

Submission for
Recycle Florida Today
Environmental Sustainability Award

Sustainability in Palm Beach County Public Schools



Sustainable Schools

Top-performing urban school district in Florida



Introduction

The School District of Palm Beach County has a longstanding commitment to sustainability. In 2009, our School Board adopted the District's first "green" policy, *Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse and Recycling*, which guides waste reduction and resource conservation throughout District practices. We have since adopted five more policies that support and promote sustainable practices throughout departments, schools and offices.

To further our go-green journey, the District's Environmental & Conservation Services (ECS) Department leads the *School Sustainability* initiative. This program provides resources to 186 schools interested in waste reduction & recycling, energy & water conservation and other green practices that support a healthy school environment.

We recognize that school-based sustainability has the potential to impact not only our District's 183,000 students, but also local residents and neighborhoods. It is this philosophy that has led us to foster relationships with community members interested in greening our schools. Partners such as: FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County, The Carton Council, Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, the City of West Palm Beach, the City of Boynton Beach, the City of Lake Worth Beach, Palm Beach County's Office of Resiliency, USGBC Center for Green Schools and the Pollution Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County have supported sustainability in Palm Beach County Public Schools.



District-wide Sustainability

Green practices are integrated into many policies to ensure that we are lessening our impact on the environment and promoting environmental stewardship.

- 2.24 [School Bus and Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicle Idling Reduction](#)
- 2.035 [Wellness Promotion](#)
- 6.14 [Environmentally Preferable Purchasing](#)
- 7.195 [Indoor Air Quality](#)
- 7.196 [Energy and Water Use Conservation Use](#)
- 7.1965 [Energy Conservation Incentive Program](#)
- 7.197 [Waste Reduction, Materials reuse and Recycling](#)



Our schools love to recycle!

Chole Lake Elementary School Recycles!



Gove Elementary School Recycles!



Palm Springs Middle School Recycles!



Forest Hill Elementary Recycles!

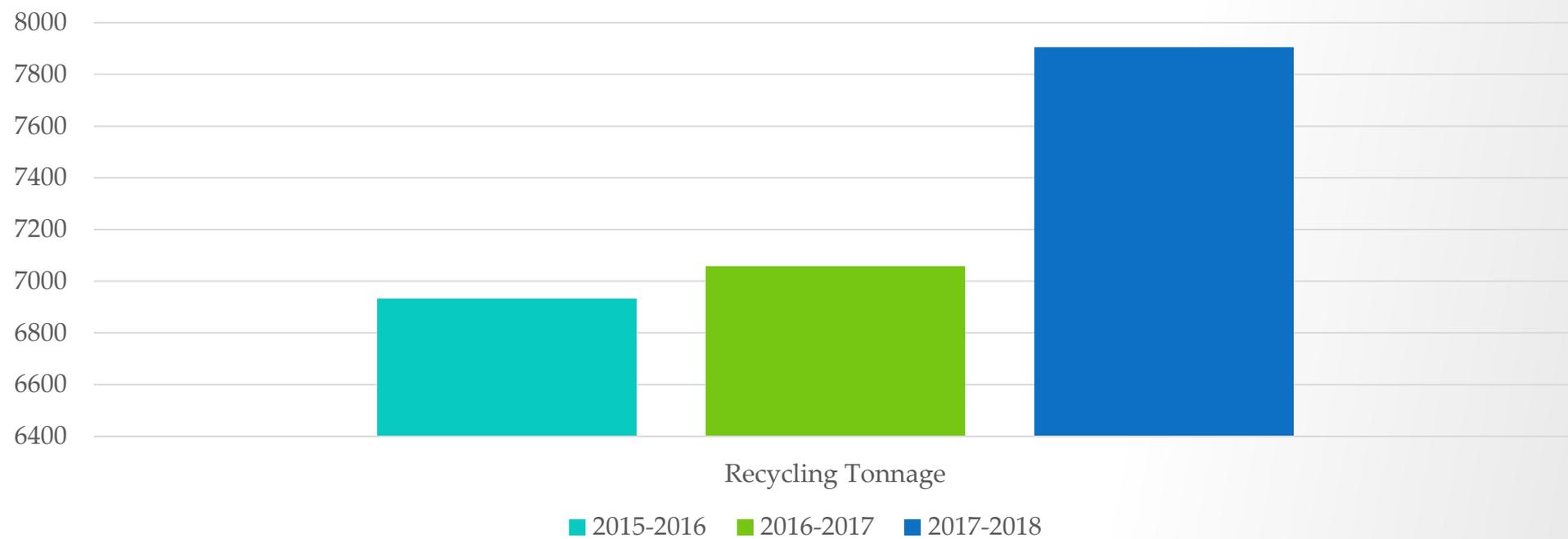


Forest Hill High Recycles!



Palm Beach Central High Recycles!

