

ZERO WASTE CHAMPION: HOW TO...

Coordinate a Lunch Monitor Program

SUPPLIES:

School Waste Stations • Sign-up sheets • Number signs • Buckets for uneaten food • Vests (or other)

OVERVIEW:

- 1) Establish multiple sets of waste stations (sets recycle, compost, and landfill containers). Number each waste station (tape a big laminated number sign to one bin in each set) and distribute evenly among lunch tables.
- 2) Set out sign-up sheets/charts for the monitors indicating which station they are monitoring and when. Create a map that shows where each waste station is located.
- 3) On their day, the monitors sit near the bins and eat their lunch. When the students finish eating and start throwing away their lunch waste, monitors stand at the bins and explain where each item belongs.
- 4) Unopened food should be collected and either returned to the cafeteria or donated.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

- Offer something to help the monitors identify themselves, such as a vest, sash or badge.
- All monitors should receive a special sorting training. Feel free to contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto for assistance—(650)493-4894.
- Consider offering “perks” to monitors, such as priority in the lunch line and end of semester parties.
- NOTE: Waste sorting (and the monitoring program) is more effective when recess occurs before lunch.

