

**River Road/El Camino del Río**  
**City of Eugene - Waste Prevention Grant Final Report**  
**30 June 2019**

**Informational Display:**

Our original idea was to have one central informational display in the school lobby. After consulting in May 2018 with John Stapleton from Pivot Architecture, the firm that designed the building, we decided that for now, classrooms and other spaces would have their own mini waste-sorting and informational display kiosks for reaching more school community members. He conceded that as a subsequent phase, a larger-scale, permanent or mobile kiosk with seats would be ideal for the open-spaced lobby to greet visitors.

We have a three-dimensional design diagram of a prototype mini kiosk (included here) and are in the process of pricing materials. They will be made from welded metal most likely and are currently looking for a local manufacturer. They will have space for paper-recycling, garbage, and food waste, as well as rotating informational displays. We will keep the city updated on these endeavors. Staff, students, and their families will be continually educated on this important topic through the classroom displays. They will accurately describe the importance of our school's efforts to reduce waste, recycle correctly, and implement composting efforts. These displays will make the connection between personal choices and the global climate crisis, and highlight state-wide, national, and international actions on a regular basis.

It will include ongoing data about waste management and prevention, including garbage, recycling and composting totals compared over time. We completed an initial Waste Audit in 2019 and will compare these data when we do another Waste Audit in May 2020 after having implemented our waste-sorting program for one school year. It will also address how the student Green Team Leadership is actively involved, and how others can join in. All information will be provided in both English and Spanish.

**Fliers:**

We sent home two bilingual family letters/fliers, in May and June 2019, informing the school community of our initial plans to implement a waste-sorting system in the cafeteria. We will send a third letter in September 2019, reminding families of our accomplishments, as well as actively recruiting more members for the Green Team Leadership. Subsequent informative letters in the 2019/20 school year will address how (1) products are sourced/manufactured, (2) to reduce consumption, (3) to reuse as much as possible, (4) to recycle materials properly, and (5) to compost food waste properly. These letters will also suggest ideas to encourage families to adopt their own waste-sorting schemes at home.

**Student Involvement through Green Team Leadership:**

After receiving this grant in February 2018, I started an informal group of self-selected 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students who met weekly to create initial goals and ultimately presented to the

City of Eugene in May 2018, covering our waste-sorting and informational kiosk objectives very generally. These were students with whom I already had a personal relationship since they were my own students when they were in kinder, first, or second grade. This first unofficial batch of Green Team Leadership students found that our waste management system did not align with our school's mission of sustainability and recent accomplishments. We wanted to embody and address the key concepts of **waste prevention, climate change, soil/water/air quality, social justice, and civic engagement/involvement**. These students continue to be connected to our school and have taken steps to begin waste-sorting at Kelly Middle School.

**Session #1** (19 students) (October-December 2018) The first group considered different methods of creating a waste sorting system for a building of our size. We consulted with Tana Shepard to make sure our ideas met the standards of the Love Food, Not Waste program. We talked at length about the methane cycle and how we could educate the school community about the impact we could have globally by simply diverting our food waste from the dump.

**Session #2** (15 students) (January-March 2019) This session delved deep into the methane cycle, and also was keenly interested in student activism around the world. They continued the work of fine-tuning how we would teach the whole school the new routines.

**Session #3** (9 students) (April –June 2019): This group hosted a group observation at lunchtime of how the plan would work. They invited principal Joel Lavin, custodian Craig Young, Head Cook “B” Loftis, Tana Shepard, and Joshua Frankel to hear the plan and get feedback and input. The cohort then began by presenting to the six kinder and first-grade classes individually about the new routine. The scheduling proved prohibitively difficult, so we filmed those initial presentations, then created an educational video for the 2nd-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to show their classes before the launch.

**Number of classroom sessions:** 26 class sessions in total, 45 minutes each, for a total of 1,170 minutes of instruction towards the grant's goals.

**The timeline for our project:**

We successfully launched and trouble-shot the cafeteria waste-sorting system in May and June 2019. When school starts in Fall 2019, leadership students will start working immediately to collect ideas from classroom teachers on how best to expand the waste sorting system throughout the school. Once a full list is compiled, we will research the best sources and prices, and purchase what is needed. We hope to have the mini kiosks in place by June 2020.



Kiosk design



Food waste sorting in cafeteria