

GOING ZERO-WASTE!

a collaborative partnership



High Point Academy



ORGANICS RECOVERY PROGRAM (ORP)

GOAL and PURPOSE

Integrate environmental education and learning with zero-waste management practices to help prepare and better equip K-8 students with the understanding of the concept of sustainability and environmental stewardship!

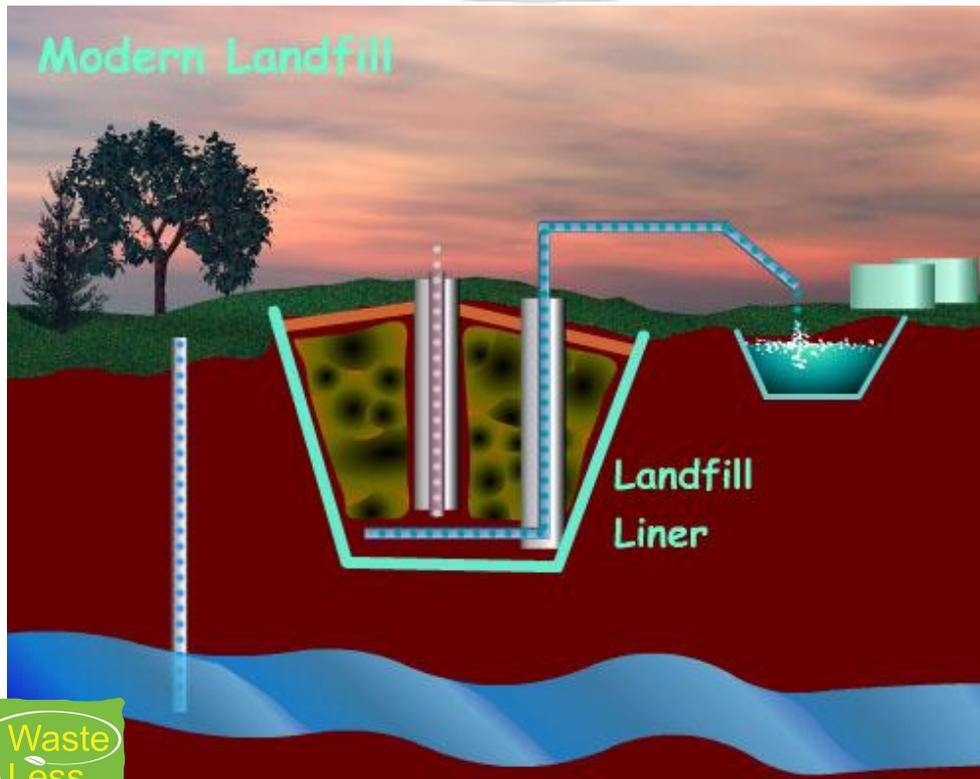


WHY?

- 34 million tons lost annually
- \$165 billion/yr = food scraps landfilled
- Food scraps in landfills produce methane gas and leachate....NOT soil!
- U.S. loses topsoil at a rate of 10x the replenishment rate
- Chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides are polluting our water supply and compromising our health.



THE MISCONCEPTION



Landfills are storage facilities NOT recycling or composting sites.

According to the EPA, 86% of U.S. landfill liners leak and end up contaminating the groundwater and ambient air.



BIGGER PROBLEM!!



Disposable tableware goods made from PLANTS not PLASTIC are also ending up in the landfill never to be recovered for soil production.

A “good” product gone “bad” scenario.

Infrastructure (commercial composting facility) is limited.

These products need to be commercially composted as they do not break down in a home composting system.

Otherwise, they end up in the landfill and continue to pollute the environment.

THE GOOD NEWS!



6 YEAR RECAP



YEAR	% DIVERTED (organics and recyclables)	% LANDFILLED	COMPOSTED (lbs)
2014-2015	82%	17.5%	7,414.4 lbs
2013-2014	85%	15%	8,475 lbs
2012-2013	87%	13%	8,228.1 lbs
2011-2012	83%	17.6%	8,056.6 lbs
2010-2011	79%	20.6%	7,380.5 lbs
2009-2010	77%	22.9%	9,506.9 lbs

SETTING THE TREND

1. “Near” Zero-waste is attainable
2. Reporting works
3. Real life practicum is engaging/educational
4. Modeling is key



REPORTING WORKS

Students post results weekly



CLOSING THE LOOP

source separated food and paper waste from lunch period is processed off-site into compost and returned to the school



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REAL LIFE PRACTICUM

Students study the effects of finished compost as a soil amendment to the athletic field



REAL LIFE RESULTS

Students observe positive impacts from compost

- 1. Increased water moisture in turf*
- 2. Visually greener (right side, no compost)*



REAL LIFE PRACTICUM

*Students present compost study results to City of Pasadena
Public Works Staff*



ACHIEVING THE GOAL!

1. 100% engagement by students and parents on- and off-campus
2. Consistent acknowledgement of students and reporting to families
3. Reminders
4. Closing the loop.....annually!



WAYS TO WASTE LESS

1. Avoid juice boxes/pouches. Pack whole fruit.
2. Use reusable containers for sandwiches, cheese, crackers.
3. Choose paper packaging for Choice Lunch orders.
4. Sort your waste at home and compost your food scraps.



HELPFUL SIGNS

TRASH

UNKNOWN[?]

PLASTIC[?]
FILM[?]

UNLABELED PLASTIC[?]
NO RECYCLING SIGN[?]



RECYCLE

ALL GLASS, PLASTIC AND
METAL CONTAINERS[?]
(emptied)[?]

OFFICE PAPER[?]
FILE FOLDERS[?]
SEPARATELY[?]

LOOK FOR
THIS SIGN[?]



COMPOST

ALL FOOD[?]
(meat, dairy, bread,
fruit, vegetables, plants)[?]

ALL SOILED[?]
PAPER[?]
(paper towels, napkins,
tissue paper)[?]

COMPOSTABLE[?]
GOODS[?]
(read the label)[?]



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QUESTIONS?

www.wastelessliving.com

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