SDPBC Recycling Data (Amount in Tons)



The School District of Palm Beach County has increased our recycling by approximately 1,000 tons over the past 3 years. The following materials are recycled District-wide:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastic/aluminum, glass, cartons)
- Electronics
- Textiles
- Metal
- Paint
- Batteries
- Ink & Toner Cartridges



How Do We Support Recycling?

- Environmental & Conservation Services Department Staff promotes recycling awareness and education through:
 - On-site presentations
 - Consultations with school staff
 - Posters and educational resources
 - Our e-newsletter, the Green Scene
 - Social media posts and ECS website
 - Community partnerships
 - New and innovative programming for schools



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Planet Protector Academy: *Zero Heroes Curriculum*

- Offered new in the 2018-2019 school year, SDPBC is the first district in Florida to partner with the Planet Protector Academy, tying waste reduction and recycling practices with classroom instruction.
- The *Zero Heroes* curriculum is for grades 3-5, meets Sunshine State Standards and is free for SDPBC teachers
- We had over 100 classes sign up to use the program in the first year!
- SDPBC is planning to partner again with Planet Protector Academy in the upcoming school year on a webinar to help engage district teachers in using the curriculum



Providing Access to Recycling Resources



In the 2017-2018 school year, we partnered with Recycle Across America to start labeling our recycling collection bins. Whole Foods Marketplace donated 6,000 to get us started. Standardized labels will help us decrease contamination and increase recycling awareness.

In the 2018-2019 school year, we piloted a new rolling recycling collection bin based on feedback from schools and their student-run environmental clubs!



• In the 2015-2016 school year, a Recycling Program Survey was distributed to 185 *School Recycling Contacts* in order to help the District identify recycling challenges and solutions so that we can continue to uphold School Board Policy 7.197, Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse & Recycling.

- School Recycling Contacts are teachers, staff and school administrators who have voluntarily accepted responsibility for championing their school's recycling initiatives.
- According to the survey, one of the biggest obstacles facing our school recycling efforts was that schools need more access to bins, including user-friendly bins.
 - The results prompted us to revamp our District's approach to developing a school-wide culture of sustainability and we focused on securing funding for recycling bins.
- Our District already received paper collection boxes for paper recycling from the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County. Schools have the option to order these bins free every year

• Bins to collect commingled items (plastic, aluminum and glass) were periodically purchased by way of District recycling rebate programs from textile recycling, paper recycling and ink & toner recycling. We were also able to purchase bins through a community partnership with Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, our local Keep America Beautiful affiliate. However, uncertain funding sources made it difficult to satisfy the current demands of schools and the growing need for District-wide sustainability programs. So, in 2017-2018 the District approved a line item in the budget to fund sustainability programs. To date, the following bins have been purchased by District Sustainability Funds:



**6-gallon buckets
(For Elementary)**

QTY: 1,050 bins purchased
All bins delivered.



**28-quart desksides
(For Middle and High)**

QTY: 1,200 bins purchased
All bins delivered.



**32-gallon w/8" cut out lids
(For All)**

QTY: 165 bins purchased
All bins delivered.



**28-quart desksides
(For Recycle Across America pilot)**

QTY: 250 bins purchased
All bins delivered

SDPBC Green Grants— Classroom mini-grants program:

Background:

- The 2015-2016 Recycling Program Survey also indicated that schools needed more guidance from the District, including resources to help support their recycling programs. Green Grants, a classroom mini-grants program, was created as a means to provide this support to schools and uphold Board Policy 7.197 Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse and Recycling.

Pilot year 2016-2017

- Projects focused on recycling or reuse
- Funded by the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County and the District
- Seven (7) schools each received \$200
- Results: Schools were able to increase recycling rates, improve student participation in recycling activities and add new options to sort recyclables.

Year two (2) 2017-2018

- Projects areas:
 - Outdoor and Environmental Education
 - Energy & Water Conservation
 - Green Purchasing/Fundraising
 - Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Fully funded by the District
- Fifteen (15) schools each received \$200
- Results: Recipients reported that students were able to practice leadership skills while contributing to the development of a school-wide culture of environmental awareness.



Green Champion Program

- During the 2018-2019 school year, Green Grants grew into what is now known as the Green Champion Program
- Green Champions are school staff passionate about teaching environmental awareness and have the leadership skills needed to initiate sustainable practices within their school culture.
- Green Champions are eligible for supplies that support school-based green initiatives and environmental education/classroom instruction
- Green Champions will work with their Green Team to develop a School Sustainability Plan, setting goals in the following areas in order to support our District policies:

- Outdoor and Environmental Education
- Energy and Water Conservation
- Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Healthy Schools
- Apply for recognition

GREEN CHAMPION SUPPLY BUDGET ITEM SPREADSHEET

Name:	
School:	A

Outdoor and Environmental Education	Cost/Unit	QTY #	Cost
National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat	\$30.00		\$0.00
UV Shade Canopy (12ft X16 ft)	\$47.99		\$0.00
Subscription to USGBC's Learning Lab (1-year)	\$40.00		\$0.00
Learning Outside the Classroom: Theory and Guidelines for Practice	\$40.00		\$0.00
Outdoor Clipboards (Set of 3)	\$18.22		\$0.00
TOTAL			\$0.00

