

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.

I ILLINOIS

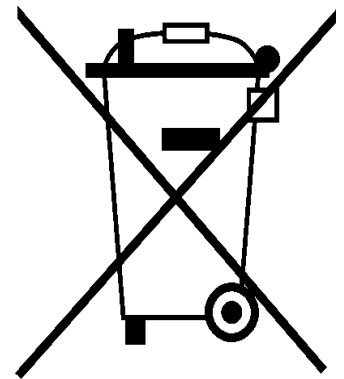
Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Establish a zero-waste lunchroom policy

Activity Category: Zero Waste Lunchrooms

Activity: Establish a zero-waste lunchroom policy




Rationale: Lunchroom waste is a large component of most school districts waste streams. This is both a financial and environmental cost to the community. As you work towards reducing and diverting food waste throughout the facility, a unified policy will help rally the district in achieving this goal and save resources in the process. These efforts will also help save parents/caregivers money in the long run as well. In fact, according to the U.S. EPA, packing a waste-free lunch saves an average student \$250 and 67 pounds of trash per nine-month school year.



Activity Description: Work with your school/district administrator to draft a zero waste policy after signing up for the Challenge.

Earn Challenge Points (200 points): Submit a copy of the zero waste lunchroom policy in PDF or Word format, clearly indicating the date upon which the policy was adopted, to Joy Scrogum at jscrogum@illinois.edu.

Resources:

-  [Waste Free Lunches Cases studies](#)
-  [Oak Hills Zero-Waste Lunch Sample Policy](#)
-  [Oak Park \(CA\) Unified District Waste Management and Education Procedures](#)

Follow Us  

[Green Lunchroom Challenge](#)

[About](#) | [Activities](#) | [UI Web Privacy Notice](#) 



Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

© 2018 University of Illinois Board of Trustees