



FOOD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRESS REPORT

Final Report 2025

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

Table of Contents

I. Project Details

II. Progress Summary

III. Milestones, Tasks, and Outputs

IV. Upcoming Meetings Scheduled

V. Supporting Documents

- a. Communications Log to School Districts and Schools**
- b. 2024-2025 Signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)**
- c. Master Launch Schedule**
- d. Signed Program Kit List**
- e. Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities: Grades 7 through 12**
- f. Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: June**
- g. 2024-2025 Waste Diversion Report**
- h. 2024-2025 Key Staff Surveys**
- i. El Dorado County 2024-25 Reflection**

Final Report

Project Details

Project name	Food Scraps Recycling Program
Reporting period	July 2024-June 2025
Report compiled by	Paige Arnett, Program Manager, Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE)
Date submitted	June 30, 2025

Progress Summary-County of El Dorado Activities & Outputs

Milestone 1: Recruit a maximum of ten (10) schools to implement a Food Scraps & Recycling Program between the July 2024-June 2025 school year.

Status	Achieved	In progress	Challenges	Not started
Task	Obtain MOUs from a maximum of ten (10) schools.			
Task dates	<i>Planned: July 2024– June 2025</i> <i>Actual: August 2024- June 2025</i>			
Progress	<p>August: BREATHE sent the Memorandum's of Understanding (MOUs) for Northside School and Georgetown School to district administrators at Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD). The MOUs are pending approval from the School Board.</p> <p>Sept: BREATHE received the signed Memorandum's of Understanding for Northside School and Georgetown School in Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD) on September 13.</p> <p>Nov: BREATHE provided Gold Oak Union School District (GOUSD) with MOUs for Gold Oak Elementary and Pleasant Valley Middle School. BREATHE sent MOUs to El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) for Union Mine High School, Oak Ridge High School, Ponderosa High School, and El Dorado High School.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE received the signed Memorandum's of Understanding for Gold Oak Elementary in Gold Oak Union School District (GOUSD) on December 3.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE received the signed Memorandum's of Understanding for Pleasant Valley Middle School (GOUSD), El Dorado High School (EDUHSD), Independence High School (EDUHSD), Oak Ridge High School (EDUHSD), Ponderosa High School (EDUHSD), and Union Mine High School (EDUHSD).</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE continues to reach out to schools and school districts within the El Dorado County region to provide the program overview and fill the final program slot.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE provided Pioneer Union School District (PUSD) with an MOU for Pioneer Elementary School.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE received the signed MOU from Pioneer Union School District (PUSD) for Pioneer Elementary School.</p>			

	<p>June: BREATHE has begun recruitment communications for the 2025-26 school year.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 1.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>August: MOU Template, see supporting document.</p> <p>Sept: Northside Signed MOU, Georgetown Signed MOU, see supporting documents.</p> <p>Dec: Gold Oak Elementary Signed MOU, see supporting document.</p> <p>Jan: Signed MOUs: Pleasant Valley Middle School, El Dorado High School, Independence High School, Oak Ridge High School, Ponderosa High School, and Union Mine High School, see supporting documents.</p> <p>Apr: Pioneer Elementary School Signed MOU, see supporting document.</p> <p>June: Communications Log, 2024-2025 Signed MOUs, see supporting documents.</p>
Task	Create a master launch schedule in the order most efficient to implement the program.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024– June 2025</p> <p>Actual: August 2024- June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>August: BREATHE tentatively scheduled a program launch at Northside School in Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD) for September 23. BREATHE's Food Scraps and Recycling team will be onsite to provide lunch monitoring from September 23 to September 27.</p> <p>Oct: BREATHE scheduled a program launch at Georgetown Elementary in Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD) for January 13th. BREATHE's Food Scraps and Recycling team will be onsite to provide lunch monitoring from January 13 to January 17.</p> <p>Nov: BREATHE scheduled a program launch at Gold Oak Elementary in Gold Oak Union School District (GOUSD) for December 9th. BREATHE's Food Scraps and Recycling team will be onsite to provide lunch monitoring from December 9 to December 13.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE scheduled a program launch for Pleasant Valley Middle School in Gold Oak Union School District for January 6. BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team will be onsite tabling from January 6 to January 10. BREATHE will be on site at Georgetown Elementary in Black Oak Mine Unified School District to launch the Food Scraps & Recycling Program and provide lunch support from January 13 to January 17.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE scheduled a program launch at Oak Ridge High School for March 4th. BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team will be onsite tabling with One Green Step Environmental Club from March 4 to March 6.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE scheduled a program launch at Ponderosa High School (EDUHSD) for March 17. BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team will be onsite tabling from March 17 to March 19. The program launch at Oak Ridge High School has been cancelled due to construction to the outdoor waste receptacle area and the incompletion of the student's educational video. The launch will be rescheduled for late April.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE scheduled a program launch at Union Mine High School for April 23, 24 and 28. In addition, a program launch was scheduled at El Dorado High School for May 5 to May 7, and at Independence High School for May 8 and 9.</p> <p>Apr: The program launch at Union Mine High School was rescheduled for April 28, 29, and 30 at the request of the principal. In addition, the program launch at Oak Ridge High School was scheduled for May 13 and 14.</p> <p>May: The program launch at Pioneer Elementary School in Pioneer Union School District (PUSD) will be held in the 2025-26 school year at the request of the principal.</p>

	<p>June: BREATHE reached out to Principal Romo at Pioneer Elementary School (PUSD) to schedule the launch for the 2025-26 school year.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 1.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>August: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>Oct: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>Nov: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>Dec: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>Jan: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>Feb: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>Mar: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>Apr: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>May: Master Launch Schedule, see supporting document.</p> <p>June: Master Launch Schedule, Communications Log, see supporting document.</p>

Milestone 2: Launch the program and provide technical assistance through the end of the school year.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Provide student training through in-class lessons and/or school-wide presentations and an online toolkit.
Task dates	<p><i>Planned:</i> July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p><i>Actual:</i> August 2024- June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>August: BREATHE tentatively scheduled a program launch at Northside School in Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD) for September 23. BREATHE's Food Scraps and Recycling Team will be onsite to provide lunch monitoring from September 23 to September 27.</p> <p>Sept: BREATHE launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program at Northside Elementary School in Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD) on September 23 with a school-wide assembly focused on the importance of proper waste sorting and composting. BREATHE provided Principal Gallo with a link to our online toolkit which contains resources and lesson plans for food scraps recycling and composting.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program at Gold Oak Elementary in Gold Oak Union School District (GOUSD) on December 9. BREATHE held a school-wide assembly focused on proper waste sorting practices and composting. BREATHE provided Principal Carlin and Plant Manager John Himmel with links to our online toolkit containing updated lesson plans and resources for food scraps recycling and composting.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program at Pleasant Valley Middle School (GOUSD) on January 6. BREATHE provided school-wide education and lunch support through tabling with interactive activities from January 6 to January 10. BREATHE provided Principal Atkins and Plant Manager John Himmel with links to our school-wide presentation and online toolkit containing updated lesson plans and resources for food scraps recycling and composting. Additionally, BREATHE launched the program at Georgetown Elementary (BOMUSD) on January 13 with a school-wide assembly focused on proper waste sorting practices and composting. BREATHE provided Principal Nicholson with links to our online toolkit.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program at Ponderosa High School on March 17 with interactive tabling activities and waste sorting education from March 17 to 19. Students at Ponderosa High School created an educational waste sorting video that was shared with their peers. BREATHE provided Principal Neville with links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources. On March 14, BREATHE provided Principal Sisson at El</p>

	<p>Dorado High School with links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program at Union Mine High School on April 28 with interactive tabling activities and waste sorting education from April 28 to April 29. Students at Union Mine High School created an educational waste sorting video that was shared with their peers.</p> <p>May: BREATHE launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program at El Dorado High School on May 5. BREATHE provided interactive tabling activities focused on proper waste sorting practices from May 5 to May 7. In collaboration with El Dorado Disposal BREATHE launched the program at Independence High School on May 8 with in-class presentations focused on the environmental consequences of landfills and the benefits associated with composting. BREATHE followed the presentations with interactive tabling activities.</p> <p>June: On June 23, BREATHE reached out to all schools that launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program in the 2024-25 school year to provide links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 2.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Sept: Northside Elementary Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</p> <p>Dec: Gold Oak Elementary Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</p> <p>Jan: Pleasant Valley Middle School Launch and Lunch Monitoring, and Georgetown Elementary Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting documents.</p> <p>Mar: Program Launch: Ponderosa High School (EDUHSD), see supporting document.</p> <p>Apr: Program Launch: Union Mine High School (EDUHSD), see supporting document.</p> <p>May: Program Launch: El Dorado High School, Program Launch: Independence High School, Program Launch: Oak Ridge High School, Lunch Support: Union Mine High School, see supporting documents.</p> <p>June: Communications Log, see supporting document.</p>
Task	Provide incentives and educational materials to students, admin, and staff to encourage waste sorting and cooperation.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: Sept 2024- June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>Sept: BREATHE provided stickers to students at Northside Elementary as an incentive to encourage waste sorting and cooperation.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE provided stickers to students at Gold Oak Elementary as an incentive to encourage waste sorting and cooperation.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE provided fidget toys and candy to students at Pleasant Valley Middle School as an incentive to encourage waste sorting and cooperation. In addition, BREATHE provided stickers to students at Georgetown Elementary to reward waste sorting participation.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE provided fidget toys and candy to students at Ponderosa High School as an incentive for engaging in tabling activities and waste sorting education.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE provided fidget toys and candy to students at Union Mine High School as an incentive for engaging in tabling activities and waste sorting education.</p> <p>May: BREATHE provided fidget toys and candy to students at El Dorado High School, Independence High School, Oak Ridge High School, Union Mine High School as an incentive for engaging in tabling activities and waste sorting education.</p> <p>June: BREATHE provided fidget toys and candy to staff at Northside Elementary to distribute to student helpers in the cafeteria.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 2.</i></p>
Outputs created	

Task	Provide five (5) days of lunch monitoring to guide students through the waste sorting process.
Task dates	<i>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</i> <i>Actual: September 2024-May 2025</i>
Progress	<p>Sept: BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team was onsite at Northside Elementary School for breakfast and lunch monitoring from September 23 to September 27.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team was onsite at Gold Oak Elementary School from December 9 to December 13 to provide waste sorting support during breakfast and lunch.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team was onsite at Pleasant Valley Middle School from January 6 to January 10 and Georgetown Elementary from January 13 to January 17 to provide waste sorting support during lunch.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team was onsite at Ponderosa High School from March 17 to March 19 to provide waste sorting support and tabling activities during lunch.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team was onsite at Union Mine High School on April 28 and 29 to provide waste sorting support and tabling activities during lunch. The final day of tabling will be rescheduled due to miscommunication.</p> <p>May: BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team was onsite at El Dorado High School from May 5-7, Independence High School on May 8, Oak Ridge High School on May 13 and 14 and Union Mine High School on May 16 to provide waste sorting support and tabling activities during lunch.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 2.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Sept: <i>Northside Elementary Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Dec: <i>Gold Oak Elementary Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Jan: <i>Pleasant Valley Middle School Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, and Georgetown Elementary Program Lunch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Program Launch: Ponderosa High School (EDUHSD), see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Apr: <i>Program Launch: Union Mine High School (EDUHSD), see supporting document.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Program Launch: El Dorado High School, Program Launch: Independence High School, Program Launch: Oak Ridge High School, Lunch Support: Union Mine High School, see supporting documents.</i></p>
Task	Offer re-education to support schools launched earlier in the 2024-25 school year.
Task dates	<i>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</i> <i>Actual: January 2025- May 2025</i>
Progress	<p>Jan: BREATHE reached out to the Principals at Northside Elementary, Gold Oak Elementary, and Pleasant Valley Middle School to offer 3-5 days of additional support. BREATHE is scheduled to provide 3 days of additional support at Georgetown Elementary from March 12 to March 14.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE reached out to the Principals Gold Oak Elementary and Pleasant Valley Middle School to offer 3-5 days of additional support. BREATHE is scheduled to provide 3 days of additional support at Gold Oak Elementary on March 7, 10, and 11.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE provided 3 days of additional lunchtime support at Gold Oak Elementary on March 7, 10, and 11. In addition, BREATHE provided extra lunchtime support at Georgetown Elementary on March 12. BREATHE offered additional support to Pleasant Valley Middle School.</p> <p>May: While conducting a waste audit, BREATHE provided additional lunchtime support at Union Mine High School on May 16, Gold Oak Elementary and</p>

	<p>Pleasant Valley Middle School on May 21, and Northside Elementary and Georgetown Elementary on May 28.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 2.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Jan: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Feb: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Lunch Support: Gold Oak Elementary, Lunch Support: Georgetown Elementary, see supporting documents.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Lunch Support: Union Mine High School, see supporting document.</i></p>