Energy and Water Conservation	Cost/Unit	QTY #	Cost
Upcycled Rain Barrel (55 gal)	\$70.00		\$0.00
Storm drain marker/label (District representative will install)	\$5.00		\$0.00
Kilowatt Meter	\$16.99		\$0.00
Alternative Energy Kit	\$48.77		\$0.00
3-Inch Solar Cell 500mA Output Current	\$9.72		\$0.00
TOTAL			\$0.00

Waste Reduction and Recycling	Cost/Unit	QTY #	Cost
Resource Depot Subscription	\$30.00		\$0.00
Scale to weigh recyclables	\$10.00		\$0.00
Yimby Tumbler Composter	\$79.00		\$0.00
Recycle It Kit: Make a recycled product from waste paper by Kemtec	\$53.79		\$0.00
45-gallon Wheeled blue recycling collection bin	\$30.00		\$0.00
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Bulletin Board Set	\$10.43		\$0.00
TOTAL			\$0.00

Green Purchasing	Cost/Unit	QTY #	Cost
Glass Meal Prep Containers 3 Compartment (Pack of 6)	\$45.00		\$0.00
Organic Herb Seed (Set of 12)	\$13.00		\$0.00
21 Ounce Reusable Water Bottles (Minimum Qty: 25)	\$4.00		\$0.00
Non-dyed Mulch (order a minimum of 10 bags)	\$3.00		\$0.00
Reusable Straws (set of 8)	\$8.00		\$0.00
TOTAL			\$0.00

Healthy Schools	Cost/Unit	QTY #	Cost
Kids' Fun and Healthy Cookbook by Nicola Grealms	\$12.00		\$0.00
Master of Mindfulness: How to be your own superhero in times of stress by Laurie Grossman	\$13.00		\$0.00
Teens Cook: How to Cook What You Want to Eat by Megan and Jill Carle	\$14.00		\$0.00
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey	\$16.00		\$0.00
Food Chemistry and Nutrition Lab	\$60.00		\$0.00
TOTAL			\$0.00

Professional Development	Cost/Unit	QTY #	Cost
Project Learning Tree GreenSchools Online Training Course	\$25.00		\$0.00
The Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0 Online Training and Certificate	\$60.00		\$0.00
USGBC Green Classroom Professional Certification	\$40.00		\$0.00
Green Schools Investigations (printed guide-how to form a Green Team w/hands-on activities)	\$35.00		\$0.00
TOTAL			\$0.00

TOTAL ALLOWED*:	\$100.00
TOTAL SPENT:	\$0.00
BALANCE:	\$100.00

- 59 schools in the District were reached in the pilot year; each received a \$100 supply budget to order items supporting their green initiatives.
- Green Purchasing, Outdoor & Environmental Education and Waste Reduction & Recycling were the top 3 areas of school sustainability funded by the District's Green Champion Program

Snapshots: Green Champion Sponsored Projects



Indian Pines Elementary School students work to beautify their campus with eco-friendly mulch.



Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School students weigh trash to measure the impact of their recycling program.



Students at Galaxy Elementary School learn about energy consumption with their new kilowatt meter.



Students at Highland Elementary School are Storm Drain Monitors to keep pollution from entering our waterways.

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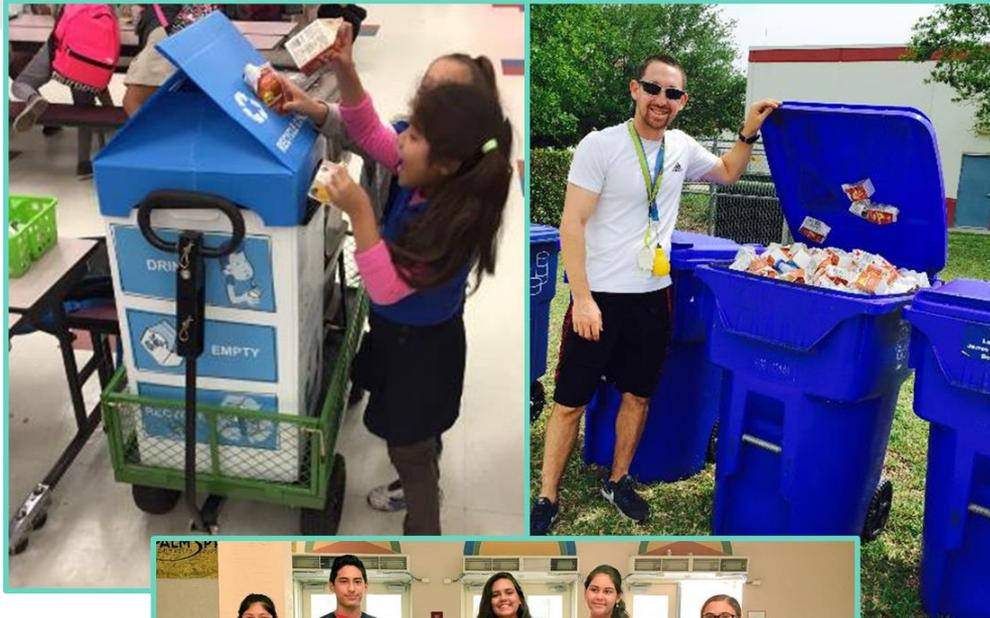
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Carton Recycling Initiative



