

Top 10 Features of the District's new Waste Reduction and Recycling Program

- All schools have new tables in the cafeteria to make it easy for students to sort trash, food/drink waste, and recyclable milk cartons, bottles, and cans from their trays
- Cafeterias are now recycling an average of 84% of the waste produced at lunch!
- Cafeterias and kitchens increased the amount of food waste recovered by over 50% compared with the old program. This is not new food waste being produced but food and drink that had previously been thrown in the trash



- The district is now recycling over 900,000 milk cartons per school year! This produces enough recycled fiber to make over 4,300 reams of copy paper and saves over 183 trees from being made into paper.
- Recycling containers and labels are now uniform throughout all buildings to help staff, students, and visitors easily identify the containers and know what to put in them. Click the hyperlinked text to find out what is recyclable in the [classrooms and office areas](#) as well as the [kitchen and cafeteria](#).
- Recycling and trash containers are now paired so recycling is an easy choice to make.



- Our end of the year locker clean-outs, which started as a pilot at Otter Lake and Sunrise in 2015, expanded to all schools in 2016 and resulted in hundreds of pounds of school supplies being reused instead of trashed.

The increased attention to reusing and recycling was so successful that the district didn't have to order any extra trash pickups at the end of the school year!

- Our new trash and recycling contract provides a huge financial incentive for us to recycle more by pricing recycling services at one third the cost of trash service.
- By improving recycling and "right-sizing" our trash containers and service levels, we already saved \$72,000 in the last 12 months.
- Thank you WBLAS staff and students for pitching in and making our program so successful. Other school districts in the metro area see us as leaders in waste reduction and recycling.