Milestone 3: Design a program and develop an ongoing Food Scraps Recycling Program that fits the individual needs of each school focused on long term sustainability.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Procure program supplies and materials.
Task dates	<p><i>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</i></p> <p><i>Actual: September 2024-June 2025</i></p>
Progress	<p>Sept: On September 23, BREATHE provided Northside Elementary with four (4) 32-gallon green organics cans, two (2) 100 pack cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners, and proper signage for the share table, landfill cans, food scraps cans, and tray stacking.</p> <p>Oct: On October 10, BREATHE provided Northside Elementary with three (3) 32-gallon trash dollies, two (2) slim grey cans with signage, and two (2) slim green cans with signage.</p> <p>Dec: On December 9, BREATHE provided Gold Oak Elementary with four (4) 32-gallon green organics cans, two (2) 32-gallon grey landfill cans, four (4) 32-gallon trash can dollies, two (2) 100 pack cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners, one (1) slim grey can, one (1) slim green can, and proper signage for the share table, landfill cans, food scraps cans, liquid disposal, and tray stacking.</p> <p>Jan: On January 6, BREATHE provided Pleasant Valley Middle School with six (6) 32-gallon green organics cans, six (6) 32-gallon trash can dollies, two (2) 100 pack cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners, and proper signage for the share table, landfill cans, food scraps cans, liquid disposal, and tray stacking. On January 8, BREATHE provided Gold Oak Elementary with two (2) slim trash can lids and two (2) slim trash can dollies. On January 13, BREATHE provided Georgetown Elementary with four (4) 32-gallon green organics cans and one (1) 100 pack case of BPI certified biodegradable liners. On January 24, BREATHE provided Georgetown Elementary with one (1) 100 pack case of BPI certified biodegradable liners and two (2) trash can dollies.</p> <p>Feb: On February 10, BREATHE provided Oak Ridge High School with one (1) 32-gallon green organics can with signage, one (1) 23-gallon slim grey can with signage, one (1) 23-gallon slim green can with signage, and one (1) 100 pack cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners. On February 13, BREATHE provided Oak Ridge High School with twenty (20) 32-gallon green organics cans. On February 25, BREATHE provided Oak Ridge High School with proper signage for the landfill cans and food scraps cans.</p> <p>Mar: On March 11, BREATHE provided Ponderosa High School with ten (10) 32-gallon green organics cans with signage, and two (2) 100 pack cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners, along with proper signage for the landfill cans.</p> <p>Apr: On April 4, BREATHE provided Union Mine High School with eight (8) 32-gallon green organics cans with signage, and two (2) 100 pack cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners, along with proper signage for the landfill cans. On April 22 and April 29, BREATHE provided El Dorado High School with eight (8) 32-gallon green organics cans with signage, and two (2) 100 pack cases of</p>

	<p>BPI certified biodegradable liners, along with proper signage for the landfill cans.</p> <p>May: On May 8, BREATHE provided Independence High School with four (4) 32-gallon green organics cans with signage, one (1) 23-gallon slim green can with signage, and two (2) cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners, along with proper signage for landfill and recycling. On May 28, BREATHE provided Georgetown Elementary and Northside Elementary with two (2) additional cases of BPI certified biodegradable liners.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 3.</i></p>
Outputs created	June: <i>Signed Program Kit List, see supporting document.</i>
Task	Work with participating schools to establish a long-term program design and train teachers and cafeteria staff on state mandates, daily routines, and waste station monitoring.
Task dates	Planned: July 2024 – June 2025 Actual: August 2024- May 2025
Progress	<p>August: BREATHE tentatively scheduled a key staff training at Northside School for September 23. This training will provide a background on SB 1383 and the changes to the school's waste station and daily routines.</p> <p>Sept: Throughout the launch process, BREATHE worked closely with Northside's custodian, Marcie, to seek input on the waste station set-up. BREATHE provided Marcie with an overview of SB 1383 guidelines, including the proper waste station set-up and outdoor disposal, and guidelines on inspecting for contamination. At the request of Northside Elementary's principal, BREATHE will provide a recording of the key staff training to share with staff members.</p> <p>Oct: BREATHE provided Northside Elementary with a virtual key staff training at the request of Principal Gallo. BREATHE scheduled a key staff training at Georgetown Elementary for January 15. This training will provide a background on SB 1383 and the changes to the school's waste station and daily routines.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE provided Gold Oak Elementary with a virtual key staff training on December 6 and December 13 to share with staff. Additionally, BREATHE provided Pleasant Valley Middle School with a virtual key staff training on December 20. BREATHE offered to return to both sites for in person staff training at the request of school administrators. BREATHE will be onsite at Georgetown Elementary for an in-person staff training on January 15.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE provided Pleasant Valley Middle School with a virtual key staff training on January 6. Additionally, BREATHE provided Georgetown Elementary with a virtual key staff training on January 7 and January 14 at the request of Principal Nicholson. On January 29, BREATHE provided a virtual key staff training to Principal Palm at Oak Ridge High School and Tim White at El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD).</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE provided an in-person nutrition services staff training at Oak Ridge High School on February 3. Additionally, BREATHE provided Ponderosa High School (EDUHSD) with the virtual staff training on February 19 as requested by Assistant Principal Leonhardt.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE provided Oak Ridge High School with an additional copy of the virtual staff training on March 6 at the request of Tim White. On March 14, BREATHE provided El Dorado High School with the links to the virtual staff training at the request of Principal Sisson.</p> <p>May: BREATHE spoke with Principal Palm at Oak Ridge High School, Principal Neville at Union Mine High School, and Plant Manager Janes at Independence</p>

	<p>High School to provide an overview of SB 1383 guidelines, including the proper waste station set-up and outdoor disposal, and guidelines for inspecting contamination. BREATHE spoke with the plant managers at Gold Oak Elementary, Pleasant Valley Middle School, Georgetown Elementary, and Pleasant Valley Middle School to discuss the waste sorting progress and provide recommendations for long-term program sustainability.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 3.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>August: Key Staff Training Presentation Slides.</p> <p>Sept: Key staff Training Recording.</p> <p>Oct: Key staff Training Recording.</p> <p>Dec: Key staff Training Recording.</p> <p>Jan: Key staff Training Recording.</p> <p>Feb: Key staff Training Recording.</p> <p>Mar: Key staff Training Recording.</p> <p>May: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p>
Task	<p>Provide administration with links to the Food Scraps Toolkit resources and an interactive lesson plan to distribute to teachers.</p>
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: July 2024-June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>July: BREATHE provided Oak Ridge High Schools Principal, Aaron Palm, and Green Team Leader, Samantha Liu, with links to the Food Scraps Toolkit and administration presentation slides.</p> <p>August: BREATHE provided Northside School's Principal, Emily Gallo, with links to the Food Scraps Toolkit and administration presentation slides. These links were also provided to Louisiana Schnell School's principal, John Baker and the district administrators at El Dorado Union High School District (EDHUSD) and Rescue Union School District (RUSD).</p> <p>Sept: BREATHE provided Georgetown Elementary's principal, Dylan Nicholson, with links to the Food Scraps Toolkit. Links to the Toolkit and additional resources have been provided to the principal at Northside Elementary, Emily Gallo. BREATHE has also provided the link to a cartoon video on proper food waste sorting to distribute to teachers.</p> <p>Oct: BREATHE provided Placerville Union School District's Superintendent, Eric Bonnicksen, with the links to the online Toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Nov: BREATHE provided Gold Oak Union School District (GOUSD) and El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) with links to the online Toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE provided Gold Oak Elementary School and Pleasant Valley Middle School with links to the online Toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE provided Pleasant Valley Middle School, Georgetown Elementary School, and Valley View Charter Montessori with links to the online Toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE provided Independence High School, El Dorado High School, Ponderosa High School, and Union Mine High School with the links to the online Toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE provided Ponderosa High School, El Dorado High School, and Pioneer Union School District with the links to the online Toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>May: BREATHE provided Independence High School with the links to the online Toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p>

	<p>June: On June 23, BREATHE reached out to all schools that launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program in the 2024-25 school year to provide links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 3.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>July: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>August: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>Sept: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>Oct: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>Nov: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>Dec: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>Jan: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>Feb: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>Mar: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>May: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p> <p>June: Food Scraps & Recycling Toolkit</p>

Milestone 4: Assist participating schools with the establishment of an edible food recovery system.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Educate and train students and key staff on edible food recovery by introducing a share-cart system.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: September 2024- June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>Sept: BREATHE provided students and staff at Northside Elementary with education and training on proper food sharing guidelines. BREATHE assisted staff by providing additional signage for the share-cart.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE provided students and staff at Gold Oak Elementary with education and training on proper food sharing guidelines. BREATHE assisted staff by providing additional signage for the share-cart.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE provided staff at Pleasant Valley Middle School with education and training on edible food recovery. BREATHE suggested implementing a share-cart system in the cafeteria. BREATHE provided students and staff at Georgetown Elementary with education and training on proper food sharing guidelines. BREATHE assisted staff by providing additional signage for the share-cart.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE provided nutrition services staff at Oak Ridge High School with education and training on edible food recovery. BREATHE suggested implementing a share-cart system in the cafeteria.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE spoke with the Nutrition Services Director for Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD) regarding edible food recovery and proper share-cart practices.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE spoke with staff at Union Mine High School regarding introducing a food sharing system and proper food sharing guidelines.</p> <p>May: BREATHE spoke with staff at El Dorado High School and Independence High School regarding introducing a food sharing system and proper food sharing guidelines.</p> <p>June: On June 23, BREATHE reached out to all schools that launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program in the 2024-25 school year to provide links and resources related to edible food recovery and proper food sharing guidelines.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 4.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Sept: <i>Northside Elementary Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Dec: <i>Gold Oak Elementary Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Jan: <i>Georgetown Elementary Program Launch and Lunch Monitoring, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Apr: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p>

	June: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i>
Task	Assist schools to get in contact with a food recovery organization in their area.
Task dates	Planned: July 2024 – June 2025 Actual: September 2024- June 2025
Progress	<p>Sept: BREATHE provided Principal Gallo at Northside Elementary with a list of resources which contains information on edible food recovery and organizations in their area.</p> <p>Nov: BREATHE provided El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) with a model food recovery agreement from CalRecycle and StopWaste.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE provided Gold Oak Elementary with County resources on edible food recovery along with resources to find and contact local edible food recovery organizations. BREATHE also provided a model food recovery agreement from CalRecycle and StopWaste.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE provided Pleasant Valley Middle School and Georgetown Elementary School with County resources on edible food recovery along with resources to find and contact local edible food recovery organizations. BREATHE also provided a model food recovery agreement from CalRecycle and StopWaste.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE provided Oak Ridge High School with County resources on edible food recovery along with resources to find and contact local edible food recovery organizations. BREATHE also provided a model food recovery agreement from CalRecycle and StopWaste.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE provided El Dorado High School and Independence High School with County resources on edible food recovery along with resources to find and contact local edible food recovery organizations.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE provided Union Mine High School with County resources on edible food recovery along with resources to find and contact local edible food recovery organizations.</p> <p>May: BREATHE spoke with administration at Independence High School to discuss edible food recovery and sources of edible food within the El Dorado County region. In addition, BREATHE spoke with Georgetown Elementary regarding edible food recovery and resources to find and contact local edible food recovery organizations.</p> <p>June: On June 23, BREATHE reached out to all schools that launched the Food Scraps & Recycling Program in the 2024-25 school year to provide links and resources regarding local edible food recovery agencies.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 4.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Sept: <i>List of Resources.</i></p> <p>Nov: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Jan: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Feb: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Apr: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>June: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p>

Milestone 5: Create and update educational resources and collateral material to reflect program development.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Create and update educational collateral including presentation slides on the benefits of recycling and waste sorting.

Task dates	<p><i>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</i> <i>Actual: July 2024- June 2025</i></p>
Progress	<p>July: BREATHE has created and updated presentation slides for staff training and grade level appropriate student training. In addition, BREATHE has updated presentation slides for school administrators that reflect the program overview for El Dorado County.</p> <p>August: BREATHE has created and updated a list of helpful resources related to recycling and waste sorting that can be shared with participating schools. Additionally, BREATHE created an informational letter that can be shared with parents and guardians at participating schools to educate them on the new organic waste sorting system.</p> <p>Oct: BREATHE has created and updated presentation slides for school administrators that reflect the program overview for high schools in El Dorado County.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE is in the process of creating educational resources and outreach materials including waste sorting magnets and brochures to be handed out during tabling events.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE is in the process of creating educational resources and outreach materials including waste sorting magnets and brochures to be handed out during tabling events.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE created waste sorting magnets and brochures to be handed out as educational material at outreach events.</p> <p>May: BREATHE updated the presentation slides for the in-class presentations at Independence High School.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 5.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>July: Sort Smart & Recycle Right K-6 Presentation, Sort Smart & Recycle Right 6-12 Presentation, El Dorado Key Staff Training Presentation, and El Dorado County Food Scraps & Recycling Program Overview (Admin). See supporting documents.</p> <p>August: List of Resources, Letter to Parents and Guardians. See supporting documents.</p> <p>Oct: El Dorado County Food Scraps & Recycling Program Overview G6-12 (Admin). See supporting document.</p> <p>Mar: Educational Collateral: Waste Sorting Brochures, Educational Collateral: Waste Sorting Magnets. See supporting documents.</p> <p>May: Sort Smart & Recycle Right 6-12 Presentation: Independence High School. See supporting document.</p>
Task	<p>Create and update grade-level appropriate lesson plans to reinforce the importance of reducing food waste, food recovery, and composting.</p>
Task dates	<p><i>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</i> <i>Actual: October 2024-June 2025</i></p>
Progress	<p>Oct: BREATHE created grade-level appropriate lesson plan activities for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten.</p> <p>Nov: BREATHE created grade-level appropriate lesson plan activities for first grade and second grade.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE created grade-level appropriate lesson plans and activities for third grade and fourth grade.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE is in the process of creating grade-level appropriate lesson plans for grades 5 through 12.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE is in the process of creating grade-level appropriate lesson plans for grades 5 through 12.</p> <p>May: BREATHE created grade-level appropriate lesson plan activities for fifth grade and sixth grade. BREATHE is in the process of creating grade-level appropriate lesson plans for grades 7 through 12.</p>

	<p>June: BREATHE created grade-level appropriate lesson plan activities for grades 7 through 12.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 5.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Oct: Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. See supporting document.</p> <p>Nov: Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities for grades 1 and 2. See supporting document.</p> <p>Dec: Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities for Grades 3 and 4. See supporting document.</p> <p>May: Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities for Grades 5 and 6. See supporting document.</p> <p>June: Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities for Grades 7 through 12. See supporting document.</p>