- In 2016-2017 SDPBC received a \$5,000 grant from the Carton Council of North America.
- SDPBC piloted a carton recycling program in seven (7) schools that were not currently recycling cartons
 - Baseline carton recycling count before pilot: Zero (0)
 - Total cartons collected for recycling after pilot: 159,729 over a five month period
- The District created a “carton recycling station” for each pilot school, making sure schools received all the necessary materials and training needed to implement the recycling program
- Results:
 - Recycling participation increased an average of 27% at pilot schools.
 - 100% of schools included the pilot as an additional “green” program for their *Green Schools Recognition Program* application.
 - Further, the pilot program diverted an average of 33,544 pounds of landfill/incinerator trash.

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Gaylord boxes are in every school and ancillary facility



Pickups occur on-site

Electronic Waste Recycling

Electronic Waste (E-Waste) is a growing and continual need for our District, since E-waste is generated in every one of our 185 schools and over 20 ancillary departments.

- Since 2015, the District has secured an electronics recycling facility that holds EPA and R2 certifications.
- Over 1 million pounds of E-waste has been properly recycled or resold which has netted the District \$50,000 in three years.

The District's E-waste program is successful due in part, because it was developed with multiple units including:

- Purchasing Department
- IT Department
- Facilities Services: Utilities Section
- Assets Management Department
- Environmental & Conservation Services Department

Education of the program occurs in a variety of methods including District-wide bulletins, website, presentations to School IT Techs and Media Specialist, Custodians, and other audiences as needed.

Proper end life management of electronics is the responsibility of all employees and this program is user friendly and the pickup of E-waste occurs at each school/facility site.

Textile Recycling Partnership

- 85 schools and 2 ancillary facilities have enrolled with District business partner, Funraising Dollars.com, to recycle textiles. Each participating site has its own collection bin that is delivered to the school or facility.
- Participation is easy! Students, staff, families and community members may drop off items in the bin. Once the bin is near full, the SMART bin technology notifies the company and then the bin is emptied.
- By recycling, schools can earn 10 cents for each pound of textiles collected. In one school year, the schools earned over \$24,000!



Keep Fashions in Style - RECYCLE

Dragons Showing Off at Don Estridge High Tech Middle School

Any textile you want to give a second life!



Funds raised through funraisingdollars.com can be used for environmental clubs, special projects or school wish lists. By recycling clothing and keeping textiles out of landfills, students participate in conserving our resources.

Don Estridge High Tech Middle School's winning Submission for the "Bin It to Win It" textile recycling contest in SY '17



Paper Recycling Fundraiser



DISTRICT-WIDE PAPER RECYCLING CONTEST WINNERS!

In partnership with Recycling Services of Florida, the District's Environmental & Conservation Services Department would like to recognize the following schools for winning "Top Paper Recycler" in their grade category during the March-April contest period:

Top Elementary School : South Grade — 1.98 tons

Top Middle School : Tradewinds — 2.24 tons

Top High School : Wellington — 3.15 tons

Winning schools will receive a cash bonus award! Congratulations!

A special bonus will also be given to the overall top paper recycler for the 2016-2017 school year:

John I. Leonard High, 10.77 tons



- The District has participated in a paper recycling fundraiser for the past 12 years. The fundraiser is open to all eligible schools and currently provides a \$5 a ton rebate directly to the schools. Last school year, SDPBC recycled 522 tons of paper!
- To further incentivize paper recycling, the District has partnered with our vendor over the years to offer a contest to the District's top paper recyclers.
- Schools are also provided with a "Paper Recycling Scorecard," which includes a green rating to help schools understand their environmental effort

Green Savings

Energy (electricity)	17,343 (kWh)
Trees	71.9
Oil	355 (gallons)
Water	29,610 (gallons)

Statistics provided by EPA.gov

Your Green Rating

Score (tons):	Rating:
0 - .99	Bronze - Needs Attention
1 - 1.99	Silver - Met Regime
2 - 3.99	Gold - Above Average
4+	Platinum - Exceptional

Your Score is: 2.12

The Environmental & Conservation Services Department conducts waste and recycling audits throughout the school year. Audits help to identify common items that cause contamination, which allows the District to target recycling education accordingly. Further, audits highlight items that can potentially be reduced from the waste stream altogether. For example, schools recycle thousands of plastic water bottles and steps are now being taken to decrease the need for single-use plastics in schools.



