



**DATE:** September 25, 2019

**TO:** Waste Management Authority Board

**FROM:** Angelina Vergara, Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Schools-Based Community Outreach

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## **SUMMARY**

The StopWaste schools-based community outreach project educates students in waste reduction habits and supports their actions to reduce waste at school, at home, and in the community. At the September 25 WMA meeting, staff will provide an overview of our K-12 approach and update the Board on key activities and metrics from the past school year.

## **DISCUSSION**

StopWaste provides a comprehensive suite of activities for our local schools, implemented by a team of Associates who gain professional skills and experience in the environmental education field, and are also trained to support other agency outreach programs. Our schools-based community outreach includes:

### Food Waste Prevention at School

Ensure that edible food isn't wasted through food share and donation programs. The K-12 Smart Cafeteria Initiative allows students to share uneaten sealed food or unbitten whole fruit in the school cafeteria by establishing food share tables, then donating surplus food at the end of meal service to feed people in need.

### 4th Grade: Transfer Station/Ed Center Field Trips

Students learn first-hand what happens to their recyclables, compostables and garbage at a materials recovery facility and transfer station. Free bus transportation is provided.

### 4-6th Grade Classrooms: 4Rs Student Action Projects

Students engage in project-based learning and develop skills to make a difference in their school and their community. StopWaste educators visit the classroom and facilitate a three-part series of two-hour lessons.

### Middle & High School: StopWaste Ambassador Program (SWAP)

StopWaste provides teacher training, Green Team Action Project Kits, educator stipends, and technical assistance to help students take action at school and at home.

### Stakeholder Network

Stakeholders, including district sustainability coordinators, teachers, and parents, are provided ongoing environmental education and technical assistance to align their best practices in waste prevention and reduction with StopWaste priorities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.