Milestone 6: Create and distribute two (2) quarterly newsletters to school districts and school administrators about the Food Scraps & Recycling Program and resources and information on state mandate compliance.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Deliver two (2) quarterly newsletters via email to school districts and administrators.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: July 2024- June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>July: The September newsletter is in progress.</p> <p>August: The September newsletter is completed and will be sent to school districts and administrators on September 5.</p> <p>Sept: The September newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on September 5. The October Newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on October 15.</p> <p>Oct: The October newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on October 15. The November newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on November 15.</p> <p>Nov: The November newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on November 15. The December newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on December 13.</p> <p>Dec: The December newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on December 13. The January newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on January 15.</p> <p>Jan: The January newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on January 16. The February newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on February 14.</p> <p>Feb: The February newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on February 14. The March newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on March 14.</p> <p>Mar: The March newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on March 17. The April newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on April 15.</p> <p>Apr: The April newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on April 17. The May newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on May 15.</p> <p>May: The May newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on May 15. The June newsletter is in progress and will be sent to school districts and administrators on June 13.</p>

	<p>June: The June newsletter was distributed to school districts and administrators on June 16.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 6.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Sept: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: September. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>Oct: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: October. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>Nov: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: November. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>Dec: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: December. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>Jan: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: January. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>Feb: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: February. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: March. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>Apr: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: April. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: May. See supporting document.</i></p> <p>June: <i>Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: June. See supporting document.</i></p>

Milestone 7: Provide community engagement through outreach events.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Participate in no more than five (5) community events and encourage community engagement through outreach activities focused on awareness of food scraps recycling.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: July 2024- June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>July: The BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling team is scheduled to participate in El Dorado Hills National Night Out at Community Park on August 9. BREATHE will table at the event and provide outreach and education to community members on the importance of proper waste sorting. The team will provide an interactive game with incentives for participants to learn how to sort various waste items.</p> <p>August: The National Night Out event in El Dorado Hills was cancelled due to the fires and limited resources throughout the county.</p> <p>Sept: BREATHE reached out to event coordinators at Hands4Hope to inquire about participating in the Hands4Hope Fall Festival on October 14.</p> <p>Oct: BREATHE followed up with event coordinators at Hands4Hope to inquire about participating in the Hands4Hope Fall Festival on October 14. BREATHE followed up with Principal Gallo at Northside Elementary to participate in Community Night Out in November, December, or January.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE is scheduled to participate in Community Night Out at Black Oak Mine Unified School District on February 27. BREATHE reached out to Georgetown Elementary Schools PTA to request to participate in their upcoming Jog-a-thon.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE participated in Community Night Out at Black Oak Mine Unified School District on February 27. During this time, BREATHE provided a table with an interactive waste sorting game, incentives, and educational material focused on composting, food waste recycling, and recycling. BREATHE is scheduled to participate in Field Day at Georgetown Elementary (BOMUSD) on June 3.</p>

	<p>Mar: BREATHE is scheduled to participate in El Dorado Disposal's Spring Has Sprung event on April 13 and the Placerville Home and Garden event on May 2. In addition, BREATHE is scheduled to participate in Natural Connections Day at El Dorado High School on April 25, and Field Day at Georgetown Elementary (BOMUSD) on June 3.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE participated in El Dorado Disposal's Spring Has Sprung event on April 13 with interactive waste sorting activities and education related to food scraps recycling, recycling, and composting. In addition, BREATHE participated in Natural Connections Day at El Dorado High School on April 25 with tabling activities and 15-minute presentations on food scraps recycling, recycling, and composting. BREATHE is scheduled to participate in the Placerville Home and Garden event on May 2 and Field Day at Georgetown Elementary (BOMUSD) on June 3.</p> <p>May: BREATHE participated in the Placerville Home and Garden event on May 2 in collaboration with El Dorado Disposal. At the event, BREATHE provided waste sorting support and education near the outdoor waste receptacles. On May 20, the PTA at Georgetown Elementary informed BREATHE that they no longer have time in the schedule to have BREATHE on site for the Field Day on June 3.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 7.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Jan: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Feb: <i>Communication Log and Community Outreach: Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD) Community Night Out, see supporting documents.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Apr: <i>Community Outreach: Spring has Sprung Compost Event and Community Outreach: Natural Connections Day, see supporting documents.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Community Outreach: Placerville Home & Garden Show and Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p>

Milestone 8: Collaborate with county waste haulers and assist with outreach for community-based organizations and/or food recovery groups.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Work with the Environmental Management Department to plan meetings with county waste haulers, food banks, and food recovery organizations to collaborate on strategy and implementation.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: November 2024- June 2025</p>
Progress	<p>Nov: BREATHE reached out to the Food Bank of El Dorado County to request a meeting to discuss SB 1383 implementation.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE reached out to El Dorado Federated Church, Rolling Hills Community Church, and Green Valley Church to request a meeting to discuss SB 1383 implementation and edible food recovery.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE reached out to Light of the Hills Church, Pollock Pines Community Church, and the Food Bank of El Dorado County to request a meeting to discuss SB 1383 implementation and edible food recovery.</p> <p>BREATHE met with Kari from Rolling Hills Community Church on February 6 to discuss edible food recovery and the logistics of food donation. In addition, BREATHE scheduled a meeting with Dan Diggins at Green Valley Church for March 1.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE met with Kari from Green Valley Church on March 1 and The Food Bank of El Dorado County on March 4 to discuss edible food recovery and the logistics of food donation</p>

	<p>May: BREATHE spoke with Mr. Meachen to discuss the challenges of Independence High Schools partnership with The Food Bank of El Dorado County. BREATHE provided resources for alternative sources of edible food and offered to connect the administration with the County of El Dorado.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 8.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Nov: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Jan: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Feb: <i>Communication Log and Edible Food Recovery Outreach: Rolling Hills Community Church, see supporting documents.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Communication Log, Edible Food Recovery Outreach: Green Valley Church, and Edible Food Recovery Outreach: The Food Bank of El Dorado County, see supporting documents.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p>
Task	Assist with outreach for 2-4 groups or organizations by delivering additional education on SB 1383 to increase awareness and participation in the region.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: November 2024- May 2025</p>
Progress	<p>Nov: BREATHE provided the Food Bank of El Dorado County with links to our online Toolkit and inquired about the need for additional resources.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE provided the City of Placerville with information regarding the Food Scraps & Recycling Program within City limits.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE met with Deanna Watkins-Howey from the City of Placerville to discuss SB 1383 implementation within the City of Placerville.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE met with Teri Gotro from El Dorado Hills Community Service District (EDHCSD) to discuss program implementation and outreach within El Dorado Hills.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE will provide SB 1383 outreach and education at El Dorado Disposal's Spring Has Sprung event on April 12 and the Placerville Home and Garden event on May 2. In addition, BREATHE is scheduled to participate in Natural Connections Day at El Dorado High School on April 25, and Field Day at Georgetown Elementary (BOMUSD) on June 3.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE provided SB 1383 outreach and education at El Dorado Disposal's Spring has Sprung event on April 13. Additionally, BREATHE is scheduled to provide outreach at the Placerville Home and Garden event on May 2.</p> <p>May: BREATHE provided SB 1383 support, outreach, and education at the Placerville Home & Garden Show on May 2 in collaboration with El Dorado Disposal.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 8.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Nov: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Dec: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Jan: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Feb: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Apr: <i>Communication Log and Community Outreach: Spring has Sprung Compost Event, see supporting documents.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Communication Log and Community Outreach: Placerville Home & Garden Show, see supporting document.</i></p>

Milestone 9: Maintain regular communication with the county.

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
Task	Submit monthly progress reports including lessons and challenges and establish a regular check-in schedule with the county.
Task dates	<p>Planned: July 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>Actual: July 2024- June 2025</p>

Progress	<p>July: BREATHE has reached out to Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department to establish a bi-weekly check-in schedule beginning on August 1.</p> <p>August: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on August 1 and August 15 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Sept: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on September 12 and 26 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Oct: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on October 10 and October 24 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Nov: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on November 7 and November 21 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Dec: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on December 5 and December 19 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Jan: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on January 16 and January 30 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Feb: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on February 13 and February 27 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Mar: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on March 14 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>Apr: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on April 24 to discuss program updates and the progress and challenges with recruitment.</p> <p>May: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on May 22 to discuss program updates.</p> <p>June: BREATHE met with Julie Abbatelli from El Dorado County's Environmental Management Department on June 5 and June 18 to discuss program updates.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 9.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>July: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>August: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Sept: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Oct: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Nov: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Dec: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Jan: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Feb: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Mar: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>Apr: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>May: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p> <p>June: <i>Communication Log, see supporting document.</i></p>

Milestone 10: Submit Waste Diversion Report

Status	Achieved In progress Challenges Not started
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Task	Prepare a final report of the total amount of waste diverted at each school for the 2024-25 academic school year, including best practices and lessons learned.
Task dates	<i>Planned: June 2025</i> <i>Actual: June 2025</i>
Progress	<p>Apr: BREATHE will begin scheduling waste audits in May 2025.</p> <p>May: BREATHE held waste audits at El Dorado High School on May 7, Independence High School on May 9, Oak Ridge High School on May 14, Union Mine High School and Ponderosa High School on May 16, Gold Oak Elementary School and Pleasant Valley Middle School on May 21, and Northside Elementary and Georgetown Elementary on May 28. The data from the collected waste audits is being compiled and will be included in the final report.</p> <p>June: The completed waste diversion data has been compiled in this report, including best practices and lessons learned. In addition, BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program Intern composed a reflection based on the launches held in the 2024-25 school year with El Dorado County.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 10.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Apr: Waste Audit Template.</p> <p>May: Communication Log, see supporting document.</p> <p>June: Communication Log, see supporting document.</p> <p>June: 2024-25 Waste Diversion Report, El Dorado County 2024-25 Reflection, see supporting documents.</p>
Task	Provide an end of year key staff survey.
Task dates	<i>Planned: June 2025</i> <i>Actual: May 2025</i>
Progress	<p>Apr: BREATHE created a key staff survey question template for the 2024-25 school year.</p> <p>May: BREATHE collected staff feedback at El Dorado High School on May 7, Independence High School on May 9, Oak Ridge High School on May 14, Union Mine High School and Ponderosa High School on May 16, Gold Oak Elementary School and Pleasant Valley Middle School on May 21, and Northside Elementary and Georgetown Elementary on May 28. The data from the collected surveys is being compiled and will be included in the final report.</p> <p>June: The completed staff surveys have been compiled in this report.</p> <p>Milestone Achieved: <i>No further updates will be made for Milestone 10.</i></p>
Outputs created	<p>Apr: Key Staff Survey Template, see supporting document.</p> <p>May: Communication Log, see supporting document.</p> <p>June: 2024-25 Key Staff Surveys, see supporting document.</p>

Meetings Held

Date	Partner / Stakeholder	Purpose
06/05/25 & 06/18/25	County of El Dorado Environmental Management Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Abbatelli, Solid Waste Division Sustainability Coordinator Paige Arnett, Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager Shivam Gandhi, Food Scraps & Recycling Program Intern 	BREATHE provided program updates and discussed the future of recruitment in the 2025-26 school year.

06/16/25	Latrobe School District (LSD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Scroggins, Superintendent • Tracy Pearson, School Secretary • Kristina Noble, El Dorado Disposal • Paige Arnett, Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager 	BREATHE met with district administrators to provide the program overview and discuss launching the Food Scraps & Recycling Program in Latrobe School District.
06/18/25	CalRecycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zac Smith, CalRecycle • Diana Suarez-Arguelles, CalRecycle • Julie Abbatelli, Solid Waste Division Sustainability Coordinator • Sharon Kaur, Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager • Shivam Gandhi, Food Scraps & Recycling Program Intern • Paige Arnett, Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager 	BREATHE met with CalRecycle to discuss our participation in the upcoming webinar on July 16.

Best Practices, Challenges, & Lessons Learned

Best Practices

Schoolwide Education & Staff Training

Student education through schoolwide assemblies proves to be the most effective method to improve students' understanding of proper waste sorting practices and the importance of composting. When school administrators opt to launch the program without a schoolwide assembly or in-class presentations, students may struggle to fully grasp the waste sorting concepts in their cafeteria.

Similarly, hosting a key staff training session can improve staff understanding of the new waste sorting system being implemented at their school. It is important for staff to fully understand these concepts as they are the first line of defense at preventing contamination in the cafeteria. Staff trainings allow staff members to ask questions and express their concerns prior to the program launch. BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team finds that schools that choose to implement schoolwide and staff education have lower rates of contamination and increased engagement and participation.

Student Engagement

BREATHE encourages all schools to implement a “Super Sorter” program to motivate students and promote student engagement and involvement in the new waste sorting system. While on site, BREATHE can work directly with interested students to teach them how to identify and remove contamination, along with how to be an expert on each step at the waste station.

Students can serve as the first line of defense at the waste station, successfully relieving pressure off cafeteria and custodial staff. While optional, BREATHE finds that schools that choose to implement student helpers in their cafeteria have lower rates of contamination. In addition, the Super Sorter program can help instill a sense of responsibility, purpose, and belonging in student participants.

Waste Station Placement and Set-up

BREATHE encourages all schools to utilize a consistent waste station setup and placement in the cafeteria. When introducing several new steps in the cafeteria, it is important to keep the waste station set up consistent and clear to avoid potential confusion and accidental contamination from students and staff. At the start of the program, BREATHE collaborates with cafeteria staff to determine the best location and setup at their school. Typically, BREATHE recommends placing the waste station against a wall to prevent students from approaching the bins from a variety of angles. Keeping the student flow in one direction can make monitoring the waste stations more manageable. In addition, BREATHE has found that the following waste station setup allows for the most efficient disposal process at each school.