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Waste Reduction

Our District is taking steps to reduce plastic waste!

- As of 2018-2019, new construction schools will now be outfitted with at least one water bottle refill station
- The refill stations help students stay hydrated while promoting reusable water bottles over single use plastic bottles.

The District's Wellness Promotion Taskforce Annual Spotlight on Students showcased a high school student who raised funds for two water refill stations at Highland Elementary School, a Title 1 School

- The project shows the potential waste reduction impact of water refill stations in a school setting
- Data showed a predicted daily decrease of plastic use from six plastic water bottles a day to just 0.44



Environmental & Conservation Services piloted several hundred reusable water bottles as part of the Green Champion program. We have plans to purchase even more for next school year!



Highland Elementary Hydration: Clean and Green

<https://youtu.be/-9bWWPdYsGk>

Food Waste

SCHOOL COMPOSTING GUIDELINES
This document provides District schools with proper composting practices and safety recommendations.

Why compost?

- Composting is the decomposition of organic waste such as food or plant material by microbes (bacteria and fungi) or earthworms (vermiculture). The end result of composting is decayed organic matter called **humus**. Humus is fantastic to use in your garden to help keep your plants healthy.
- According to the **EPA**, "food scraps and yard waste currently make up 20 to 30 percent of what we throw away. Making compost sends less material to incinerators and keeps materials out of the landfill where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas."

What do you need to get started?

- Your school must first purchase a compost bin that has been approved by the **Environmental and Conservation Services Department**. Bins must be a minimum of 3' x 3' x 3'. Be sure your compost bin has a tightly secured lid. Bins should be placed on top of a hard surface, such as a concrete paver, to deter rodents.
- Your compost needs three basic things: food, water and oxygen.
- Food:** i.e. brown and green materials will help to create a balance in your compost for decomposition.
- Water:** Add enough water to make your compost moist, but not dripping wet.
- Oxygen:** Turn compost every week to oxygenate. (Most compost pile issues come from lack of oxygen, so mix it up!) You can use a rake or a stick to mix. **Students should not turn compost!**

How do you compost?

- Start by alternating brown and green materials in your compost bin. Brown materials include paper, cardboard, dead leaves, branches and twigs. Green materials include vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and grass. Brown materials are a source of carbon for your compost and green materials are a source of nitrogen.
- To help speed up the decomposition, particle size should be less than 2-3 inches.
- Your compost should have about 50% brown and 50% green materials in your compost bin.

Important safety tips:

- Do not add meat, dairy or pet waste to your compost bin.
- Do not add food scraps from people who are ill to your compost bin. Students and staff should always wear gloves (disposable are recommended) when handling compost. Wash hands with soap and water before use.
- Practice good personal hygiene. Students and staff should always wear gloves (disposable are recommended) when handling compost. Wash hands with soap and water before use. This will ensure the compost is safe to use. Individuals with open cuts should avoid handling compost. Compost should be aged for at least one (1) year before use. This will ensure the compost is safe to use. Individuals with open cuts should avoid handling compost. Compost should be aged for at least one (1) year before use. This will ensure the compost is safe to use.



School Food Service created a video to promote sharing tables that reduce food waste and encourage sharing food on a peer level:

<https://vodcast.palmbeachschools.org/player/ROCF3>

– SDPBC currently has 81 sites with a sharing table.



SCHOOL COMPOSTING GUIDELINES

Frequently Asked Questions:

- My compost smells, what should I do?
 - Sometimes too many "greens" can throw off the balance of your compost. Try adding more brown material.
- My compost pile won't heat up, what should I do?
 - Check and see if your pile has enough moisture—if not, add some water. If it is adequately watered and still won't heat up, add new material on top, or turn it.
- My compost pile has bugs in it, what do I do?
 - Most common piles will have insects and they won't harm your compost—in fact they're actually helping to break it down. Before using, spread the compost in a thin layer on a tarp in direct sunlight and leave there to dry. The bugs will leave quickly and you'll be left with bug free compost!
- How do I get started?
 - Contact your school's Area Manager to get a compost bin installed at your school! (The Area Manager is well versed with regard to the specific guidelines, policies and procedures put forth by the District as it relates to projects taking place on the school grounds.)

YES	NO
Fruits and vegetables	Coal or charcoal ash
Eggshells	Dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt)
Coffee grounds and filters	Disposed or insect-killed plants
Tea bags	Fats, grease, lard, or oils (including salad dressing)
Nut shells	Wheat, Eggs or fish bones and scraps
Shredded newspaper	Hot wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)
Cardboard	Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides
Staples	
Yard trimmings	
Grass clippings	
Houseplants	
Hay and straw	
Leaves	
Sawdust	
Wood chips	
Cotton and Wool Rags	
Dryer & vacuum cleaner lint	
Hair and fur	

Source: <https://www.spsd.org/recycle/composting-at-home>

Educational Resources

CYSWMD Organics: [Do the Bin Thing: A Teacher's Guide to Composting Activities](#)
 Life-Less: [Composting: Learning Resources and Videos](#)
 Palm Beach County School District: [Garden Enthusiasts' Guide](#)
 University of Florida/IFAS Extension: [Composting Quiz](#)

Questions about maintaining or starting a new garden at school? Contact the Garden Collaboration Team!



