

2013 - 2014

Green Up Our Schools Annual Report

A Snap Shot

A Healthy Environment. A Sustainable Community. An Empowered Generation of Students.

Our Mission

Green Up Our Schools mission is to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill through early student engagement.

Our Schools

During the 2013-2014 program year, Green Up Our Schools worked closely with 32 schools across two states and seven districts. Our reach impacted over 20,000 students in Colorado and California.

STEM Launch
STEM Magnet Lab
Stukey Elementary
McElwain Elementary
Silver Creek Elementary
Woodglen Elementary
Antelope Ridge Elementary
Northridge Elementary
Copper Mesa Elementary
Denver Language School
Montclair Elementary
University Park Elementary
Garden Place Elementary
Westerly Creek Elementary
Slavens Elementary
McGlone Elementary

Denver Green School
Gilpin Montessori
Valdez Elementary
Larkspur Elementary
Flagstone Elementary
Mariners Elementary
Pomona Elementary
Bonita Canyon Elementary
Alderwood Basics Plus
Culverdale Elementary
Eastshore Elementary
Stonegate Elementary
Westpark Elementary
Deerfield Elementary
Newport Coast Elementary
Bullis Charter School



Our Background

Green Up Our Schools is an environmental 501(c)(3) public charity whose member schools improve their recycling by at least 50% and divert ~240,000lbs of recyclable material from the landfill each year. The Green Up Our Schools program was designed in conjunction with representatives from Eco-Cycle, which has operated in Boulder County for over thirty years, as a modification of the Green Star Schools program to be seamlessly replicated in any district nationwide. Through our design, the absence of waste reduction efforts in our member districts has lessened over time.

Recycling rates in the United States peaked and hovered around 30% for 15 years. Green Up Our Schools engages our youngest students on the topic of recycling and waste reduction to permanently increase recycling rates and reduce landfill waste. We empower youth by creating student led green teams in elementary schools, who will choose and drive the projects their school undertakes. Students learn what happens to waste when it is “thrown away,” recycled, and composted. This understanding helps them take ownership of waste in their school and local community.

School budgets are tight which often makes recycling and composting unaffordable. To address this, Green Up Our Schools provides \$2,000 over the course of our three year program to ensure our member schools have the financial resources needed to contract commercial haulers and pursue additional waste reduction projects.

We Exist To:

- **Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill in participating schools**
- **Shape policy at the district level to grant all schools access to recycling, composting & waste reduction resources**
- **Provide a venue that empowers students through student led green teams, projects, and community outreach**

We Make Greater Change

Green Up Our Schools works with district members to rally support for waste reduction on a larger scale.

By leveraging the success of participating schools, for example, Denver Public Schools now offers recycling and reusable or compostable lunch trays to all 162 schools at no additional cost.

Teachers generally do not have the resources or free time to undertake waste reduction projects on their own. To make waste reduction simple and achievable for any teacher, Green Up Our Schools has created a network of support and resources as a solution. Our program manager is available at any time to help overcome challenges and offer suggestions. Teachers are invited to attend coffee hours to exchange ideas and experiences, which allows them to create connections, build confidence, and form a sense of togetherness knowing there are other teachers working just as hard toward the same goals. We believe that fostering long-term relationships and offering diligent support is the best way to make positive change in schools and districts.

Our network of teachers, district administrators, and volunteers cultivates the long term cooperation centered around waste reduction and environmental education necessary for greater change.



Our Vision through Photographs



"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."
- Abraham Lincoln



Our Success

In the 2013-2014 school year, the Green Up Our Schools program was able to further its primary goal of reducing the amount of material sent to landfill by working closely with students and program leaders to achieve two waste reduction goals. Through the combined efforts of students and leaders, our member schools were able to **improve their recycling by 57%** and **divert ~150,000lbs of organic material** from the landfill by composting.

WASTE DIVERTED *Numbers are approximate and calculated from data collected and provided by our member schools student Green Teams.

724,257 sheets of paper equating to **7,243lbs** or **9 trees**



365,760 plastic water bottles equating to **43,891lbs** or **2.5 garbage truck loads**



150,000lbs of organic material equating to **10 garbage truck loads**



300,000lbs of recyclable material equating to **20 garbage truck loads**



GUOS supporters made the results in this report.

Will you stand beside them and help our children establish a sustainable future in your community?

Green Up Our Schools is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit human services organization. This means **your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.**

How to DONATE:

1. Mail your donations to:

Green Up Our Schools
921 Walnut Street, Suite 220
Boulder, CO 80302

2. Donate by credit card

3. Donate through our website at:

GreenUpOurSchools.org



Green Up Our Schools is seeking to add **20 new schools** to our program for the 2015-2016 schools year!

What does this expansion mean for GUOS?

- 2 new districts
- 20 additional schools
- 9000 more students impacted
- 116,000+ lbs of waste diverted from the landfill

Budget for Expansion	
Grants to 20 New Schools	\$40,000
Waste Audit Materials	\$2,000
Administration	\$8,000
Total	\$50,000

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ made payable to Green Up Our Schools

I would like to support:

- _____ Students at \$5 each
 _____ Classrooms at \$100 each
 _____ Schools at \$2,000 each
 _____ Districts at \$10,000 each
 _____ Other amount

I plan to make this contribution on the form of:

_____ Cash _____ Other:

- _____ Check
 _____ Credit Card

Credit Card Type: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

_____ I wish to remain anonymous

City, State: _____

Email: _____

Zip: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