1. Share Cart- Students can remove any uneaten items from their plate. Having this step first helps prevent uneaten items from mistakenly entering the food scraps or the landfill cans. In addition, it removes extra weight from the students’ plate and ensures they have enough hands to move to the next step.
2. Landfill Can- Students can remove any plastic or garbage from their tray and place it into the landfill. This leaves only food on the student’s plate.
3. Food Scraps Can- With just food on the students’ plate, the tray can now be dumped into the food scraps can without the students having to touch their food. This prevents unnecessary messes!
4. Tray Stacking- Students can stack their tray on a desk or a table to prevent the bins from becoming too full. In turn, this can save money on liners and reduce the number of times that the bin needs to be emptied throughout the lunch period.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

High School & Middle School Launches

BREATHE’s tabling activities are designed to be interactive and engaging for all students, regardless of the students’ age or abilities. However, since the tabling activities are optional, not all students choose to participate. Students that do not participate may not receive adequate education on the new waste sorting system being implemented at their school. While tabling is a great option as an alternative to lunch monitoring, it is most successful when paired with schoolwide education through assemblies or in-class presentations. This ensures that all students receive the same education, and no student is left behind.

Our Food Scraps & Recycling Team found that the High Schools and Middle Schools that did not receive schoolwide education struggled with higher contamination rates in the cafeteria. Moving forward, BREATHE will strongly encourage schools to begin their program with schoolwide education to promote the long-term sustainability and success of the program.

Waste Audits

Our team was unable to successfully conduct a waste audit at El Dorado High School, Union Mine High School, and Oak Ridge High School. Upon examination, all bins were far too contaminated to be disposed of into the organic receptacle. While our team observed high contamination rates in the food scraps bin, we also observed a lower amount of food waste in general as compared to elementary schools. This may be because high school students are not required to take specific items in the cafeteria, while elementary school students have a variety of nutritional requirements that must be met by their school lunches. Typically, high school students do not take what they are not going to eat, therefore, leading to less food waste in the organic or landfill can.

The high rates of contamination are likely due to the lack of schoolwide education through assemblies or in-class presentations. Other factors may include the late program launch and implementation, and the lack of staff and student participation and support.

Communication & Recruitment

BREATHE faced significant challenges with communication and recruitment to the schools throughout the 2024-25 school year. Despite beginning recruitment in July of 2024, BREATHE struggled to get in contact with school and district administrators across the county. Our team attempted to contact all school districts through various methods of communication- emails, phone calls, and in person visits.

In various cases, BREATHE met with several schools that were interested in launching the program. However, when attempting to secure the district's approval, district administrators were often unresponsive or unwilling to launch the program.

Due to the challenges with communication and recruitment, more than half of the recruited schools launched their program in the second half of the school year which poses challenges for long term success. For example, Oak Ridge High School launched their program just before the final week of school. This did not allow students or staff enough time to fully or successfully implement the program, therefore leading to high rates of contamination in the cafeteria. In addition, due to the delays and challenges with recruitment, BREATHE was unable to launch at the final school- Pioneer Elementary School. This school will hold a launch in the 2025-26 school year.

In the 2025-26 school year, BREATHE hopes to begin recruitment early in the school year. BREATHE will encourage schools to hold their launch at the start of the school year to give students the opportunity to practice throughout the year. With county support, our team hopes that districts will become more responsive throughout the new school year. In addition, we plan to send out physical mailers in coordination with the county to increase participation.

BPI Liners & Hauling Costs

Every school that participated in the Food Scraps & Recycling Program in the 2024-25 school year expressed concern about the long-term cost of BPI certified biodegradable liners and waste hauling costs. While BREATHE supplies a start-up supply of liners at the beginning of the program, it is the responsibility of the school or school district to supply those liners moving forward.

The average cost for a case of 100 BPI liners is approximately \$80-100. For schools with larger student populations, the cost of liners can increase exponentially throughout the school year.

BREATHE emphasized that El Dorado Disposal recommends a “bucket to bin” method, where the food waste is collected in smaller buckets and then emptied directly into the outdoor receptacle. However, schools face significant challenges with this method as they do not have the time or staff to empty and clean several small buckets throughout the lunch period.

Moving forward, BREATHE will continue to recommend this method to the schools to minimize the long-term cost of liners. While BREATHE is unable to reduce the cost of waste hauling, we can supply the materials for indoor disposal to ensure the program is successful.

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

a. Supporting Document

Communication Log to School Districts and
Schools in the El Dorado County Region

Communication Log- El Dorado

June 2025

County Partners	Name / Position	Context
County of El Dorado, Environmental Management Department	Julie Abbatelli, Sustainability Coordinator, Solid Waste Division	<p><i>June 2:</i> BREATHE shared the invoice for April 2025.</p> <p><i>June 4:</i> BREATHE shared the agenda for the check-in on June 5.</p> <p><i>June 5:</i> BREATHE met with Julie to discuss the progress and challenges with school launches and waste audits for the 2024-25 school year. Julie discussed updates with the 2025-26 contract and shared that she would be happy to participate in the upcoming webinar with CalRecycle at BREATHE's request.</p> <p><i>June 9:</i> Julie shared email communication with Heather Minton at Pollock Pines Elementary School District.</p> <p><i>June 13:</i> BREATHE provided the progress report for May 2025.</p> <p><i>June 18:</i> BREATHE met with Julie and CalRecycle to discuss our participation in the upcoming CalRecycle webinar. Following the meeting, BREATHE shared program updates and Julie requested an update for the May 2025 invoice. Julie Reached out to request reporting numbers by July 7.</p> <p><i>June 23:</i> BREATHE contacted Julie to confirm the meeting schedule for the 2025-26 school year.</p>
	Jackie Scaggs, Administrative Analyst	<p><i>June 2:</i> BREATHE shared the invoice for April 2025.</p> <p><i>June 11:</i> Jackie requested that BREATHE re-share the progress report for April 2025. BREATHE shared the progress report for April 2025.</p> <p><i>June 13:</i> BREATHE provided the progress report for May 2025. Jackie requested an update for the May 2025 invoice.</p> <p><i>June 19:</i> Jackie requested an update for the May 2025 invoice.</p>
	Timothy Engle, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist	<p><i>June 2:</i> BREATHE shared the invoice for April 2025.</p> <p><i>June 13:</i> BREATHE provided the progress report for May 2025. Jackie requested an update for the May 2025 invoice.</p>

Communication Log- El Dorado

June 2025

El Dorado Disposal	Kristina Noble, Education and Outreach Coordinator	<i>June 9:</i> Kristina reached out to request information regarding BREATHE's communication with Latrobe School District.
School Districts / Schools	Name / Position	Context
Independence High School (EDUHSD)	Jennifer Meyers, Principal Chad Janes, Plant Manager Mitch Meachen, Teacher Robert Whittenberg, Superintendent Business Services Tim White, Nutrition Services Director	<i>June 4:</i> BREATHE reached out to Mr. Meachen to discuss edible food recovery with the Placer Food Bank. <i>June 23:</i> BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.
Latrobe School District (LSD)	Dave Scroggins, Superintendent Tracy Pearson, School Secretary	<i>June 9:</i> Tracy Pearson reached out to request a meeting to discuss SB 1383 requirements and BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program. <i>June 10:</i> A Zoom meeting was scheduled for June 16. <i>June 16:</i> BREATHE met with district administrators to discuss the Food Scraps & Recycling Program. Superintendent Scroggins shared that the school is not interested in BREATHE's waste sorting support due to their small student population. However, school administrators requested materials along with additional information regarding funding for their waste hauling with El Dorado Disposal. BREATHE shared the links to the online toolkit, along with a list of supplies that BREATHE provides as a part of the program kit. <i>June 17:</i> Superintendent Scroggins contacted BREATHE with a list of supplies for the Food Scraps & Recycling Program at Latrobe School District. BREATHE informed the Superintendent that the supplies will be delivered prior to the beginning of the school year.
Black Oak Mine Unified School District (BOMUSD)	Gabriel Simon, Superintendent Amy Jensen, Student Nutrition Coordinator Mark Koontz, Director of Facilities and Maintenance	<i>June 10:</i> BREATHE reached out to Amy Jensen to discuss launching the program at the remaining schools in the district for the 2025-26 school year. Amy expressed interest in onsite support at Golden Sierra Junior High School and requested a launch on the first day of school.

Communication Log- El Dorado

June 2025

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northside Elementary School (BOMUSD) 	<p>Emily Gallo, Principal Marcie Durham, Custodian</p>	<p><i>June 9:</i> BREATHE reached out to inform Principal Gallo that incentives will be sent to Northside Elementary for the student helpers in the cafeteria.</p> <p><i>June 23:</i> BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgetown Elementary School (BOMUSD) 	<p>Dylan Nicholson, Principal Amy Jensen, Student Nutrition Coordinator Gabriel Simon, Superintendent</p>	<p><i>June 23:</i> BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p>
Pioneer Elementary School (PUSD)	<p>Richard Romo, Principal (previous) Patrick Paturel, Superintendent & Principal (current) Kelly Howard, Chief Business Officer</p>	<p><i>June 9:</i> BREATHE reached out to Principal Romo to schedule the program launch for Pioneer Elementary School.</p> <p><i>June 10:</i> Kelly Howard provided BREATHE with the contact information for the school's new principal.</p> <p><i>June 11:</i> BREATHE reached out to Superintendent Paturel to schedule the program launch for Pioneer Elementary School.</p> <p><i>June 12:</i> Superintendent Paturel contacted BREATHE for more information on the Food Scraps & Recycling Program. BREATHE shared the link to the program overview and offered to meet in-person or virtually to discuss the program in greater detail.</p>
Rescue Union School District (RUSD)	<p>Jim Shoemake, Superintendent Lisa Donaldson, Assistant Superintendent Kim Andreasen, Food Service Director Brandon Page, Maintenance & Operations</p>	<p><i>June 10:</i> Lisa Donaldson reached out to schedule a meeting in late July to discuss the Food Scraps & Recycling Program. BREATHE provided available meeting dates.</p>
Union Mine High School (EDUHSD)	<p>Paul Neville, Principal Michelle Cooper, Assistant Principal Richard Modesti, Assistant Principal</p>	<p><i>June 23:</i> BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</p>

Communication Log- El Dorado

June 2025

	<p>Robert Whittenberg, Superintendent Business Services</p> <p>Tim White, Nutrition Services Director</p>	
El Dorado High School (EDUHSD)	<p>Elizabeth Sisson, Principal</p> <p>Tara Grudin, Assistant Principal</p> <p>Justin Gatling, Assistant Principal</p> <p>Robert Whittenberg, Superintendent Business Services</p> <p>Tim White, Nutrition Services Director</p> <p>Krista Potter, Teacher</p>	<i>June 23:</i> BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.
Oak Ridge High School (EDUHSD)	<p>Aaron Palm, Principal</p> <p>Samantha Liu, One Green Step Founder</p> <p>Robert Whittenberg, Superintendent Business Services</p> <p>Tim White, Nutrition Services Director</p>	<i>June 23:</i> BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.
Ponderosa High School (EDUHSD)	<p>Jeremy Hunt, Principal</p> <p>Philip Leonhardt, Assistant Principal</p> <p>Darrin Slojkowski, Assistant Principal</p> <p>Elizabeth Scott, Student Leader</p> <p>Cindy St. Pierre, Attendance Clerk/Secretary</p>	<i>June 23:</i> BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.

Communication Log- El Dorado

June 2025

Gold Oak Elementary School (GOUSD)	John Himmel, Plant Manager Sara Carlin, Interim Principal Stan Duran, Nutrition Services	<i>June 23: BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</i>
Pleasant Valley Middle School (GOUSD)	John Himmel, Plant Manager Jennifer Kloczko, Principal Teresa Hopkins, School Secretary	<i>June 23: BREATHE reached out to the school administration to share the waste diversion data at their school. BREATHE provided links to the online toolkit and additional BREATHE resources.</i>

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

b. Supporting Document

**2024-2025 Signed Memorandums of
Understanding (MOUs)**

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Northside School

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

II. Acknowledgement of Parties & Role

Named school will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

- A. Named school will provide support for BREATHE staff, including the following:
 - a. Landfill containers (gray).
 - b. School administration assistance in scheduling dates for student presentation training and program launch with lunch monitoring support.

AGREEMENT

BREATHE will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

- A. BREATHE will launch its Food Scraps Recycling Program at above named school during the 2024-25 school year. The program launch will include the following:
 - a. Education to students in the form of a presentation.
 - b. Facilitation of program design and launch of the program in the cafeteria.
 - c. Procuring food scraps containers (up to four), BPI certified green liners (start-up supply), and signage.
 - d. Monitoring at the named school for up to 5 days after the program launches.
- B. BREATHE staff will monitor the waste stations and guide students through the waste sorting process to ensure waste is sorted properly.
 - i. Educate key staff in the cafeteria.
 - ii. Offer re-education if needed.
 - iii. Share updated state laws as they become available.
- C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 9/16/2024

Date: 8/19/24

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Gabe Simon

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Superintendent

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Northside Elementary

Signature: J. M.

Signature: J. M.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Georgetown School

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

II. Acknowledgement of Parties & Role

Named school will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

- A. Named school will provide support for BREATHE staff, including the following:
 - a. Landfill containers (gray).
 - b. School administration assistance in scheduling dates for student presentation training and program launch with lunch monitoring support.