SDPBC supports and promotes our school garden program. We have developed presentations and a set of guidelines to help schools.



Many of our schools have their own food waste reduction initiatives

– The “Eat Your Food, Don’t Throw it Away” poster was created by an art teacher at one of our elementary schools.

– We promote this idea to other schools in an effort to reduce cafeteria food waste

ECS Department provided training to School Food Service Cafeteria Managers on school sustainability, including composting and eco-friendly lunch tray options

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Health and Wellness



School Food Service Health Fair



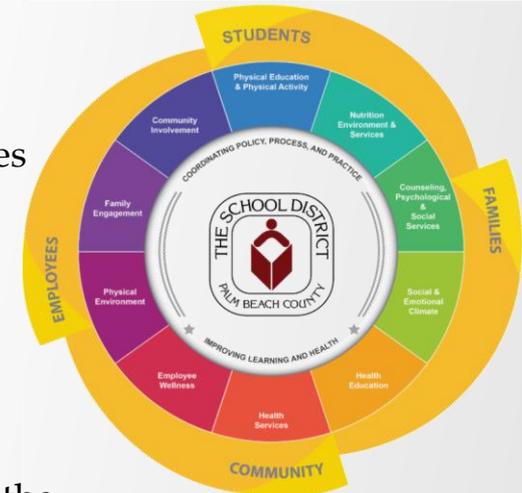
Wellness Champions

In 2006, the District adopted its first Wellness Promotion Policy. Since then, SDPBC has created the *Wellness Promotion Collaboration Team*, who together, steer an educational forum that allows stakeholders to collaborate on strategies that the District can use to promote health and wellness in support of our wellness policy. The team is led by School Food Service and is made up of several departments across the District to ensure wellness initiatives are shared with the intent to develop healthier minds and bodies in our students, staff and the community as a whole. Several events are planned throughout the school year to promote wellness and spotlight those making an impact on wellness. There are ten “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child” components of the District’s wellness policy, which are as follows:



Wellness Promotion Taskforce Event

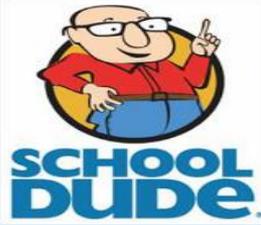
- Physical Education & Physical Activity
- Nutrition Environment & Services
- Counseling, Psychological & Social Services
- Social & Emotional Climate
- Health Education
- Health Services
- Employee Wellness
- Physical Environment
- Family Engagement
- Community Involvement



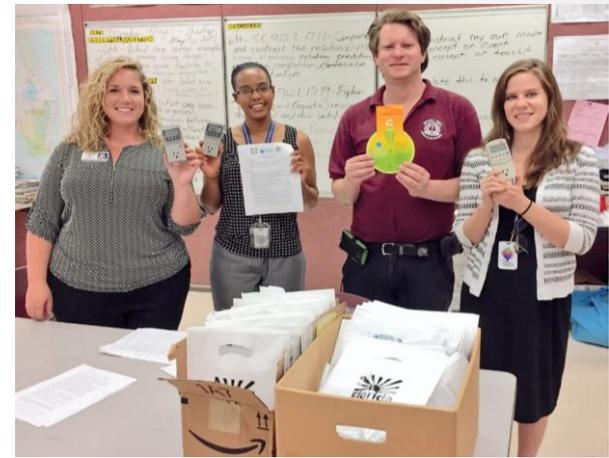
The District’s Wellness Promotion Policy was revised and recently adopted by the School Board of Palm Beach County in March of 2019. Updates included the addition of the School Sustainability Plan to track initiatives, like recycling, and assess the progress of where schools are in terms of greening school operations and procedures.

Energy & Water Conservation

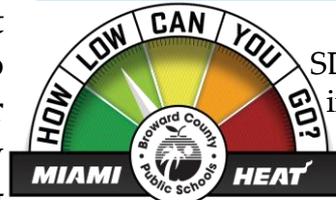
In an effort to control energy usage in District facilities, SDPBC utilizes a computerized Energy Management System (EMS). EMS provides an automated way of scheduling the air conditioning and lighting systems as well as monitoring the alarms on freezers and other equipment. A small team of EMS Technicians operate the system, inputting schedules, responding to customer inquiries and troubleshooting system errors. To cut energy usage, the District also implements automatic computer shutdowns, summer & holiday shutdowns of buildings and turning off exterior lights at night.



The District's Utilities Section has launched a software program called School Dude, which includes an online dashboard to track all utilities consumption data including: electricity, water/sewer, propane and natural gas.



