



2019/20 4J WASTE PREVENTION

School District 4J



VISION 2020

WE CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW THE WASTE IS (ALMOST) GONE- 2.0

Despite the global pause with the pandemic, it has been another big year in Eugene 4J with regard to climate action and moving our district forward with sustainable practices. Using the 4J Climate Resolution and the City of Eugene's CAP 2.0 plan as anchors, we have developed a district food waste agreement between nutrition services, facilities and custodial services. Food waste collection officially became part of the 4J Nutrition Services kitchen waste practices in fall 2019. To date, waste systems are in place in most of our kitchens and elementary cafeterias.

A document was created that spells out a three year implementation plan, contact information for various aspects of the program, as well as guidelines for schools around implementation and education to meet the district as well as city goals around food waste reduction. Year one included implementation in kitchens and elementary cafeterias with education and training for all students. Year two will involve implementation, education, and climate action team development at the middle and high school levels and finally, by year three, every 4J cafeteria will be participating in the Love Food Not Waste (LFNW) program. Planning is under way in regards to best implementation for middle and high school cafeteria waste systems, as they tend to have less structure with coming and going.

This year has seen increased staff and student involvement, as well as more educational opportunities for 4J students in regard to the current climate crisis with the systematic approach we are embarking on.

Sincerely,



Tana Shepard
4J/EWEB Education Teacher
aka Ecochick

LOVE FOOD NOT WASTE OUTCOMES

47%

4J CAFETERIA PARTICIPATION

15 of the 34 school cafeterias serving meals participated in the LFNW program this year reaching a total of about 7,900 students. With our three year cafeteria waste management system plan in place, this number will match our enrollment soon. All but three elementary sites have in the new cafeteria waste stations in place. Training was postponed with school closures.

93.8%

4J KITCHEN PARTICIPATION

Spring of 2019, many 4J kitchens began participation with this year's goal being 100%. We came very close. We have two middle school kitchens needing further assistance with implementation and one school that is out of Sanipac service range for food waste pick-up. Nutrition services dedicated some FTE to LFNW and this partnership enabled us to make solid progress.

FOOD WASTE EDUCATION

Food waste education was provided to all elementary students using the video and talking notes for: "We Can See Clearly Now the Waste is Gone" (<https://tinyurl.com/SORT-LFNW>), which highlights the *S.O.R.T. method and why keeping food out of the landfill is important. LFNW signage, as well as S.O.R.T. signage were utilized as visuals in cafeterias to support the ideas presented in the video. Hands-on cafeteria training was offered to all elementary schools and was provided to all new to the program.

(*S.O.R.T.: Separate Organics Reusables Trash)

LOVE FOOD NOT WASTE OUTCOMES

140+

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers from BRING, the City of Eugene, Lane County Waste, Master Gardeners, 350 Eug and 4J parents helped train in elementary cafeterias for breakfast and lunches. Volunteers did table group "commercials" for S.O.R.T. as students ate their lunches and also assisted as students went through the waste station helping students S.O.R.T. their waste and add to/take from the no-thank you area of the station.

<558,081

TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

**Note:

Awaiting data from Sanipac—an updated report will be sent as soon as this info is made available. Next year we we will attempt site based data collection for accuracy and buy in.

OVERVIEW

The LFNW program has become an integral part of 4J's waste system. In addition to waste systems education, we provided LFNW compost to five participating school gardens. School field trips to BRING/Short Mountain were all cancelled this spring. As mentioned in last year's report, we have been offered a beautiful Mother Earth sculpture to be installed in our city. A zoom meeting was held with Tana Shepard, Barton Rubenstein, the sculptor and Kate Ali/Emily Proudfoot of the City of Eugene. A proposal was made to the Public Art Committee and City leadership. We are currently awaiting to hear if/when the sculpture will be installed.

<https://motherearthproject.org/world-activity/> **2019/20 Love Food Not Waste Report District 4J**

ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES

60

4J CLIMATE JUSTICE SUMMIT

On January 31st, 2020, 60 educators and high school students came together at Sheldon High School for the first ever 4J Climate Summit. Space was held to share ideas about where 4J is with climate education, what is important and how we can get there together. We had a second summit planned for April 9th which would've included local and state level stake holders, as well as multiple districts in Lane County, which was canceled due to the pandemic. We may be on pause for the time being, but this group is motivated to create a PreK-12 climate curriculum resource to share at the state level. <https://tinyurl.com/RG-4J-Climate-ED>

300+

STAFF HOURS

The 4J/EWEB Education Partnership(EEP) staff spent time coordinating with 4J stakeholders, as well as City and County officials; providing supplies, training and support to schools; coordinating LFNW services with Sanipac; coordinating volunteers; creating S.O.R.T. training materials and cafeteria training process for students.

LOOKING FORWARD

Next year, EEP staff is going to be ready to pivot in any direction with waste management education. Eugene 4J is in the process of planning what model of learning we will enter into for 2020/21. It will likely be a hybrid model with distance learning included. Regardless, a big goal is for all 4J cafeterias to become certified as "Green Cafeterias" as part of Oregon Green Schools. We are looking at implementing WWF's Food Waste Warrior model. The Climate Justice group will convene next on August 31st to continue our work on Climate Education related to the United Nations SDGs. High School students shared letters with the 4J School Board on June 17th asking for them to act on last year's resolution. This important work continues on.

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