AGREEMENT

BREATHE will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

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 - a. Education to students in the form of a presentation.
 - b. Facilitation of program design and launch of the program in the cafeteria.
 - c. Procuring food scraps containers (up to four), BPI certified green liners (start-up supply), and signage.
 - d. Monitoring at the named school for up to 5 days after the program launches.
- B. BREATHE staff will monitor the waste stations and guide students through the waste sorting process to ensure waste is sorted properly.
 - i. Educate key staff in the cafeteria.
 - ii. Offer re-education if needed.
 - iii. Share updated state laws as they become available.
- C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 9/16/2024

Date: 8/19/24

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Gabe Simon

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Superintendent

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Georgetown Elementary

Signature: 

Signature: 

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Gold Oak Elementary

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

II. Acknowledgement of Parties & Role

Named school will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

A. Named school will provide support for BREATHE staff, including the following:

- a. Landfill containers (gray).
- b. School administration assistance in scheduling dates for student presentation training and program launch with lunch monitoring support.

AGREEMENT

BREATHE will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

A. BREATHE will launch its Food Scraps Recycling Program at above named school during the 2024-25 school year.

The program launch will include the following:

- a. Education to students in the form of a presentation.
- b. Facilitation of program design and launch of the program in the cafeteria.
- c. Procuring food scraps containers (up to four), BPI certified green liners (start-up supply), and signage.
- d. Monitoring at the named school for up to 5 days after the program launches.

B. BREATHE staff will monitor the waste stations and guide students through the waste sorting process to ensure waste is sorted properly.

- i. Educate key staff in the cafeteria.
- ii. Offer re-education if needed.
- iii. Share updated state laws as they become available.

C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:

- c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
- d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 12/3/2024

Date: 12/2/21

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Sarah Carlin

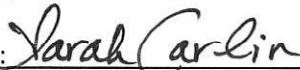
Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Interim Principal

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Gold Oak Elementary

Signature: 

Signature: 

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Pleasant Valley Middle School

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

II. Acknowledgement of Parties & Role

Named school will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

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 - b. Facilitation of program design and launch of the program in the cafeteria.
 - c. Procuring food scraps containers (up to four), BPI certified green liners (start-up supply), and signage.
 - d. Monitoring at the named school for up to 5 days after the program launches.
- B. BREATHE staff will monitor the waste stations and guide students through the waste sorting process to ensure waste is sorted properly.
 - i. Educate key staff in the cafeteria.
 - ii. Offer re-education if needed.
 - iii. Share updated state laws as they become available.
- C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 1/13/2025

Date: 1-8-25

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Deborah Atkins

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Superintendent/Principal

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Pleasant Valley Middle School

Signature: [Signature]

Signature: [Signature]

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Union Mine High School

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

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Named school will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

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- C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 1/22/2025

Date: 1/21/25

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Robert Whittenberg

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Assistant Superintendent

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Union Mine High School

Signature: 

Signature: 

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Oak Ridge High School
Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

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 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 1/22/2025

Name: Jennifer Finton

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Breathe California Sacramento Region

Signature: 

Date: 1/21/25

Name: Robert Whittenberg

Title: Assistant Superintendent

School: Oak Ridge High School

Signature: 

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Ponderosa High School

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

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 - iii. Share updated state laws as they become available.
- C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:
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 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 1/22/2025

Date: 1/21/25

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Robert Whittenberg

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Assistant Superintendent

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Ponderosa High School

Signature: Jen Finton

Signature: Robert Whittenberg

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and El Dorado High School

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

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 - c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 1/22/2025

Date: 1/21/25

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Robert Whittenby

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Assistant Superintendent

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: El Dorado High School

Signature: 

Signature: 

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and _____ Independence High School (EDUHSD) _____

I. BACKGROUND

Name of school

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

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A. Named school will provide support for BREATHE staff, including the following:

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AGREEMENT

BREATHE will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

A. BREATHE will launch its Food Scraps Recycling Program at above named school during the 2024-25 school year.

The program launch will include the following:

- a. Education to students in the form of a presentation.
- b. Facilitation of program design and launch of the program in the cafeteria.
- c. Procuring food scraps containers (up to four), BPI certified green liners (start-up supply), and signage.
- d. Monitoring at the named school for up to 5 days after the program launches.

B. BREATHE staff will monitor the waste stations and guide students through the waste sorting process to ensure waste is sorted properly.

- i. Educate key staff in the cafeteria.
- ii. Offer re-education if needed.
- iii. Share updated state laws as they become available.

C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:

- c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
- d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 1/24/2025

Date: 1/23/2025

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Robert Whittenberg

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Asst. Superintendent

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Independence High School

Signature: 

Signature: 

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) and Pioneer Elementary School (PUSD)

Name of school

I. BACKGROUND

In the 2023-2024 school year, BREATHE assisted with implementing a food scrap recycling program in three schools in the unincorporated (Sacramento County) five schools in Sacramento City regions and ten schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD). Building upon BREATHE's work, above name school is looking to launch a food scrap recycling program in the 2024-25 school year.

II. Acknowledgement of Parties & Role

Named school will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

- A. Named school will provide support for BREATHE staff, including the following:
 - a. Landfill containers (gray).
 - b. School administration assistance in scheduling dates for student presentation training and program launch with lunch monitoring support.

AGREEMENT

BREATHE will provide the following services commencing the effective date of this MOU or on another date upon written agreement of all parties to the MOU:

- A. BREATHE will launch its Food Scraps Recycling Program at above named school during the 2024-25 school year. The program launch will include the following:
 - a. Education to students in the form of a presentation.
 - b. Facilitation of program design and launch of the program in the cafeteria.
 - c. Procuring food scraps containers (up to four), BPI certified green liners (start-up supply), and signage.
 - d. Monitoring at the named school for up to 5 days after the program launches.
- B. BREATHE staff will monitor the waste stations and guide students through the waste sorting process to ensure waste is sorted properly.
 - i. Educate key staff in the cafeteria.
 - ii. Offer re-education if needed.
 - iii. Share updated state laws as they become available.
- C. BREATHE will create educational collateral, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - c. Educational video to help students understand how to sort smart and recycle right. This video can be used in the classroom or for school-wide assemblies.
 - d. Full access to BREATHE Food Scraps Toolkit.

Date: 1/10/2025

Date: 3/31/2025

Name: Jennifer Finton

Name: Kelly Howard

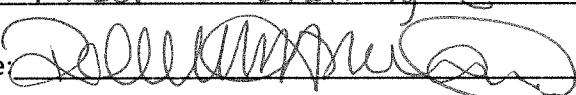
Title: Chief Executive Officer

Title: Chief Business Officer

Breathe California Sacramento Region

School: Pioneer Elementary (PUSD)

Signature: 

Signature: 

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

c. Supporting Document
Master Launch Schedule

El Dorado Launch Schedule 2024-25

District/School Grades	School Principal + Cafeteria Staff	Staff Education	Launch Dates	Presentation Type/Time	Lunch Schedule	Re-education Dates
BOMUSD/ Northside School TK-6	Principal: Emily Gallo egallo@bomusd.org Custodian: Marcie Cafeteria Staff: Adam & Jeff	09/23/2024 3:30 PM- 4:30 PM <i>*Provided virtually on 10/04/2024</i>	09/23/2024- 09/27/2024	School Assembly 9:00 AM	TK/K 11:55-12:15 1st-3rd 12:15- 12:35 4th -6th 12:35- 12:55	05/28/2025
GOUSD/ Gold Oak Elementary K-5	Principal: Sarah Carlin scarlin@gousd.org Custodian: John Himmel	In-person training offered <i>*Provided virtually on 12/06/2024 and 12/13/2024.</i>	12/09/2024- 12/13/2024	School Assembly 9:00 AM	11:00-12:40	03/07/2025- 03/11/2025, 05/21/2025
GOUSD/ Pleasant Valley Middle School 6-8	Principal: Deborah Atkins datkins@gousd.org Custodian: John Himmel	In-person training offered- date TBD	01/06/2025- 01/10/2025	Assembly or In-Class Presentations TBD	12:00-12:45	05/21/2025
BOMUSD/ Georgetown School TK-6	Principal: Dylan Nicholson dnicholson@bomusd.org Custodian: Chris	01/15/2025 2:15 PM- 2:45 PM <i>*Provided virtually on 01/15/2025</i>	01/13/2025- 01/17/2025	School Assemblies 8:30 AM	TK/K 11:20 H-B 11:35 H-M 11:55 H-E 12:15 M-B 12:35	03/12/2025, 05/28/2025
EDUHSD/ Ponderosa High School 9-12	Assistant Principal: Phil Leonhardt pleonhardt@eduhsd.k12.ca.us Custodial: Nic Medina	Virtual training provided on 02/19/2025	03/17/2025- 03/19/2025	Training Video (created by Environmental Club)	12:00 -1:00	05/16/2025

El Dorado Launch Schedule 2024-25

EDUHSD / Union Mine High School 9-12	Principal: Paul Neville pnevilles@eduhsd.k12.ca.us Custodial: John Dawson	Virtual training requested	04/28/2025-04/29/2025	Training Video (created by student leaders)	1:30-2:10	05/16/2025
EDUHSD / El Dorado High School 9-12	Principal: Elizabeth Sisson esisson@eduhsd.k12.ca.us Primary Contact: Krista Potter Kpotter@eduhsd.k12.ca.us	Virtual training provided on 03/14/2025	05/05/2025-05/07/2025	Training Video (created by student leaders)	Monday: 12:05-12:35 Tuesday-Friday: 1:28-1:58	
EDUHSD / Independence High School 9-12	Principal: Jennifer Myers jmyers@eduhsd.k12.ca.us Custodial: Chad Janes cjanest@eduhsd.k12.ca.us	Virtual training provided on 05/08/2025	05/08/2025	In-class Presentations 9:00 AM	Nutrition Break 10:45- 11:15 AM	
EDUHSD/ Oak Ridge High School 9-12	Principal: Aaron Palm apalm@eduhsd.k12.ca.us Custodian: Travis Walker	Virtual training provided on 01/24/2025 In-person training on 02/03/2025	05/13/2025-05/14/2025	Training Video (created by One Green Step Environmental Club)	12:20-1:00	
PUSD/ Pioneer Elementary School K-5	Principal: Richard Romo rromo@pioneerusd.org	To be held in the 2025-26 school year	Launch to be held in the 2025-26 school year	School Assemblies		

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

d. Supporting Document
Signed Program Kit List

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Northside Elementary School on September 27 & October 10, 2024

School Name	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Four (4) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins	
<input type="checkbox"/> Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners	
<input type="checkbox"/> Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill, Milk, and Share Cart	
<input type="checkbox"/> Two (2) Slim Green Cans (With Signage)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Two (2) Slim Gray Cans (With Signage)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Three (3) 32 Gallon Can Dollies	

Delivered to Marcie Durham on September 27 and October 10, 2024

Signature

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Gold Oak Elementary on 12/09/2024 & 01/08/2024
School Name **Date**

- Four (4) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins
- Two (2) 32- Gallon Grey Landfill Cans
- Two (2) Trash Can Dollies
- One (1) Slim Grey Trash Can
- One (1) Slim Green Trash Can
- One (1) Slim Green Trash Can Lid
- One (1) Slim Grey Trash Can Lid
- Two (2) Slim Green Can Dollies
- Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners
- Two (2) Liquid Buckets
- Two (2) Liquid Strainers
- Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill, Tray Stacking, and Share Cart



Signature



Date

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Pleasant Valley Middle School on 01/06/2024
School Name **Date**

- Six (6) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins
- Six (6) 32- Gallon Trash Can Dollies
- Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners
- Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill, Tray Stacking, and Share Cart



Signature

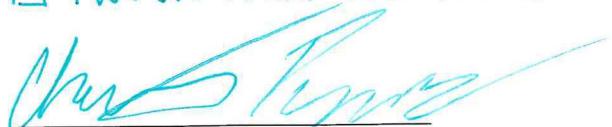


Date

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Georgetown Elementary on 01/13/2024 5 + 01/24/2025
School Name **Date**

- Four (4) 32-Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins
- Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners
- Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill, Tray Stacking, and Share Cart
- TWO (2) TRASH CAN DOLIES



Signature



Date

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Ponderosa High School (EDUHSD) on March 11 & March 17, 2025

School Name	Date
-------------	------

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ten (10) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill	



Signature

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Union Mine High School (EDUHSD) on April 4, 2025

School Name

Date

- Eight (8) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins
- Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners
- Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill



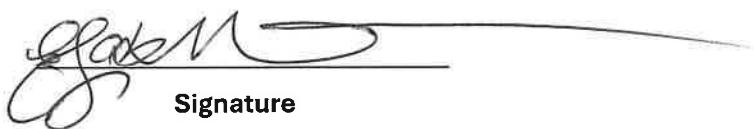
Signature

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to El Dorado High School (EDUHSD) on April 22 & April 29, 2025

School Name	Date
-------------	------

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eight (8) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill	



Signature

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Independence High School (EDUHSD) on May 8, 2025

School Name

Date

- Four (4) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins
- One (2) 23- Gallon Green Can with Lid
- Two (2) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners
- Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill



Chad Jones

Signature



Chad Jones

BREATHE Food Scraps & Recycling Program Kit

Items delivered to Oak Ridge High School (EDUHSD) on February 10, 13 & 25, 2025

School Name **Date**

Twenty-One (21) 32- Gallon Green Food Scraps Bins

One (1) 23- Gallon Green Can

One (1) 23- Gallon Grey Can

One (1) Cases of Green BPI Certified Compostable Liners

Signage: Food Scraps, Recycling, Landfill



Signature

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

e. Supporting Document

Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities:
Grades 7 through 12

Supporting Document: Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities for Grades 7 through 12

Grades 7 & 8

This image shows a template for a 'Lesson Plan' titled 'Food Scraps & Recycling'. The template includes sections for 'Summary', 'Materials Needed', and 'Learning Objectives'. It also features a 'Lesson Outline' table with rows for 'Duration', 'Guide', and 'Remarks'.