"Kill-a-watt" pilot, a partnership with City of West Palm Beach and Pollution Prevention Coalition of PBC to increase student awareness about energy consumption

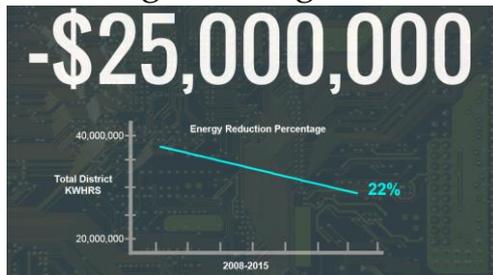


SDPBC participates in a Broward County Public Schools initiative called, *How Low Can You Go Energy Challenge*. This tri-county program challenges schools to reduce their energy consumption.

We had a record 39 schools participate in the 2018-2019 school year, a 69% increase from the year before. Our District's commitment to facilities upgrades, reduced an average of 10% and saved \$126,064 from the previous school year's three-month contest period!



Energy conservation stickers are available free to District schools.



From fiscal years 2008-2015, the District reduced its energy usage by 22%, saving over \$25 million



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Adopt A Storm Drain Pilot

- The Adopt a Storm Drain Pilot was a collaboration between the Pollution Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County, the District's Environmental & Conservation Services Department and the City of West Palm Beach's Mayor's Office of Sustainability.
- Goal: To raise awareness on preventing storm drain pollution
- Students were engaged in a science lesson, which taught them about water quality and the importance of protecting storm drains from litter, chemicals and other pollutants.
- Photo captions from top to bottom:
 - This project was made possible thanks to strong partnerships and dedicated educators
 - Students received a background lesson on the role of storm drains
 - Students became "storm drain monitors" after labeling storm drains on campus
 - Students participated in an enviroscape demonstration where they simulated the pathways pollutants can take after a rainstorm
- Environmental & Conservation Services has gone on to label storm drains at six other schools through the Green Champion Program.



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SDPBC has nine (9) wetland and upland preserve areas located on school properties throughout Palm Beach County.

District Environmental Restoration Project

Environmental & Conservation Services (ECS) is in the final phase of a unique 3-year restoration project to revive a degraded Florida pine-flatwoods habitat at Pierce Hammock Elementary School. This upland habitat is now the 9th site in the District to become a designated preserve area.

ECS is partnering with Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) to remove exotic and invasive species and plant Florida natives in order to restore the area's natural habitat.

The new preserve will also serve as a donor site through ERM's mitigation program. This means



that construction activities that have occurred elsewhere in the county are able to credit their tree canopy loss by replanting native plants and trees on District property.

Schools with preserves are encouraged to use them as outdoor learning environments. To learn about the District's other wetland and upland preserves located on school properties, visit: www.palmbeachschools.org/ecs/wetlands.

BEFORE



AFTER



FY 2019: SWAPBC Beautification Grant

- ECS received an \$8,000 grant from the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County
- SWA's mission for the grant is to provide a safer, healthier and more aesthetically pleasing environment for residents.
- ECS targeted a goal to reduce litter and ECS' approved project was to restore a nature preserve at the East Transportation Facility

Partnering for Professional Development

- The Learn Green Conference ran annually from 2009-2015 as a partnership between FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center and the School District of Palm Beach County.
 - Learn Green was a sharing of ideas about how to green the day-to-day operations and curriculum of schools, with an emphasis on practical and easy-to-implement steps.
 - Teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members were encouraged to attend. Teachers received professional development credits.
- In 2017, the conference transitioned to FAU Pine Jog Environmental Center's *Learn Green Institute*, a series of workshops on various green school topics.
 - The School District of Palm Beach County now serves to support this new venture in the role as a presenter on school recycling procedures and also how to green school events.



Chief of Support Operations at the School District (2002-2013), Joseph Sanches, speaks at the Learn Green Conference

Green Building

- From 2009-2017, the School District has achieved LEED certification for twelve (12) schools, according to standards set by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). Galaxy E3 Elementary School in Boynton Beach, FL was the first school in the state to earn LEED Platinum status.
- The School District of Palm Beach County has provided presentations to LEED schools in order to help them gain an understanding of what LEED means and how to incorporate their building's certification into classroom learning.
- SDPBC currently has one school certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition.
- Moving forward, the District plans for all new construction to be built to one of the green building system standards recognized by the State of Florida.
- Verde Elementary School is slated to be the first big building project under these new standards and should be completed by August 2020.



