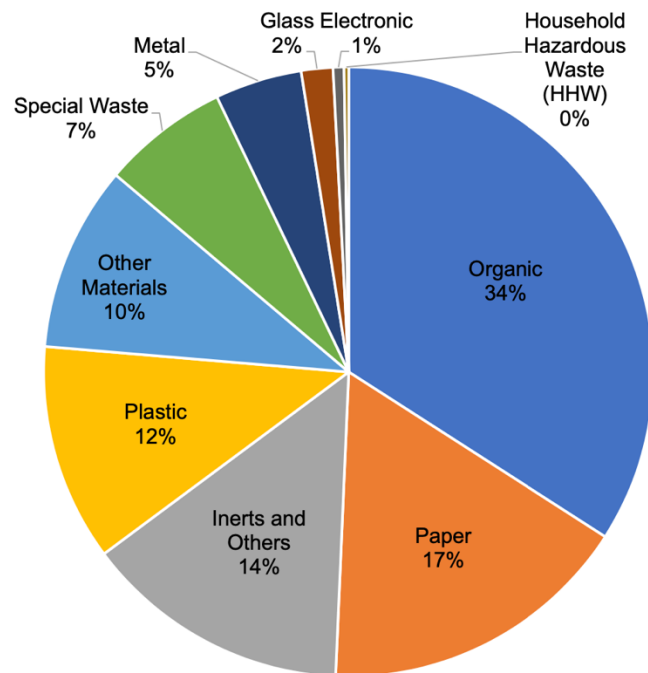


## Advancing Waste Management at MME School

### 1. Background

- **In California**, 34%<sup>1</sup> of the trash filling our landfills is organic waste. If properly sorted, these residues could be composted. After volunteering at MME for about 6 months (since Sept. 2024) we estimate that over 80% of the residues produced by MME students at lunchtime is organic waste).
- **Landfilled organic waste produces methane**, a powerful greenhouse gas that is 80x more potent than carbon dioxide.
- **California Senate Bill 1383** (2016) establishes targets to reduce organic waste disposed of in landfills in 75% by 2025. It also sets a goal to rescue at least 20% of currently disposed edible food by 2025 and redirect that food to people in need. New regulations to achieve the goals of SB 1383 were finalized by CalRecycle in November 2020 and took effect in January 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 1.** Waste distribution in California landfills. *Source: California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), 2020. Facility-*

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), 2020. Facility-Based Waste Characterization of Solid Waste in California. Publication # DRRR-2020-1666

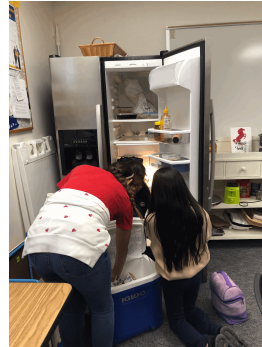
<sup>2</sup> Source: California School Board Association <https://publications.csba.org/california-school-news/october-2023/share-tables-reduce-food-waste/> and City of Davis <https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works-utilities-and-operations/solid-waste-and-recycling/sb-1383-calrecycle-organics-regulations>.

## 2. Project objectives.

### We want:

- a. Students to **learn how to properly sort their waste and why this is important.**
  - b. To provide an opportunity for student to **gain important civic skills**, aligning with DJUSD Strategic goal #4 **“Confidence and preparedness for life”** and contributing to the DJUSD graduate profile, particularly to increase “Civic awareness”, “Critical thinking”, and “collaboration” around food system challenges such as food loss, food waste disposal and contribute to maintain a clean and safe eating environment.
  - c. **To reduce the amount of residues going into the landfill**, especially organic waste, contributing with the state goals established in Senate Bill 1383.
  - d. **Reduce food waste** (we want to encourage student to eat the food and to recover uneaten food).
  - e. To help the school develop mechanisms to accomplish the above objectives in a way that is independently sustainable (without the need for parent volunteers nor additional staff!).
- 3. Vision (in words and images; some images taken from the internet or other schools)**  
*“MME will be a leader in waste management and food recovery at the district level and will give our children the knowledge and tools to do it by themselves”*





[Contact Us](#) | [City Council](#) | [Agendas](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Staff Directory](#)

**Davis**  
 CALIFORNIA

[ABOUT DAVIS](#) | [CITY HALL](#) | [RESIDENTS](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [VISITORS](#) | [HOW DO](#)

City Hall • [Public Works Utilities and Operations](#) • [Solid Waste and Recycling](#)

## ZERO WASTE GAMES

Font Size: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) | [Share & Bookmarks](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Print](#)

Test your waste sorting knowledge with the **Zero Waste Sorting Game** and try and sort recycling, compost and trash into the correct bins before the time runs out! Learn more about sorting your waste with **Zero Waste Matching**.

[Click to begin](#)

[Back to Educators Home](#)

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES | [Plan a Field Trip](#) | [Resources](#) | [Professional Development](#) | [Grade](#) | [News](#)

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Topics | [Laws & Regulations](#) | [Report a Violation](#) | [About EPA](#)

Title: Sustainable Management of Food

### Sustainable Management of Food

Basics  
 Wasted Food Scale  
 Prevention through Source Reduction  
 Donating Food  
 Composting  
 Anaerobic Digestion  
 Preventing Wasted Food at Home  
 Tools for Preventing and Diverting Wasted Food  
 Funding Opportunities and ERM Programs Related to the Food System  
 Local and Regional Resources  
 Data on Wasted Food in the U.S.