Lesson Outline		
Duration	Guide	Remarks
Day 1 (30 min)	Present the Sort Smart & Recycle Right Presentation to your students. Encourage student participation	Introduce SB 1383, food waste issues, and the purpose of an audit to see what types of waste are generated.
25 minutes	Conduct lunchtime audit. Either during lunchtime or have custodial bring one lunchtime landfill bin to classroom.	Groups collect, sort, and record what items and sort into appropriate small bins (landfill, composting, recycling).
10 minutes	Brainstorm solutions to get lunchtime waste sorted properly	Think of ways to make waste sorting easier during lunchtime.
Day 2 (15 min)	Review data and patterns found from waste audit.	Ask students why they put certain items and end up in the wrong bins.
20 minutes	Create posters with solutions	This could be putting bins in certain locations, creating posters around campus to remind about waste sorting, etc.
10 minutes	Short group presentations	Groups can talk about what their solutions are and why. Can continue this exercise by testing a solution or two and reducing waste audit!

This image shows a template for a 'Lesson Plan' titled 'Food Scraps & Recycling'. The template includes sections for 'Summary', 'Materials Needed', and 'Learning Objectives'. It also features a 'Lesson Outline' table with rows for 'Duration', 'Guide', and 'Remarks'.

Lesson Outline		
Duration	Guide	Remarks
Week 1 (10 min)	Present the Sort Smart & Recycle Right Presentation to your students. Encourage student participation	Introduce SB 1383, food waste issues, and the purpose of an audit to see what types of waste are generated.
20 minutes	Groups build compost jars by laying food scraps and leaves/paper. Do approximately 2 parts of leaves + paper to 1 part of food scraps.	Visit Kids Compost for Composting - lesson notes for more information on creating healthy soil of food scraps. Things like bones and citrus items will likely fail to break down. If there is time, small salsa like this but would be good to see some students use these materials so they can learn later.
Week 2/3 (10 min each)	Weekly check-ins on jars	Note changes in temperature, smells, visual changes with the jar.
15 minutes	Group discussions on what they are seeing.	Ask students the types of food scraps are succeeding in developing good-looking compost, and which ones are not going to develop. Why might these be factors?

Grades 9 & 10

This image shows a template for a 'Lesson Plan' titled 'Food Scraps & Recycling'. The template includes sections for 'Summary', 'Materials Needed', and 'Learning Objectives'. It also features a 'Lesson Outline' table with rows for 'Duration', 'Guide', and 'Remarks'.

Lesson Outline: 2 Classes		
Duration	Guide	Remarks
Day 1 (15 min)	Evaluate current cafeteria waste problems.	Look into what food items are wasted most. Are single use plastics common? Is there a lot of littering is occurring during lunch because of missing trash cans?
30 minutes	In groups, assess the problems, and look into zero-waste models for cafeterias.	Examine what your cafeteria is missing. What is feasible what is practical? What do you already have that you can work with?
10 minutes	Evaluate solutions to waste issues that the students have come up with.	Have the class write solutions on a whiteboard and write on how feasible these solutions might be from 1-5 (most implementable to least).
Day 2 (30 min)	Look at votes from previous class, and in teams redesign cafeteria for waste reduction and annotate it.	Have some groups work on most practical redesign, and others most ideal.
15 minutes	Have class vote on favorite redesigns, present solutions and take peer feedback.	

Notes: Visit [Student Food Waste Audit FINAL_4-6-2017.pdf](#) for some inspiration to customize your waste audit!

Questions or Concerns? Please reach out to BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager, Paige Arnett at Parnett@sacbreath.org

This lesson plan was created through a partnership with the County of El Dorado and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.



CalRecycle

Notes: Discuss aerobic vs anaerobic decomposition, link compost to healthy soil and food systems. For a bonus try growing a control vegetable with no compost, and one with compost made in class!

Questions or Concerns? Please reach out to BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager, Paige Arnett at Parnett@sacbreath.org

This lesson plan was created through a partnership with the County of El Dorado and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.



CalRecycle

Notes: Frame it as a real-world proposal to share with school staff. Teaches presentation skills and encourages creative but still grounded thinking.

Questions or Concerns? Please reach out to BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager, Paige Arnett at Parnett@sacbreath.org

This lesson plan was created through a partnership with the County of El Dorado and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.



CalRecycle

Supporting Document: Grade-level Appropriate Lesson Plan Activities for Grades 7 through 12



Summary

Date	
Subject	Sort Smart & Recycle Right -
Year Group or Grade Level	Grade 9 - Grade 10 -
Main Topic or Unit	Carbon Footprint of Waste
Subtopics or Key Concepts	Investigate greenhouse gas impact of school food waste

Materials Needed

- High School Lunch Menu
- Food waste calculator
- Google Slides, Canva, some type of PowerPoint app.
- Internet Access

Learning Objectives

Learn how to evaluate school food waste. Conduct statistical analysis based on school size. Learn how to use complex food calculators to see greenhouse gas emissions.

Lesson Outline: 1-2 Classes

Duration	Guide	Remarks
15 Minutes	Introduction to methane, landfill emissions, and the carbon footprint of our items. Use BREATH's Sort Smart presentation as a template, and customize based on class.	Helps introduce the concepts of methane, landfill emissions, and the imports they have in the environment.
15 minutes	Calculate impacts of food waste. Take student presentation on your high school and multiply by 30% (USA average food waste per person), use waste calculator to calculate the amount of food waste generated from food waste over all the schools over different timeframes, days/months/years.	Use BREATH's Food Waste Guide . Enter food waste as food waste sent to landfill, food waste sent to compost, and CO ₂ equivalent generated.
30 minutes	Students create short presentation that show what these emissions are equivalent to (plane flight? Driving etc.)	Mention how this is equivalent with proper waste sorting.

Notes: Provide California food waste statistics to expand calculations. Highlight how student choices can help reduce emissions.

Questions or Concerns?
Please reach out to BREATH's Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager, Paige Arnett at Parrett@sacbreath.org

This lesson plan was created through a partnership with the County of El Dorado and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.



Grades 11 & 12



Summary

Date	
Subject	Sort Smart & Recycle Right -
Year Group or Grade Level	Grade 11 - Grade 12 -
Main Topic or Unit	Waste to Resource: Story of a Banana Peel
Subtopics or Key Concepts	Visualize journey of food waste

Materials Needed

- Calculator
- Internet Access for life-cycle research

Learning Objectives

Learn about life-cycle assessment. Develop creativity through storytelling. Connect real life examples to environmental issues

Lesson Outline: 1 Class

Duration	Guide	Remarks
Day 1 (15 min)	Introduction to methane, landfill emissions, and the carbon footprint of our items. Use BREATH's Sort Smart presentation as a template, and customize based on class.	Introduce landfill vs composting processes and their benefits/costs.
20 minutes	Students choose a common food item and start mapping its journey	Select a specific food item like a banana peel. Research how certain ingredients they are to grow, how for they can be transported (international, regional), brought to a store, bought by them, and potentially wasted
20 minutes	Calculate overall journey	Calculate the carbon footprint of the journey of that food item only to be wasted. Extrapolate that to the carbon footprint of the whole class and compare those numbers to eye-opening emissions (like plane travel, driving, etc.)
10 minutes	Discussion	Discuss methods to reduce the carbon footprint or impact of wasted food. Examples of buying local, eating shorter food miles. Donates food waste to pantries. Composting old food for upcycling etc.

Notes: This assignment allows for a wider view of a common food item. It introduces life-cycle assessment and impacts simple decisions along the way can make to the environment.

Questions or Concerns?
Please reach out to BREATH's Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager, Paige Arnett at Parrett@sacbreath.org

This lesson plan was created through a partnership with the County of El Dorado and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.



Summary

Date	
Subject	Sort Smart & Recycle Right -
Year Group or Grade Level	Grade 11 - Grade 12 -
Main Topic or Unit	Footprints & Food - Connect personal consumption to food waste & sustainability.
Subtopics or Key Concepts	Students will use Global Footprint Network's Calculator to measure the impacts of their personal footprint.

Materials Needed

- Internet access
- Access to Ecological Footprint Calculator ([Ecological Footprint Calculator](#))

Learning Objectives

Identify how food choices contribute to personal footprint. Connect sustainability to organic waste. Consider ecological impact of lifestyle choices for reflection.

Lesson Outline: 1 Class

Duration	Guide	Remarks
Intro (5 min)	Wormup question: "How many planets would Earth need if everyone had your lifestyle?" Introduce footprint calculator.	Let students reflect on their ecological impacts.
15 minutes	Personal Footprint Calculation	Students complete the calculator individually. Enter habits and note results.
10 minutes	Reflection	Have students discuss which habits contributed most to their "Earth consumption", any similarities? Which in the class uses the most? The least? What alternatives exist that can reduce Earth consumption?
15 minutes	Connecting to food waste	Discuss food waste as an important impact to Earth consumption. How can we contribute to this problem? Incorporate organic waste recycling as a potential old and new solution. Have a discussion/research on it connects to Earth's ecology.

Notes: This creates personal connection to our ecological footprint and allows organic waste diversion to be more personal rather than abstract. Very customizable and can be incorporated as larger assignment.

Questions or Concerns?
Please reach out to BREATH's Food Scraps & Recycling Program Manager, Paige Arnett at Parrett@sacbreath.org

This lesson plan was created through a partnership with the County of El Dorado and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.



**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

f. Supporting Document

Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling
Updates Newsletter: June

Supporting Document: Quarterly Recycling and Organics Recycling Updates Newsletter: June



Does your school have a Food Scraps Recycling Program? Do you need help with staff and student education? We are here to help!

BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program is brought through a partnership with the County of El Dorado to help K-12 schools comply with Senate Bill 1383. This program is completely **FREE** to schools throughout El Dorado County. Since 2018, BREATHE has launched this program in more than 70 schools through partnerships with the City of Sacramento, the City of West Sacramento, and Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD).

Our program includes:

- Staff and supervisor training and assemblies for students and staff
- Waste station infrastructure, including signage and bins
- On-site technical assistance throughout the school year
- Educational materials for how to successfully implement food scraps recycling at school
- Incentives for students to sort their waste
- We also work with leadership/environmental clubs for a more student lead experience.

Whether you need help setting up a new recycling program or want to enhance a current one, please contact our program manager, Paige Arnett via email at parnett@sacbreath.org.

[Click here for more info on BREATHE's Food Scraps Program](#)

[BREATHE's Online Toolkit](#)



BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program
2024-25 Year Wrapped!

BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team has wrapped up our launches in El Dorado County for the 2024-25 school year!

Follow along this newsletter to learn where we visited and what we've accomplished throughout the school year.

[BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program](#)



BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Team
in the Community!

Over 2024-25 our Food Scraps team participated in four outreach events! We bonded with the community at Northside Elementary's Community Night Out. We shared education on organic waste recycling with 350 7th graders at El Dorado High School's National Connections Day. We discussed how proper food diversion can help the environment with the Placerville Home & Garden show. We also shared with the community at their Spring has Sprung event. Finally, we supported the Placerville Home & Garden show by advocating for proper waste diversion at a large event!

Outreach in the community is a favorite of ours, as we get to meet so many different people and learn how caring for our environment connects us all!

[SB 1383 Information for Venues and Large Events](#)



BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling visited Five High Schools!

Over 2024-25, we had the privilege to provide outreach and education at five High Schools in El Dorado County! From this, we reached a total of **6,592** students through our tabling and spin-the-wheel game.

Due to the high student population at these schools, we worked with school administration and identified the best method of outreach for SB 1383.

Overall, the outreach was great at these high schools. We never had a shortage of interested participants coming to play our sorting game.

These students showed a lot of care and interest in their role to keep organic waste out of landfills!

[BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program](#)



BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling at Three Elementary Schools!

BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team had a great time visiting three elementary schools this past year. Seeing 815 students over our time visiting, we were inspired by how quickly they learned the waste sorting process and understood the importance of diverting their food scraps.

Many of the students had shared that their family practiced home gardening or home farming at some scale, and many of them already practiced composting techniques at home. While the organic waste bins at the schools allowed even more organic waste items to be diverted from landfills, this reinforced the importance of composting food waste. This was extremely beneficial to students. We saw excitement and a sense of pride to connect their personal background to the new waste sorting system at school!

[BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program](#)



See Breathe Central Valley, El Dorado County / Master Gardener / Sherwood Demonstration Garden / UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

Looking for some gardening tips? Give the Sherwood Demonstration Garden a visit located in Placerville, this demonstration garden is maintained by the UC Master Gardener Program. This is a research-based, sustainable gardening practices that work best for the El Dorado environment.

Sherwood Demonstration Garden is open to the public Friday and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 12:00PM (until October (hours change). Please click the link below for more details.

[Sherwood Demonstration Garden Info](#)



BREATHE's in the news

Sent

103

Open Rate

49.5%

Click Rate

0%

Image Source: https://www.sacbreath.org/2024/06/01/breathe-recycling-and-organic-recycling-updates-june-2024/

BREATHE was recently recognized by West Sacramento for our role in promoting sustainability in their city! Similar to our work in El Dorado County, BREATHE visits schools to address organic waste recycling and diversion from landfills. Click the link below to listen to the State of the City Address.

[West Sacramento State of the City](#)

SB 1383
Chat with CalRecycle



Image Source: CalRecycle

Interested in learning how jurisdictions go about inspection and enforcement like? Watch this chat with CalRecycle to learn about what the inspection process may look like, and what jurisdictions may be looking for from different organic waste generators!

Inspections and requirements can look different county to county, so check with yours to stay up to date on how to stay compliant!

[Chat with CalRecycle SB 1383 Jurisdiction Inspection and Enforcement \(recorded\)](#)

Commercial Edible Food Generators



Image Source: https://www.sacbreath.org/2024/06/01/breathe-recycling-and-organic-recycling-updates-june-2024/

Senate Bill 1383 requires commercial edible food generators, like schools, to recover the maximum amount of edible food by partnering with local food banks, food pantries, or food recovery organizations.

