

# DEHESA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S JOURNEY TOWARDS ZERO WASTE



- 👍 **Achieved 70% cost savings in waste management expenses.**
- 👍 **Diverted 50% discards away from landfill simply by implementing zero waste zones all over campus, and recycling paper, bottles and cans.**
- 👍 **Eased custodial workload by reducing the volume and weight of trash bins.**

Late last school year, the Dehesa School District decided to embark on an aggressive waste diversion and recycling program. Seeking guidance on how best to get started we reached out to the County of San Diego – Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Division.

We were provided with valuable information, insights and suggestions and a dedicated commitment to develop and implement a multi-phased, district-wide program. The team assigned to us by the County was an ideal blend of people with professional and maintained a healthy focus on building capacity, not dependency. By participating in this program we were able to begin some processes, involving staff, students and parents and have a detailed plan for kicking off the 2012-2013 school year in grand style!

- **Tim Scheidt, Business Manager, Dehesa School District**

## REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT !

Your school may be eligible to receive assistance in setting up or improving its recycling program at no charge.



Recycling specialists will work with you to help identify opportunities for waste reduction and diversion of money-saving recyclable materials from the landfill.

## SERVICES OFFERED BY COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S SCHOOL RECYCLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- ⇒ **Consultations** with senior management on waste management practices.
- ⇒ **Identification** of new revenue streams and potential cost savings in waste management and hauling contracts.
- ⇒ **Setup and Implementation:**
  - \* Setup of zero waste zones – equipment and signage provided by County.
  - \* Co-ordination with haulers to right-size waste and recycling service.
  - \* Training and education catering to custodians, teachers, students and school community members.
  - \* Assistance with framing policies to promote environmental responsibility in operations and education.
  - \* Consultations with food service staff on reducing lunch time waste and increasing recycling of materials (including organics).
- ⇒ **Master Recycler/ Sustainability committee trainings** - capacity building for teachers, parents and students empowering them to become experts on waste reduction and diversion for their school and districts.
- ⇒ Assistance with applications for **awards and competitions**—national, state and local
- ⇒ **Troubleshooting** and followup.

For more information, please call or email the county's contractor, San Diego Resource Management Associates at **858-775-5235** or [sarah@inikasmallearth.org](mailto:sarah@inikasmallearth.org) or visit the county website at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recyclinghome.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recyclinghome.html)