***Recently LEED certified:**

The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach (2015)

Gove Elementary (2016)

Glade View Elementary (2017)

The District partnered with Wisch and Jackson, an HVAC controls and automation contractor to run a website highlighting green building features, recycling and providing real-time data on LEED schools

<http://apps.palmbeachschools.org/gs/>

Top-performing urban school district in Florida



SDPBC Green Recognition

U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Award:

- District Award: 2013
- School Awards: Pine Jog Elementary, 2012 and Gove Elementary, 2018

Florida Green School Network

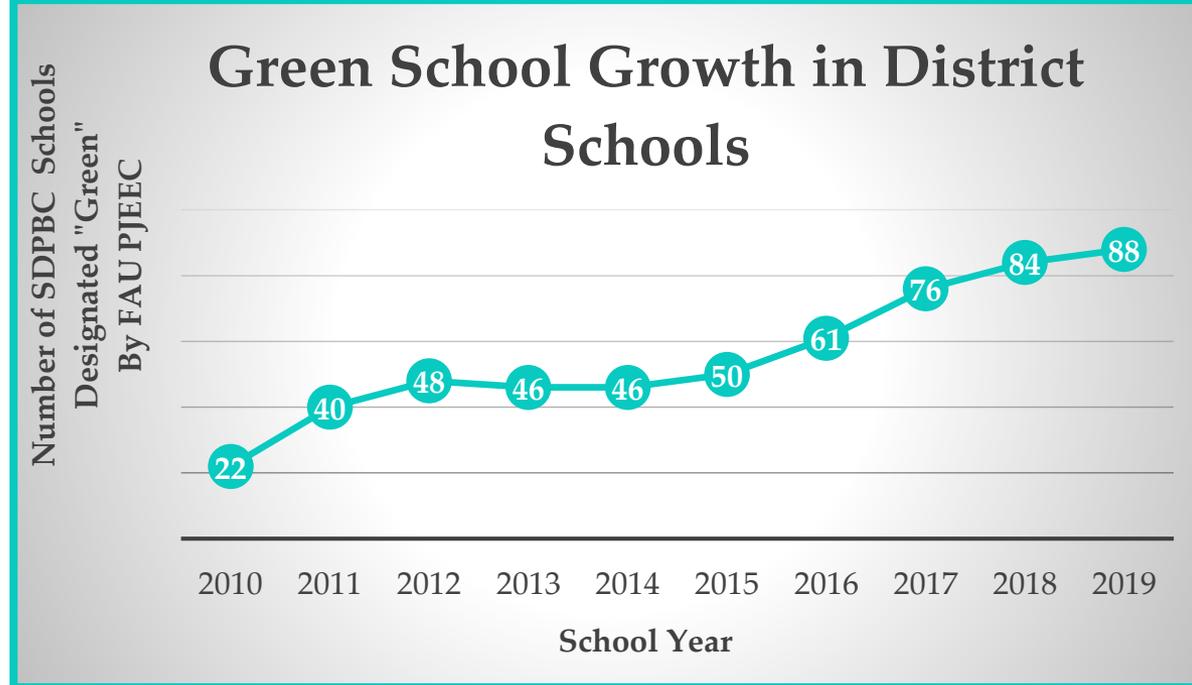
- 2017-2018: Silver level
- 2016-2017: Gold level
- 2015-2016: Gold level
- 2014-2015

FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center's Green Schools Recognition Program

- 2008 : 22 SDPBC schools were designated *Green*
- 2019 : 88 SDPBC schools were designated *Green*

2016 U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools District Sustainability Award

- One of five Districts in the Nation to receive award in 2016



FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center's Green Schools Recognition Program. Schools are designated *green* when they have made strides in:

- Making school grounds enhancements that encourage the use of the grounds as a learning environment and enhance the areas ecological integrity.
- Enhancing school sustainability through the conservation of energy and water and the reduction of solid wastes.
- Promoting healthy eating choices, physical fitness and social-emotional wellbeing
- Integrating curriculum that will prepare students to understand and act on current and future environmental challenges facing South Florida.
- Involvement with the community that fosters partnerships within the school building and local organizations in an effort to create an awareness of environmental issues between the school and the community.
- Green practices reach staff and students school-wide, through professional development and the creation of a school philosophy and culture that embraces sustainability.



We communicate green news, including recycling updates, events and projects with nearly 500 green contacts in our schools, departments and community organizations. This helps us connect with schools and partners as well as puts a spotlight on sustainability in the District.



The Green Scene E-Newsletter

MORE OF
EVERYTHING YOU
WANT FOR
YOUR CHILD



PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS
Your *BEST* Choice!

Throughout the years, the School District of Palm Beach County has proven that green school practices reinforce a positive and supportive school climate. A sustainable school culture creates a sense of camaraderie and instills the importance of giving back to the community while being good stewards of the environment. We value environmental stewardship therefore green initiatives are front and center across our schools. As a leader in school sustainability, we continue to look for innovative programs and partnerships to expand and improve upon our waste reduction and recycling initiatives. In addition, our focus on health and wellness, energy and water conservation, environmentally preferable purchasing and outdoor and environmental education are integral to our success.

Perhaps most of all, our School Sustainability goal is to support teachers, students and administrators in their efforts to make the planet a better place.



Butterfly Garden
Boynton Beach High School



Recycling Club
Conniston Middle School



School Garden
Barton Elementary School