

## Student Action Project: Green Team Action Project



### Overview

Cafeteria Green Teams with students as leaders and teachers or adult staff/champions at the cafeteria sorting station is the number one action that ensures proper sorting. The benefits of sorting correctly: 1) conservation of natural resources through recycling 2) reduction of plastic contamination in the compost for clean compost for our food systems 3) climate change reduction from food waste recovery if your school has a foodshare and capturing climate change 4) getting liquids out of the recycling stream as recycling needs to be dry

### What this action project is and is not

#### WHAT THIS IS NOT...

**We are not asking you to coordinate a Year Round Cafeteria Green Team. Year Round Cafeteria Green Teams** require lots of planning and training and coordinating with all stakeholders: School leadership, nutrition staff, lunch supervisor staff, teachers if you include other classes, and custodians. Cafeteria Green Team models can range from only happening in your class' lunch only and not younger grades to a rotating schedule where all students take turns in a master calendar supervised by an assigned adult (for example: teacher, principal, lunch staff, custodian, parent volunteer). We are not discouraging you, but we know that is a large project. Often after a week of monitoring cafeteria sorting stations, teachers may want to take this year round action project on.

**We are not asking you to start a foodshare table, unless you're a school district that has been trained by StopWaste's Smart Cafeteria Initiative (SCI) school districts: Alameda, Fremont, Livermore, New Haven and Oakland are official StopWaste partners.** Email [avergara@stopwaste.org](mailto:avergara@stopwaste.org) to find out how your school district can become a priority school district or a SCI school district. If your school already has a food sharing table and is not a SCI

school district, please refer to our Food Share guidelines for best practices, safety and laws that protect your foodsharing effort.

**Go to our website for more foodshare resources, videos and curriculum:**

- [School Food Share Educational Video Series](#)
- [K-12 Schools Food Share Table Guide](#)
- [Food Donation Guide: Getting Started](#)
- More tips to reduce wasted food at [StopFoodWaste.org](#).

As an action project for your Davis Street Transfer Station requirement, we are not asking you to coordinate at this level. If you are interested in taking on this type of action project however, please email [aconway@stopwaste.org](mailto:aconway@stopwaste.org) to receive an RSVP invite for our:

**4Rs Friday, StopWaste Stakeholder Schools Session in Fremont, CA, 4pm-7pm** where we will be sharing our best practices in implementing food share tables and green teams.

### WHAT IT IS...

**This project is a project-based student action project for 6 school days during lunch with reflection in the cafeteria and the classroom**

**Green Team: Students take turns for one week to monitor cafeteria sorting**

**Goal:** Your students take turns for one week to monitor cafeteria sorting

**Objective:** Using our 5-Step Action Based Learning Framework, students engage in observation and take action for one-week; students do not touch waste, as this specific project is an observation and educational outreach project

Day 1: Step 1: Assess and Prep

Facilitate a class assessment through observation on how current cafeteria sorting

This requires you to have lunch with your students during one lunch period; your class is not expected to perform this action project in lunchtimes that are not theirs, just their lunchtime

Day 2, 3, 4, 5: Step 2. Audit, Step 3. Analyze and Plan, Step 4. Taking Action!

Groups stand at sorting station(s) and observe sorting behaviors and interactions

Day 6: Step 6. Aggregate

Students reflect individually and as a class on how they took action, brainstorm solutions, and report back to StopWaste.

## Your Green Team Action Project Tools:

- Day 1: Assess & Prep Checklist: Garbologist Observation
- Group Scheduler
- Group Reflection Sheets
- Aggregate Templates
- Green Team Rollout- A full rollout program

### Day 1: Assess & Prep Checklist: Garbologist Class Observation

- Identify and speak to stakeholders, including waste hauler, custodian(s), principal, school district, teachers, students, family volunteers, nutrition services and government and non-profit organizations on campus:

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- Choose a start/launch date for this project that is for 6 consecutive days; initial lunch time observation with your class and communicate to stakeholders that you are facilitating green team action project for one week  
Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Assess if school district is a StopWaste Priority School District and/or school board resolutions have been passed and implemented (ask your school liaison or refer to Overview); or a Solid Waste Reduction School Board Resolution to see if your school can solicit formal technical assistance for Smart Cafeteria Initiative resources; email [abelliss@stopwaste.org](mailto:abelliss@stopwaste.org) and [avergara@stopwaste.org](mailto:avergara@stopwaste.org) in a joint-addressed email to follow up on specific foodshare or sorting station needs if you assess you need something specific to implement the project
- Schedule sign up for 4 groups to rotate for 4 days of green team monitoring
- Perform Day 1 Observations as a class, and review where students will stand at sorting stations after eating their lunch; let students know that they are not to touch waste, their role is to observe and guide students to look at signs as they sort, and/or educate them where items should be sorted properly