Is your school compliant? Check out the links below to learn more about edible food recovery requirements and how you can connect with a food bank near you!

[SB 1383: Edible Food Recovery](#)

[Find a Local Food Bank](#)

BREATHE's Food Scraps
Recycling team is dedicated to supporting all schools in El Dorado County, Twin Rivers Unified School District, Sacramento City, and the City of West Sacramento.

Our team of experts can help you with any of your recycling or organic recycling needs. If you would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you!

[Visit our Website](#)

Thank you for reading! If you have any questions or need assistance starting or maintaining recycling and food scraps recycling programs, please reach out to Paige Arnett at parnett@sacbreath.org or Melissa.Hill@mling@sacbreath.org

BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling Program in El Dorado County is offered through a partnership with the County of El Dorado and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.



**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

g. Supporting Document

2024-2025 Waste Diversion Report

School Site	School District	Date Implemented	Last School Day	Student Population (2024- 2025)	Pounds Diverted per Week	Per Capita Pounds Diverted per Week	Tons Diverted ¹ through the last day of school
Northside Elementary School	BOMUSD	09/23/2024	06/05/2025	253	379.7	1.5	4.9
Gold Oak Elementary School	GOUSD	12/09/2024	05/30/2025	311	350.5	1.1	3.1
Pleasant Valley Middle School	GOUSD	01/06/2025	05/30/2025	155	105	0.7	0.8
Georgetown Elementary School	BOMUSD	01/13/2025	06/05/2025	251	409.5	1.6	3
Ponderosa High School	EDUHSD	03/17/2025	05/23/2025	1689	286.62	0.17	1
Union Mine High School*	EDUHSD	04/28/2025	05/27/2025	1066	n/a	n/a	n/a
El Dorado High School*	EDUHSD	05/05/2025	05/24/2025	1195	n/a	n/a	n/a
Independence High School	EDUHSD	05/08/2025	05/26/2025	102	0.28	1.4	0.1
Oak Ridge High School*	EDUHSD	05/13/2025	05/25/2025	2516	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	-	-	-	7,538	1,531.6	6.47	12.9

¹Calculated using data collected from visual inspection of food waste bins and the EPA's food waste volume to weight conversion factor (150 pounds per 64-gallon toter).

Per Capita-How many pounds per person each week

*Was not able to conduct an adequate audit

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

h. Supporting Document
2024-2025 Key Staff Surveys

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Custodial Questions:

School Name: Northside Elementary School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

Head Custodian

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

4- Overall, the program is going pretty well with younger students but it has been a little bit more challenging with the older students.

- a. What has contributed to the program's success?**

The signage is helpful and the students desire to help with cleanup at the end of the day.

- b. What challenges have you experienced**

The older students are a little bit more rebellious and not wanting to participate in the waste sorting.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

Mostly just plastic food containers like carrot bags and plastic bags in the food scraps bin.

- b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

N/A

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

Most of the younger students are incentivized to help cleanup and help their peers sort their waste.

- a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

Originally, the waste was going to an employees pig farm. Since that employee left, we had to restart our pick-up with El Dorado Disposal.

5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?

N/A

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Custodial Questions:

School Name: Gold Oak Elementary School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

I am the Plant Manager, and I am responsible for making sure the waste is being sorted accurately and thrown away into the correct dumpster.

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

5

- a. What has contributed to the program's success?**

Having BREATHE help at lunch and breakfast. Having staff stand by the waste stations.

- b. What challenges have you experienced**

It can be challenging to find a staff member who is willing to watch the cans during lunch and breakfast.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

Usually just plastic containers like yogurt or sauce packets or trays.

- b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

Having more consistent support for constant reminders.

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

The students and the staff have practiced and learned more over time.

- a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

The BPI bags are really expensive.

5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?

Start the program in the beginning of the year so the students had all year to practice.

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Custodial Questions:

School Name: Pleasant Valley Middle School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

Custodian. I collect the trash and throw the waste into the outdoor bin at the end of the lunch period.

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

2

- a. What has contributed to the program's success?**

Having the tabling education helped students involved in the beginning.

- b. What challenges have you experienced**

The bins are always too contaminated to be thrown into the organic dumpster. The students are not sorting at all.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

Just trash in general. They are just using the green cans as a trash can.

- b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

Doing an assembly at the beginning of the school year would have probably been helpful.

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

At first, the students may have been sorting but over time they stopped.

- a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

Just since the students eat their lunch in different areas around the campus, it makes it hard to enforce the sorting.

5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?

Possibly starting the program off with an assembly or in-class presentations. Next year, we want to have the students eat lunch inside so we can condense everything to one waste station. I think this will help control the sorting.

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Custodial Questions:

School Name: Georgetown Elementary School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

Custodian

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

3

- a. What has contributed to the program's success?**

The assembly at the start of the program and the staff help from BREATHE.

- b. What challenges have you experienced**

The students do not care or listen. They just do whatever they want.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

All items.

- b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

No ideas. The students do not get it. It would be helpful to have BREATHE staff here for a whole month at the beginning of the school year so that the students would really understand.

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

The students sort when BREATHE staff is here, but when they are not here, the students do not sort. The students were stacking their trays but now they are not.

- a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

The bags fill up quickly and are usually too contaminated to throw into the organics can. There is a milk container where students have to pour their milk now and it is hard to dump at the end of the day.

- 5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?**

I would start the program at the beginning of the year and have BREATHE staff here for the first month of school.

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Custodial Questions:

School Name: Ponderosa High School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

Principal of the school, walking around during lunch reminding people to sort their waste.

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

3- Not bad but not great

- What has contributed to the program's success?**

Having organic waste in the kitchen. They are a top generator, so having the bins there helps divert a lot of the food waste.

- What challenges have you experienced**

Students don't generate a lot of waste in general, but those that do don't take the time to sort their waste and can contaminate the green bins.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

General plastic waste being lumped together with food into the wrong bins.

- What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

We just need more time and development for something like this to be more normalized.

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

- Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

We stopped using the BPI liners in the green bins since the students aren't generating much waste at all. Instead we are focusing our green bins in cooking classes and in the kitchen that generate a lot of food waste.

5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?

N/A

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Principal Questions:

School Name: Union Mine High School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

School Principal. I make sure that the program is going okay and that the custodial staff isn't having any problems.

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

4

- a. What has contributed to the program's success?**

Having BREATHE present at lunch has been helpful, along with the student leaders that have helped take this program on.

- b. What challenges have you experienced**

Since we started so late in the school year, it is difficult to get the students to start something new.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

Just plastic in the green can.

- b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

Maybe just starting the training at the beginning of the year.

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

I think it's too early on to tell.

- a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

The biggest challenge was just that we started so late in the year.

5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?

I'd like to start the program earlier to help build a consistent routine for the students.

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Teacher Questions:

School Name: El Dorado High School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

I am a teacher for the Natural Resources Program and I've helped start this program at El Dorado High School.

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

4

- a. What has contributed to the program's success?**

Having BREATHE's support with education and program supplies has been helpful.

- b. What challenges have you experienced**

Students grasping the concepts of the waste sorting. Having the staff support to help.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

Most of the bins are contaminated with plastic. However, the students don't produce a lot of food waste in general.

- b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

I think just starting the training earlier on in the year and having consistent reminders from students and staff.

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

- a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

The main challenge has just been the contamination.

- 5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?**

Maybe have more time to prepare with students and staff.

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Custodial Questions:

School Name: Independence High School

- 1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?**

I am the Plant Manager. I bring out the cans and check for any plastic or contaminants. I work with the students to help them lead the program.

- 2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?**

4

- a. What has contributed to the program's success?**

Having the support and materials from BREATHE, but also from the students. The students are fast learners and they are really great about doing things if they are good for the environment.

- b. What challenges have you experienced**

Since we just started the program, I don't think we've had any challenges yet.

- 3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?**

- a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?**

Plastic wrappers or containers with food in them.

- b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?**

Not sure.

- 4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?**

Since we just started the program, I haven't noticed anything specific yet.

- a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?**

None in particular.

5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?

Just start the program at the start of the school year.

Food Scraps & Recycling Program Staff Feedback

Principal Questions:

School Name: Oak Ridge High School

1. What is your Role in supporting the food waste recycling program at your school?

As the Principal, I helped roll out this program and make sure that we have all the supplies that we need. At lunch, I talk with the students about the new waste bins to make sure they understand why they are there.

2. How would you rate the overall success of the program so far on a scale of 1-5?

5

a. What has contributed to the program's success?

The students efforts in helping roll out this program and the support from BREATHE.

b. What challenges have you experienced

We faced challenges when obtaining our outdoor dumpster because we had to have construction done. It put a delay in starting our program.

3. When SacBreathe staff are not on-site, what common issues with contamination do you notice?

Usually just plastic wrappers or plastic in the green can.

a. Are there specific items students often place in the wrong bin?

Just plastic.

b. What ideas do you have for making signage, training, or reminders more clear or effective?

No ideas right now.

4. Thinking back to the start of the program, what changes or improvements have you observed over time?

N/A – Program just began

a. Have there been any new challenges since the program was first implemented?

N/A- Program just began

5. If you could redesign or restart the program, what would you change or do differently?

I would have liked to start earlier. I think having the program at the start of the next school year will be helpful for the students.

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Waste Recycling Progress Report
(Final Report 2025)**

i. Supporting Document

El Dorado County 2024-25 Reflection



Food Scraps & Recycling Program

El Dorado County

2024-25 Reflection

June 2025

By: Shivam Gandhi

**Breathe California Sacramento Region
Food Scraps & Recycling Program
El Dorado County
2024-25 Reflection (June 2025)**

Table of Contents

1.0 Reflection

1.1 Food Scraps.....	3
1.2 Breathe California	3
1.3 El Dorado County Food Scraps & Recycling Launch	4
1.4 El Dorado County Elementary Schools: Successes & Challenges	6
1.5 El Dorado County Middle Schools: Successes & Challenges	7
1.6 El Dorado County High Schools: Successes & Challenges	9
1.7 Independence (Continuation) High School	10
1.8 Future Direction.....	11

2.0 Appendix

2.1 2024-25 Waste Diversion Data	12
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Connecting the Dots Between Food Scraps and Compost

Food Scraps

Food scraps describe various leftover or discarded food items, which include kitchen leftovers, unused portions, inedible parts of plants or meats, spoiled food, and food-soiled paper.

Recycling food scraps not only reduces air and water pollution, but it decreases harmful methane emissions from landfills and directly addresses climate change. Increased food scraps recovery can also lead to significant savings in energy and transportation costs associated with food production.¹

In 2016, Governor Jerry Brown of California signed Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) into law, aiming to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) and improve air quality. This legislation mandates the establishment of organic waste recycling programs, implementation of edible food recovery initiatives, provision of organic waste recycling services, and extensive education and outreach efforts to raise public awareness about organic waste reduction.²

At its core, this approach recognizes the critical importance of addressing food scraps as a global challenge with far-reaching environmental, economic, and social implications. Food scraps sorting initiatives at schools are essential in minimizing the environmental impact of discarded food by diverting organic materials from landfills and promoting composting as a sustainable alternative. Students who are involved in the food scraps sorting process are more likely to have a stronger sense of responsibility and empowerment for reducing waste and preserving natural resources.³

Breathe California Sacramento Region's Food Scraps & Recycling Program

Since its establishment in 1917, Breathe California Sacramento Region (BREATHE) has remained dedicated to its mission of promoting clean air and healthy lungs throughout the Sacramento Region. BREATHE is a team of people whose mission revolves around advocating for clean air for all, sustainable transportation for those who need it most and providing education and awareness in all things that are healthy lungs related. BREATHE actively engages with schools, communities, and the public to provide educational resources and support. Examples include various community events such as BREATHE's annual Bike Festival, community Earth Day activities, and annual Tobacco Litter Pickups. As a priority, BREATHE collaborates with young leaders to nurture environmental stewardship and encourage civic involvement. BREATHE's

¹ Why should we care about food waste? USDA. <https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste/why>

² California's short-lived climate pollutant reduction strategy. CalRecycle. <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/>

³ Colleges/universities and K-12 schools. CalRecycle. <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Food/Colleges/>

unwavering dedication spearheads initiatives and positive change, not only within the Sacramento Region, but also on a broader scale including multiple counties (El Dorado, Nevada, Yolo, and Butte).

One initiative is the Food Scraps & Recycling Program (FSRP), which extends ongoing assistance to local schools by conducting school-wide assemblies, farmers market presentations, monitoring lunchtime activities, offering educational materials, and directly engaging students. FSRP's primary objective is to educate both staff and students on waste reduction strategies, particularly concerning food scraps, with the ultimate goal of fostering a zero-waste community in the region. Recently, BREATHE incorporated a composting element into its educational outreach, which aimed to guide students to understand the relationship between their food consumption, food scraps, and the process of recycling scraps into compost.

BREATHE worked to raise awareness about the importance of composting and minimizing landfill-bound waste. By implementing effective tools for reducing climate pollutants, including greenhouse gas emissions like CO₂, NO_x, and methane, the program promotes positive environmental impact at a community level. Leveraging collaborative efforts with local government, such as the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County and City of West Sacramento. BREATHE strives to empower individuals and communities alike, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for all.

El Dorado County Food Scraps & Recycling Launch

In July 2024, BREATHE Sacramento region started working with El Dorado County to conduct outreach and education that supported the goals of SB 1383. As part of this, we were tasked to specifically conduct education at schools throughout the county. Being classified as [tier two generators](#), schools offer a unique opportunity to help meet California's 2025 target of 75% organic waste diversion from landfills. This program worked with two groups at the schools, training for custodial and lunch staff as well as education and outreach for the student populations. For the sake of this case study, we will discuss successes and challenges as they relate to the students primarily.