### Educating Youth About Wasted Food

**On this page:**

- Why Educating Youth About Wasted Food is Important
  - At-School Food Waste Prevention Activities to Promote with Youth
  - Resources for Use in the Classroom or to Reduce Wasted Food at School
    - Classroom Lessons and Resources
    - Resources to Reduce Wasted Food at School
  - Resources for Composting with Youth
  - Other Resources Related to Wasted Food Prevention and Composting

### Why Educating Youth About Wasted Food is Important

Most people don't realize how much food they throw away every day. Food can go to waste due to a variety of complex, interacting behaviors and habits that may be hard to break. It is critical for everyone, including children and youth, to understand that food is a valuable resource that takes natural resources, energy, labor, and time to grow and consume - and that wasting food by throwing it in

Search the Educators section

## Food Waste Audit

Appropriate for: 3rd Grade - 11th Grade  
 Standards for: 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade  
 Prep Time: 5 minutes  
 Activity Time: 60 minutes  
 Subjects: Analyzing & Interpreting Data

**Attached Files**  
[Lesson Plan](#)

**GREEN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE**

[SIGN UP](#) | [SEARCH](#) | [DONATE](#)

ABOUT US | [GREEN SCHOOLS](#) | [ISSUES](#) | [TAKE ACTION](#) | [RESOURCES](#) | [NEWS](#)

**GREEN SCHOOL PROFILES**

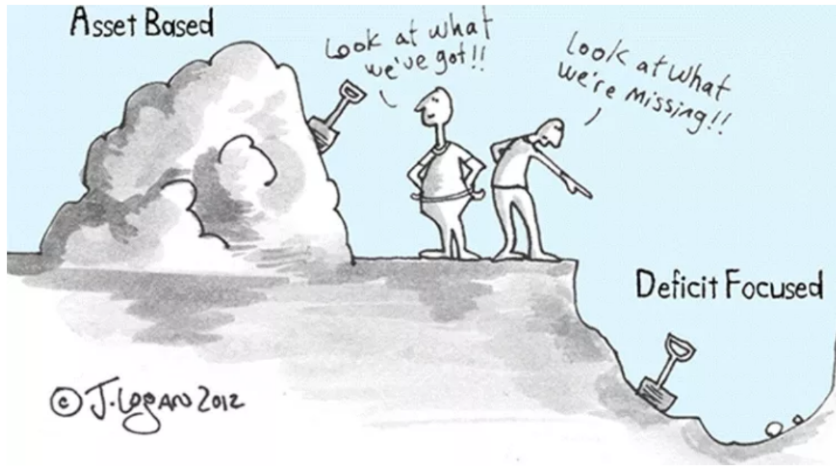
Home

### Lunchtime Waste Monitors BUSD Green Star Schools

**Purpose:** To create a system for students to monitor and help fellow students sort waste properly. The goal is to share this responsibility across grades. Use these tips and download the schedule template below to help set up a system and schedule for student lunch monitors at your school.

- Make sure your cafeteria has a multi-sort waste station with bins for Compost, Recycling, and Landfill next to reach other and properly labeled with signs.

Lunch monitors with eye-catching vests at elementary school



4. What are we doing/ have done so far?

- a. We **met with the school administration** in September 2024 to understand the needs and see where we can help.
- b. Volunteered at lunchtime since September 2025 and also,
  - i. Made **signs** for carts
  - ii. Helped for MME to obtain more **compost carts**
  - iii. Implemented **Share Basket** (food recovery)
- c. Wrote project document and share it with the school Administration and PTA
- d. Met and talked with stakeholders:
  - i. City of Davis
  - ii. DJUSD, Operations
  - iii. Davis Farm to School
  - iv. Recology and Yolo Landfill
  - v. Davis Picks it Up group
- e. Appeared in an article at the Davis Enterprise
- f. Engaged with Girl Scouts who are greatly contributing to this project
- g. Sent a Flyer to parents via PTA Newsletter “Pony Express”
- h. Compiled educational resources for teachers.
- i. Presented a Staff assembly (Feb 5<sup>th</sup>)



## 5. How?

- **First, understanding this is a systemic challenge.** The issues are not unique to MME nor DJUSD. Hence, it needs to be addressed strategically, involving **different stakeholders** and educating our overall community
- **We want to establish a partnership** with MME families, **by keeping them informed** and providing an **opportunity for them to engage** with the school at lunchtime. We invite families to talk with their children about the importance of proper waste sorting.
- We are encouraging our school community to build a **system** that works for MME (class jobs, incentives, etc).
- By promoting this initiative as a win-win for the school, families and students by:
  - Providing an additional learning opportunity for our students
  - Providing an opportunity to strengthen our MME community
  - Increasing sense of belonging and parent engagement, contributing to out DJUSD Strategy.