### Garbologist Class Discussion Guide

1. Ask students to sit together as a class for lunch

2. As they eat their lunch ask them to observe how students use their time to eat and how do students get dismissed
3. Ask students to observe sorting practices- is there a dismissed-table protocol or do students get up when they are ready to sort?
4. Collect observations and have your students practice sorting at their table- if a school lunch, they can pile in corners recyclables, compostables and landfill items
5. Have students stand in line to sort waste
6. If there is a lunch staff, remind them that your students will be helping sort student waste for 4 days in 4 groups, so they will need to be able to get up and stand at their green team positions
7. Determine where their group will stand when helping students sort:
  - 1) FoodShare Table – if your school supports this system, reminds students that only unbitten, sealed CAFETERIA items go on this table- do not put any home items on this table (food allergy prevention)
  - 2) Milk Pour Hero – up to 2 students remind peers to pour their milk
  - 3) Recycling Bin Hero – up to 2 students remind peers that hard plastic and reinforce signage
  - 4) Landfill Bin Hero – up to 2 students remind peers that squishy plastic film and reinforce signage
  - 5) Compost Bin Hero – up to 2 students remind peers that only food scraps and food-soiled paper like napkins go in this bin; plastic is contamination that we don't want in our food cycle
  - 6) Tray Stacker Hero – up to 2 students remind peers to stack like a puzzle (tip: 'big part with big part' helps)
8. Depending on your preference: Have students either (1) complete the Group Reflection Sheet (you will need to provide a clipboard, and pencil) after their shift, and return it to you after lunch recess OR (2) complete the Group Reflection upon returning to class
9. Optional: Have students report our their Group Reflections to help Green Team Heroes the next day
10. Continue rotating Green Teams for the next 3 days

## Green Team Hero Scheduler

### Job Descriptions:

FoodShare Table – if your school supports this system, reminds students that only unbitten, sealed CAFETERIA items go on this table- do not put any home items on this table (food allergy prevention)

Milk Pour Hero – up to 2 students remind peers to pour their milk

Recycling Bin Hero – up to 2 students remind peers that hard plastic and reinforce signage

Landfill Bin Hero – up to 2 students remind peers that squishy plastic film and reinforce signage

Compost Bin Hero – up to 2 students remind peers that only food scraps and food-soiled paper like napkins go in this bin; plastic is contamination that we don't want in our food cycle

Tray Stacker Hero – up to 2 students remind peers to stack like a puzzle (tip: 'big part with big part' helps)

### **Day 2: Green Team Hero Group A**

FoodShare Table Hero	_____	_____
Milk Pour Hero	_____	_____
Recycling Bin Hero	_____	_____
Landfill Bin Hero	_____	_____
Compost Bin Hero	_____	_____
Tray Stacker Hero	_____	_____

### **Day 3: Green Team Hero Group B**

FoodShare Table Hero	_____	_____
Milk Pour Hero	_____	_____
Recycling Bin Hero	_____	_____
Landfill Bin Hero	_____	_____
Compost Bin Hero	_____	_____
Tray Stacker Hero	_____	_____

### **Day 4: Green Team Hero Group C**

FoodShare Table Hero	_____	_____
Milk Pour Hero	_____	_____
Recycling Bin Hero	_____	_____
Landfill Bin Hero	_____	_____
Compost Bin Hero	_____	_____
Tray Stacker Hero	_____	_____

### **Day 5: Green Team Hero Group D**

FoodShare Table Hero	_____	_____
Milk Pour Hero	_____	_____
Recycling Bin Hero	_____	_____
Landfill Bin Hero	_____	_____
Compost Bin Hero	_____	_____
Tray Stacker Hero	_____	_____

### **Day 6: Step 5. Aggregate**

1. Facilitate a final discussion of their action project, using the Class Action Project Report Back Form

2. Have students draft and complete their Student Mission Report Back forms encouraging them to share with their parents/families how they took action at school
3. Brainstorm how they can take action at home by educating their families
4. Complete: Teacher Mission Report Back and Student Mission Report Back and return to classroom liaison in self-addressed envelope or digitally per follow-up post email from your classroom liaison