

# Franklin Elementary Magnet School Greening Initiatives



Urban Greening Grant  
& Campus Upkeep



Vermicomposting Project



Organic Waste Separation



Presented by Monica Campagna  
*Benjamin Franklin Elementary Foundation  
Green Team & PTA Green Lunchroom  
Committee*

# Before



# During



Campus  
Conversion via  
\$1 Million  
Urban Greening  
Grant using  
Prop 84  
Funding.

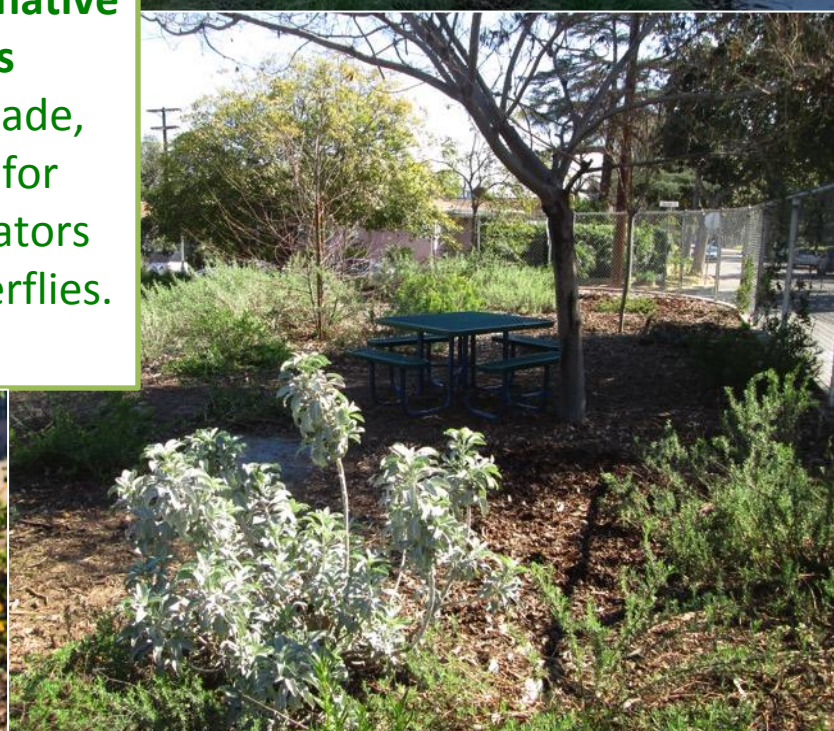


# After





After Re-landscaping with **bioswales & permeable paving** to keep water filtering into the ground rather than running into sewers, **living fences** which filter the air & **2500 low-water native CA plants & trees** which provide shade, beauty and food for songbirds, pollinators & monarch butterflies.







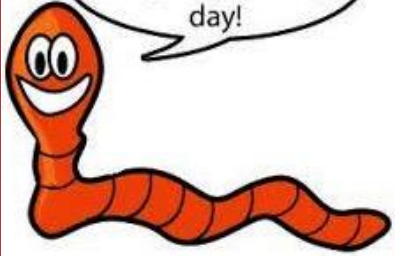




**BFEF  
GREENTEAM**  
is pleased  
to announce  
**OUR NEW  
SCHOOL-WIDE  
WORM COMPOSTING  
INITIATIVE!!!**

- Worm Bins Adopted by 10 Classes (bins donated by Glendale Integrated Waste)
- Coordinates with Environmental Science Curriculum
- Keeps Food Waste out of the Landfill
- Turns Organic Waste into Rich Fertilizer!

I eat over half my bodyweight every day!



Outside Bins



The kids bring their buckets to the cafeteria, and we collect fruit & veggie scraps on Fridays.



Finished Vermicompost





# GREENING THE LUNCHROOM

Projects of the PTA Green Lunchroom Committee





# Installed Elkay Filtered Water Bottle Station



- School Foundation paid for the station (\$900)
- GUSD installed for free & replaces filters as needed (approx. annually)
- Used existing plumbing (put next to water fountain station)
- Outdoor – protected location (under roof)
- Filtered water
- Not chilled (saved money & made install easier)
- Used constantly by both students and staff.



# Created ZERO WASTE LUNCH Campaign

- Rolled out initiative during “Earth Week”
- Offered “owl bucks” to students with zero-waste lunches to encourage participation.
- Took photos of great lunch ideas and posted on social media to celebrate participants and encourage others.

One of the many Zero-Waste Lunches brought to school



## Zero Waste Lunch Challenge! Earth Day Week: April 22-26th

Bring a Zero Waste snack and lunch to school and earn an owl buck each day!  
If you buy lunch & snack, bring your own REUSABLE fork, spoon & napkin (straw optional)  
Turn down the “spork” set and get an Owl Buck !

### WHAT IS a ZERO WASTE lunch?



Pack lunch in REUSABLE lunch box or bag  
Pack food in REUSABLE containers  
Pack REUSABLE fork & spoon (NO knives)  
Pack a CLOTH napkin or bandana  
Bring a REUSABLE water bottle



### AVOID single-serving, packaged foods like:

**Individual Yogurt** - SUB: portion out your own into a reusable container with fruit & honey  
**“Lunchables”** - SUB: Leftovers! Sandwich, Fruit, Cut Cheese, Crackers, Hard-Boiled egg  
**Chip bags** - SUB: portion out from a large bag into a container  
**Snack Bars** - SUB: granola / dried fruit / nuts or home-made  
**String Cheese** - SUB: slice cheese off the block  
**Squeezable fruit packages** - SUB: cut or whole fruit  
**Drink boxes & bags w/straws** - SUB: water bottle  
& “Ziplock” Baggies & Plastic Wrap (not recyclable!)