Based on the combination of elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools we identified how to implement this program. We planned different methods to reach our intended audience. Leaning on previous successes of the program, we determined elementary schools had the most success from special presentations that can convey the importance of organic waste diversion, followed by lunchtime landfill and organics waste bin monitoring over the course of 5 days subsequently. We notice this has the greatest impact on this audience as it reinforces these new behaviors through repeated reminders and education to instill good habits.



Figure 1 Elementary School Launch at Gold Oak

For middle schools and high schools, however, our plan had to adjust to consider the much larger student populations. For these venues, we leaned more into the outreach aspect of our program and offered educational tabling during their lunchtimes. During these tabling sessions, we would offer educational brochures on organics waste recycling, composting information, and a spin-the-wheel interactive sorting game. The wheel had been divided into thirds to represent the three primary types of waste sorting, recycling, organics waste, and landfill. This wheel had options that were meant to clearly go in the organic waste bin like leftover pizza, as well as items students often had difficulty realizing were also categorized as organic waste such as chicken bones. By having easy and more challenging options, this game challenged students to think logically and make stronger connections as to what items on their plate are disposed where. To encourage participation, we offered students rewards for playing the game such as candy and small prizes like stress balls or rubber ducks.

With the average high school, we visited hosting over 1,600 students, doing a school wide assembly for education was often not preferred by the school administration. However, Independence (Continuation) High School offered unique opportunities as they only had a

population of 126 students. Being smaller than even the elementary schools we had visited, this offered the opportunity to have a much more intimate classroom presentation on the importance of organic waste diversion. We will go into more detail about the advantages at this school, but their focus on developing life skills also added unique applicability to our program to meet their needs.

El Dorado County Elementary Schools: Successes & Challenges

Over the 24-25 academic year, BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling team was able to visit three elementary schools. On September 23rd we had our first visit to Northside School, located in Cool CA with a student population of 253. On December 9th, we had our second elementary visit at Gold Oak Elementary, a K-5 school located in Placerville CA with a student population of 311. On January 13th, we had our final elementary school launch, visiting Georgetown Elementary School in Georgetown CA with a student population of 251.



Figure 2 BREATHE Staff helping with Lunch Monitoring at Northside Elementary

Lunch monitoring at an elementary school is generally successful due to the consistent and uniform way students eat their meals. Typically, every class and grade eat breakfast and lunch in the same cafeteria, are divided by grade to determine when their lunchtime starts, are dismissed at the same time, and have access to the same landfill and food scraps bins. Staying near these high trafficked bins offers us a great opportunity to work with the students in navigating what proper organic waste separation looks like, and what are appropriate items to throw away in each bin.

Also, we have found that the student's personal background of living in a more rural El Dorado County leads to faster learning outcomes. Many of the students had shared that their family owned or operated on home gardens or home farming at some scale, and many of them already practiced composting techniques at home. While the organic waste bins at the schools allowed even more food waste items to be disposed of than the home compost setup, this relationship of separating food waste for composting was extremely beneficial to students. We saw excitement and a sense of pride to be able to bring their personal background to something at school in the younger students, something we hadn't quite seen at some of our more urban programs.

We also noticed students had the most success when asked open ended questions to stimulate connecting the abstract idea we presented earlier for waste sorting to their very own plates and

choices. This kept them curious and engaged with the program and encouraged them to consider these potentially new concepts in their own context.

Examples of open-ended questions:

- What do you think waste is?
- What are items you use that could go in the organic waste bin?
- Do you think anything on your plate goes to landfill?
- What do you think happens to the food scraps?
- What is compost?

While there were many successes in our launch at El Dorado County elementary schools, we faced our share of challenges as well. For one, the introduction of the different waste bins in this school setting was foreign to students. While we had introduced the concept of the waste bin during our presentations, the physical introduction to them was still a challenge. Before throwing their food away, many would stop and ask what the new bins were for. However, many still would bypass the new bins and continue to throw their entire lunch away in either the organic waste bin or landfill. To address this, BREATHE stayed on site for lunch monitoring for 5 days to continue to remind and demonstrate proper waste sorting to students. As well, encouraging interested students to volunteer as Super Sorters provided peer support and encouragement to help sort their lunch trays.

We were able to encourage the Super Sorters in the cafeteria through a reward system, incentivizing them with unique stickers and small toys for their participation.

End of lunch periods provided another challenge: the rush to recess. At these elementary schools, typical lunch periods had students getting up to empty their trays at their leisure during the middle of the period. However, when the final bell would ring and call for all students to clean their tray who hadn't done so already, the landfill and organic waste bins faced congestion that hindered smooth sorting. To combat this, we would strongly recommend the lunch staff release students by table to reduce the traffic at the waste stations. At Gold Oak, this wasn't possible as their recess period was short, and staff valued the students' ability to enjoy the entire break. Instead, we recommended their staff encourage students with empty trays to sort them in the middle of the lunch break and not wait until the end of the lunch break.

El Dorado County Middle Schools: Successes & Challenges

BREATHE's Food Scraps & Recycling program launched at one middle school in El Dorado, Pleasant Valley in Placerville, CA with a population of 155. Pleasant Valley has their food service delivered from Gold Oak elementary as they are down the road from each other. This leaves no meal preparation happening on site, meaning their food services did not generate any food waste.



Figure 3 BREATHE Staff Tabling at Pleasant Valley Middle School

During their lunchtime, and by recommendation of the school administration, we would table to provide outreach on organic waste sorting importance and good practice. We found this was the best option over lunch monitoring as their lunch break was not confined to cafeterias like elementary schools. Most often, the students were in the courtyard eating their lunch outside, and rather than using a central singular waste station they had organic waste and landfill bins scattered throughout the high occupancy courtyard zones. By having the table with prizes outdoors, they would come to play our sorting game (several times, often) and learn important organic waste diversion skills.

During our 5 days on site, we had many students repeat the game to continue to get prizes. To challenge them once they exhausted the game's options for sorting, we encouraged them to bring their lunch to our table so we

can point out exact options on their tray and ask where they thought those items belonged. Challenges occurred when the students began bringing trash or items out of trash cans over in order to continue to play the game, in which we swiftly adjusted and kept an eye on trash cans and discouraged this behavior.

We found overall; the middle schoolers quickly learned the program and showed an ability to sort. However, the lack of a centralized monitorable waste site offered no incentive to the students to practice these techniques. When discussing this with the facilities manager, we discovered later that the students continue to ignore proper waste sorting techniques and often contaminate the organic waste bin to where no waste can be diverted. To address these issues, next school year a plan has been made to have the middle schoolers eat their lunch inside the cafeteria to improve their organic waste management. Another benefit for Pleasant Valley will be Gold Oak Elementary School students who graduate from middle school will have had experience in the program already using this system. We hope this long-term graduation of experience moving up the El Dorado County school systems will compound in benefits and continue to improve organic waste diversion.

El Dorado County High Schools: Successes & Challenges

BREATHE's Food Scraps and Recycling launched at 5 high schools. On March 18th, we started at Ponderosa High School in Shingle Springs, CA with a student population of 1,689. April 28th went to Union Mine High School in Diamond Springs, CA with a student population of 1,066. May 5th was El Dorado High School in Placerville, CA with a student population of 1,195. May 8th, we visited Independence Continuation High School with a student population of 126 in Diamond Springs, CA. On May 13th, we visited Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills with a student population of 2,516. With Independence High School (IHS) being nontraditional and have some other factors to benefit how our program was able to launch there, we will focus on the successes and challenges of the other 4 schools in this section and address IHS in another



Figure 4 Example tabling setup at a High School

section.

Due to the high student population at these schools, we worked with school administration and identified lunch time tabling to be the most efficient method of outreach for SB 1383. Overall, the outreach was great at these high schools. We never had a shortage of interested participants coming to play our sorting game, and more often they were curious about what we were doing as opposed to the prizes. We spoke to many who already were sorting to some extent, whether that being at home or composting for duties in Future Farmers of America (FFA). In the future, doing some type of coordination with FFA to educate those specific groups might offer a highly motivated participant pool in a program like this.

A bit of an advantage that high schools have over others is students are not required to grab a certain combination of items for lunch. As opposed to elementary schools, they are free to grab whatever they feel like or alternatively not grab anything at all if they aren't hungry. Due to this,

there is often significantly less total waste because of lunch. We found most students were conscious enough to only take what they planned on eating. This led to both landfill and organic waste bins having insignificant amounts of total waste. Through the sheer quantity of organic waste bins these schools needed to meet the needs of their student body, they were still able to divert significant amounts of food waste. However, per capita food waste was significantly less than in elementary and middle schools.

Successes at these high schools include introducing the concept of the new bins as something that would follow students throughout the rest of their educational experience, making them available for those who were willing to take the time to sort their lunch waste. One of the challenges was the concept of organic waste sorting being unfamiliar to many students, leading to ongoing contamination of the organic waste bin. However, as these concepts are continued to be reinforced in elementary and middle school the hope is as they trickle up to high school, the necessary background and skills will be there to make organic waste sorting second nature.

Independence (Continuation) High School

Independence High School (IHS) is a continuation high school that provides alternative education for students that benefit from more supportive and flexible education. The program is tailored to meet students where they are, offering personalized support to help them successfully complete their graduation requirements. IHS has a student body of around 126 students, at a 17:1 student: teacher ratio. They hold lunch at 11:59-12:29PM.



Figure 5 In class presentations at Independence High School

Originally, we had planned to do education, followed by 3-5 days of lunch monitoring. However, due to scheduling conflicts we had to consolidate our outreach and education to a single day. During this time, we presented to the science classes to discuss the background of organic waste diversion from landfills, and the GHG emissions saved by doing so. We felt hosting the presentation in the context of a science class was positive and allowed the students to think critically about why this is important and the scientific relationships that supports SB 1383. We followed this up with tabling similar to the other high schools.

Due to their small population, we were able to have direct classroom interaction with almost every student on site. And those we hadn't met in the classroom had an opportunity to talk to us during the lunch period. Overall IHS has a few factors benefiting this program launch. For one, they have started expanding their own student garden and are adding composting. To do this, they will further encourage organic waste diversion and teach student helpers how to compost. The students are interested in the garden, which is part of the life skills curriculum

provided by school staff. They can take items grown in the garden and go to a school cooking class where the staff teaches them to make healthy and nutritious self-sustained food. Any food waste is then further upcycled into compost, allowing the students to see the value in full life cycle redevelopment. While it is successful at this smaller scale, we feel this can be widely replicated at more high schools to teach students important skills and highlight the lifecycle upcycling of these materials. IHS was able to succeed with this due to the work of dedicated staff members and motivated students.

Future Direction

Overall, we felt the 24-25 launch of our Food Scraps & Recycling program was a success in El Dorado County. Some positive trends are starting to develop, as elementary schools are thriving with the program. As the younger students learn about the program and continue to succeed they will graduate from middle schools and high schools with these habits well developed.

In conducting our end of year waste audits, we measure the amount of uncontaminated food waste in the organics recycling bin and try to calculate how many tons of food waste have been diverted from landfills. This year, we were not able to calculate any of the diversion from high schools due to two factors, either the bins were too contaminated or there simply was not much waste (organic or not) in the bins whatsoever due to the high quantity of garbage bins throughout their quad/cafeteria. Some encouraging signs we found were the high school's kitchen staff utilizing organic waste bins to great effect by diverting significant food waste. In the future, being more strategic with our food waste bin locations at the high schools could help fill up fewer bins more significantly for us to acquire better measurements for our audits. Another way we will improve participation in high schools is by developing more varied and dynamic tabling games to encourage participation and facilitate education on organic waste diversion. While the spin-the-wheel game was successful and enjoyed by the students, adding some diversity in the games can help attract students who aren't interested in the spin-the-wheel.

Elementary schools' participation had some of the greatest contributions to our total food waste diversion in El Dorado County. Since our Food Scraps program launch in the region, we measured 25,800 pounds of food waste diversion. For the future of our program, we hope to encourage additional elementary school participation to help the program and carry forward into the middle schools and high schools as they graduate over the years.

For next year, focusing on fine tuning our tabling, launching at more elementary schools, and developing more connections with food recovery organizations will be a great direction for the program. 2024-25 was a great learning experience for us, and 2025-26 can build off that momentum to divert even more food waste.

2024-25 Waste Diversion Data

School Site	School District	Date Implemented	Last School Day	Student Population (2024- 2025)	Pounds Diverted per Week	Per Capita Pounds Diverted per Week	Tons Diverted ¹ through the last day of school
Northside Elementary School	BOMUSD	09/23/2024	06/05/2025	253	379.7	1.5	4.9
Gold Oak Elementary School	GOUSD	12/09/2024	05/30/2025	311	350.5	1.1	3.1
Pleasant Valley Middle School	GOUSD	01/06/2025	05/30/2025	155	105	0.7	0.8
Georgetown Elementary School	BOMUSD	01/13/2025	06/05/2025	251	409.5	1.6	3
Ponderosa High School	EDUHSD	03/17/2025	05/23/2025	1689	286.62	0.17	1
Union Mine High School*	EDUHSD	04/28/2025	05/27/2025	1066	n/a	n/a	n/a
El Dorado High School*	EDUHSD	05/05/2025	05/24/2025	1195	n/a	n/a	n/a
Independence High School	EDUHSD	05/08/2025	05/26/2025	102	0.28	1.4	0.1
Oak Ridge High School*	EDUHSD	05/13/2025	05/25/2025	2516	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	-	-	-	7,538	1,531.6	6.47	12.9

¹Calculated using data collected from visual inspection of food waste bins and the EPA's food waste volume to weight conversion factor (150 pounds per 64-gallon toter).

Per Capita-How many pounds per person each week

*Was not able to conduct an adequate audit