

# LAKEWOOD ZERO WASTE SCHOOL PROGRAM

A collaborative effort of the City of Lakewood, Jeffco School District and local nonprofit, EcoCycle, to bring zero waste practices and education to every school in Lakewood

## Is your school eligible?

### Within Lakewood City Boundaries



This program is funded by Carry-Out Bag Fees paid to Lakewood retailers and remitted to the City to fund waste diversion programs.

### Elementary School



Food waste per student is higher at elementary schools (older students produce less plate waste and high schools have off-campus lunch options). Elementary students will also be in the district longer and investing in their habits early on is more impactful.

### School Leadership & Staff Support



School administration and facilities staff are the ultimate decision-makers within a school's culture. Without sufficient support and motivation from within, no program succeeds. Therefore, parent interest alone is not the driving factor when selecting a school. Parent driven initiatives also tend to wane with the child's matriculation to a new school.

## Who is involved?



## What does the program entail?

Each school receives the following support to launch recycling, composting, and "share tables" in their cafeteria:

- Pre-launch planning sessions with key staff
- Pre-and post-program waste audits
- Hands-on education and training
- Multiple weeks of on-site implementation support in the cafeteria
- Compost collection services
- Waste bins for the cafeteria & kitchen
- Annual retrainings as-needed and classroom-based environmental education

## How can we participate?

The partners are able to launch up to two schools per academic year in Lakewood. Schools are selected by Jeffco based on success factors. Once you have principal approval, [fill out this interest form](#) as a first step.

## What are other options?

We recommend schools explore the following opportunities too:

- **We Don't Waste** - Audits & Food Recovery Hub Field Trips
- **City of Lakewood** - Kid's Climate Grant
- **World Wildlife Fund** - Food Waste Warrior Curriculum
- **Plastic Free Schools** - Reusable Dishware Subsidies for Zero Waste Events
- **Princess Gardens Worm Farm** - Classroom Story Time