Photo of typical trash at Franklin.  
Almost NONE is recyclable.

### WHY pack a ZERO WASTE Lunch?

Landfills are reaching capacity & incineration creates air pollution  
Empower our kids to make positive changes for the planet  
School funds spent on trash removal can be put to better use  
Eliminate the need for processed prepackaged foods & a healthier lunch for our kids  
Cooking or buying in bulk and PORTIONING is often CHEAPER



Created an “**Avoid Board**” to show items commonly put in student lunches that are NOT recycled. Board was posted by pickup gates for a long time – then moved to the lunch sorting area where the kids like to discuss it, including things that could replace these items.





# Started GUSD's first SHARE TABLE

- Students put unwanted, unopened, packaged food or fruit FROM THE CAFETERIA into the “share bins”.
- One bin is for cold foods and has icepacks.
- Other kids can then take this food to eat.
- Unused food kept at correct temps can be re-stocked.



Frozen fruit  
That would  
have gone in  
the trash  
If there were  
no share bin.



Student using the Share Table



# Working to Reduce Single-use Plastics in GUSD

- GUSD no longer uses milk plastic “pouches” – back to just cartons
- GUSD has removed straws from all spork sets
- GUSD is working with suppliers to reduce single-use plastics

There Is more work to be done here!





# Franklin went back to the 80's! We got a dishwasher!

- Hobart Company donated an industrial dishwasher to Franklin.
- GUSD installed the washer and purchased reusable trays and silverware.
- We ditched the plastic wrapped spork set and paper trays for good!





# Franklin WASTE SEPARATION & Off-Site ORGANICS COMPOSTING Program

*A Collaboration Between:*

- **GUSD** (Facilities and Support Operations & Nutritional Services)
- **PTA Green Lunchroom Committee** (Parent Volunteers)
- **BFEF Green Team** (Parent Volunteers)
- **Principal Kully**
- **Southland Disposal**

A Commercial Composting Facility in LA





# WHY WORK TO KEEP ORGANIC WASTE out of the LANDFILL?

- **Approx. 40% of what goes to landfills is ORGANIC WASTE – using space needed for non-compostable trash in our quickly filling landfills.**
- **Organic waste, when it breaks down in a landfill, breaks down WITHOUT oxygenation (“anaerobic decomposition”) and creates METHANE vs. CO2**
- **Methane traps heat in the atmosphere 25x MORE than CO2 and is a MAJOR contributor to the climate crisis.**
- **Organic waste can instead be turned into valuable compost or bio-gas.**
- **It is now CA Law! (AB 1826: Solid Waste: Organic Waste & SB 1383: Short-lived climate pollutants: methane emissions: dairy and livestock: organic waste: landfills)**
- **Businesses, including schools, must recycle organic waste if they generate more than 4 cubic yards of waste per week.**
- **Food waste in the same bin as the rest of the trash CONTAMINATES anything potentially recyclable.**



# Food Waste Collection

## All Food

fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, rice, beans, pasta, bread, cheese and eggshells.

## Toda Comida

frutas, verduras, carnes, mariscos, pescados, huesos, arroz, frijoles, pastas, pan, quesos, cáscaras de huevo.

## Food-soiled Paper

waxed cardboard, napkins, paper towels, paper plates, paper milk cartons, tea bags, coffee grounds/filters, wooden crates, sawdust.

## Papel Manchado por Comida

cartón encerado, servilletas, platos y toallas de papel, filtros y residuos de café, recipientes de cartón para leche, bolsas de té, cajas de madera, aserrín.

## Plants

floral trimmings, tree trimmings, leaves, grass, brush, weeds.

## Plantas

recortes de flores y árboles, hojas, césped cortado, malezas, hierbas.

## No!

plastic bags/wrap/straws  
Styrofoam  
bottles and cans  
aluminum foil  
liquids  
hazardous waste

## ¡No!

bolsas/envolturas/pajitas de plástico  
espuma de poliestireno  
botellas y latas  
papel de aluminio  
líquidos  
desechos peligrosos



Questions?  
323-780-7150



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# Organic Waste Recycling Program

1. All food waste is collected in smaller bins inside the participating Food Service Establishment.



2. Smaller bins are emptied into larger outdoor containers.



3. Food waste is mixed with green waste at a composting facility.



4. The mixed material is cured for about three months.



5. The finished product, a nutrient-rich compost, is screened to remove larger pieces.



6. The nutrient-rich compost is used by farmers and gardeners to help grow bigger and better crops.



## QUESTIONS?

CALL: 323-780-7150

- or -

EMAIL: [Southlanddisposal@aol.com](mailto:Southlanddisposal@aol.com)





# Organic Waste Sorting Initiative

Trays ? Green Bins ? Trash/Recycling (mixed) ? Liquids ? Silverware ? Share Table ? START



Trash & Recycling gets sorted by our hauler.

Liquids get poured here – lessening potential recycling contamination & reducing weight of organics.

Silverware

Share Table (Unopened Cafeteria Items & Fruits)

# How Does It Work?

- Weekly or Bi-Weekly Hauling must be arranged to industrial compost facility (GUSD cost is \$127/month)
- Purchase materials needed. Create and post signage.
- Students are instructed on how to sort at the start of every school year.
- Roll out should include an educational assembly and parent volunteers (for 2 weeks)
- Principal, Custodial, Lunchroom and Yard Duty support is vital.
- Student Volunteers are the key to long term success!

GLC Lead Volunteer Joanna!

We love giving tours to guests



Parent  
Volunteer  
Lanyards

