



**DATE:** September 10, 2020

**TO:** Programs and Administration Committee  
Planning Committee/Recycling Board

**FROM:** Angelina Vergara, Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Schools Outreach COVID-19 Update

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## **SUMMARY**

Since March when schools shifted from in-person to distance learning, the StopWaste Schools Team has been working on being responsive to the needs of school stakeholders. At the committee meetings, staff will present their collaborative approach to providing virtual training and other resources to students, their families, teachers and school leaders during this pandemic.

## **DISCUSSION**

StopWaste schools-based outreach has traditionally provided K-12 students with environmental education programs that encourage students and their families to take action at school, at home and in their communities. Programs include transfer station field trips at Waste Management's Davis Street and Fremont BLT Transfer Stations, Stop Food Waste schoolwide challenges that support food share tables, and working with schools and school districts on waste reduction initiatives through train-the-trainer workshops. Through lessons in food cycle systems, students take action by having their families do home waste audits, and then commit to food waste reduction behaviors using the Stop Food Waste campaign toolkit.

When schools shifted to distance-learning, StopWaste staff implemented several forums and surveys to assess what teachers, families and students need in order to engage in environmental education and how StopWaste can help meet that need. With this assessment, and applying their expertise in helping students take action at home, staff undertook the following:

- Transformed train-the-trainer workshops into a Virtual Earth Day with a new online distance-learning curriculum.
- Leveraged an annual art and social media contest into an opportunity to engage students to take action at home and share their stories.

- Kicked off the school year in August with a webinar that showcased the updated web-based distance learning resources, including a digital storytelling platform, and teacher and student showcases of actions taken during the COVID19 pandemic.
- Created virtual education tours, including a Virtual Tour Stop at the Davis Street Transfer Station ([Virtual-Transfer-Station-Field-Trips](#)).

At the meeting, staff will share examples of the new online distance learning resources and stories of students taking action.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.