

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ZERO WASTE PROGRAM LAUNCH

Lincoln School launched a zero waste program in the lunchroom on January 29, 2019, and what a difference we are making! All students and teachers learned the How and the Why of the new program during a morning assembly. Lincoln now sorts out liquids and recycling and commercially composts all food scraps, napkins, and trays. We are keeping valuable resources out of landfills and getting closer to being waste-free.

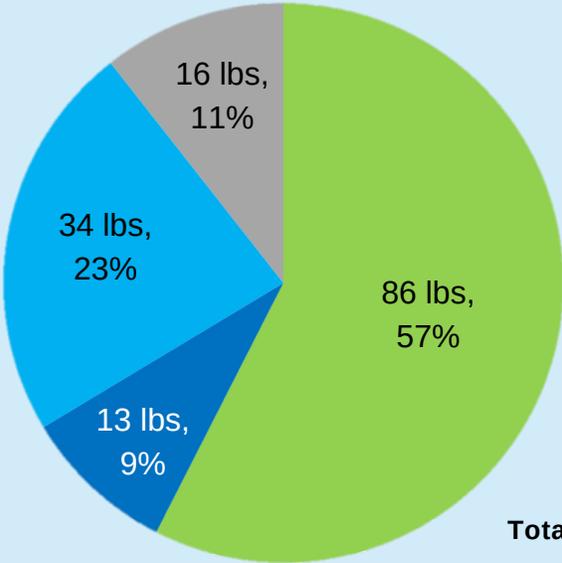
OUR IMPACT

In One Day

- 86 lbs composted
- 13 lbs recycled
- 34 lbs liquid diverted
- 133 lbs diverted from landfill

Potential for One School Year

- 15,480 lbs composted
- 2,340 lbs recycled
- 6,120 lbs liquid diverted
- 23,940 lbs diverted from landfill



■ Compost ■ Recycling ■ Liquid ■ Landfill

Before launching the Zero Waste Program, Lincoln used to send all lunchroom waste to the landfill. That would be **26,820 lbs** of landfill waste per school year!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT GOES WHERE IN OUR SORTING STATION?



PACK A ZERO WASTE LUNCH FROM HOME

Save money and make less garbage. Instead of buying disposable products that get used only once, pack a zero waste lunch with washable food and drink containers, utensils, and cloth napkins. Buying food in bulk and portioning it into your own containers also typically costs less than buying food in single-serve packaging. Visit www.wastefreelunches.org to learn more.

COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING IN DISTRICT 97

The food scraps and food-soiled paper products collected in District 97 lunchrooms get turned into compost at the Willow Ranch Compost Facility in Lemont, IL. Keeping food scraps out of landfills has a big environmental impact. When food scraps decompose in a landfill, the powerful greenhouse gas methane is produced. When food scraps are composted, a valuable soil amendment is created.

GO FOR ZERO WASTE AT HOME

Take the lessons home – see how much you can minimize waste by reducing, recycling, and composting. The Village of Oak Park offers residential recycling and composting. Visit www.oak-park.us to learn more.