

Important Note: This activity was developed for the original Green Lunchroom Challenge program, a voluntary pledge program for K-12 schools to improve the sustainability of their food service



operations. The project was coordinated by the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center Technical Assistance Program](#) with funding from US EPA Region 5.

The following page(s) represent the content of this activity as it appeared on the original project web site, complete with available points and instructions for submitting documentation. **The project is no longer funded and as of June 2018 schools may no longer submit activity documentation to earn points and recognition as described.** The activity is presented for your information to guide your organization's sustainability efforts.

If your school or district implements the suggested activity and wishes to share its experiences, please email [Joy Scrogum](#). Your story may be incorporated into a blog post on this web site, the main ISTC site, or shared on social media to foster networking and inspiration among peer institutions.

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Distribute the ISTC guide, "Waste-Free Lunches"

Activity Category: Zero Waste Lunchrooms

Activity: Distribute the ISTC guide, "Waste-Free Lunches"

Rationale: To reduce as much food waste as possible in your school lunchroom, you need not only to reduce waste within food production and preparation on site, but also encourage students who are bringing their own lunch to reduce waste in the lunch boxes. This means reaching

out to parents as well as students. By addressing waste reduction for packed lunches overall, including arguments that involve saving money, you can inspire a general awareness of wasteful habits and a desire to reduce those habits among your students.



Activity Description: Distribute the ISTC guide "Waste-Free Lunches" to students and their families. This can be done either by sending printed copies home to parents, or by providing a link to the guide in a school newsletter, blog, web site, lunch menu, or other relevant material distributed to families.

Earn Challenge Points (50 points): Submit a brief description (1-3 pages) in PDF or Word format of how the guide was distributed and the number of copies distributed (this may be the number of hard copies sent home, the number of page views or downloads from a web site, or similar measure appropriate for the means of distribution). If applicable, summarize any feedback received in response to the distribution. If the distribution of the guide was part of a larger effort to reduce waste or hold a waste-free lunch day, please briefly describe that. (See related activities in the "Zero Waste Lunchrooms" category.) Email your description to Joy Scrogum at jscrogum@illinois.edu.

Resources:

 [Zero Waste Guide: Waste-Free Lunches\(2015\)](#) 

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