



# OAK TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ZERO WASTE PROGRAM LAUNCH

Oak Terrace launched a zero waste program in the lunchroom on November 6, 2019, and what a difference we are making!

Oak Terrace now sorts out liquids and recycling and commercially composts all food scraps and food-soiled paper. We are keeping valuable resources out of landfills and getting closer to zero waste.

All students learned the How and Why of reducing waste during a morning assembly on launch day. Enthusiastic Zero Waste Agents monitor the sorting station to make sure everything goes where it belongs.

Thank you to all students, staff, and parents for your efforts and support!



Oak Terrace went from 12 full bags of trash per day to less than 1 full bag per day.

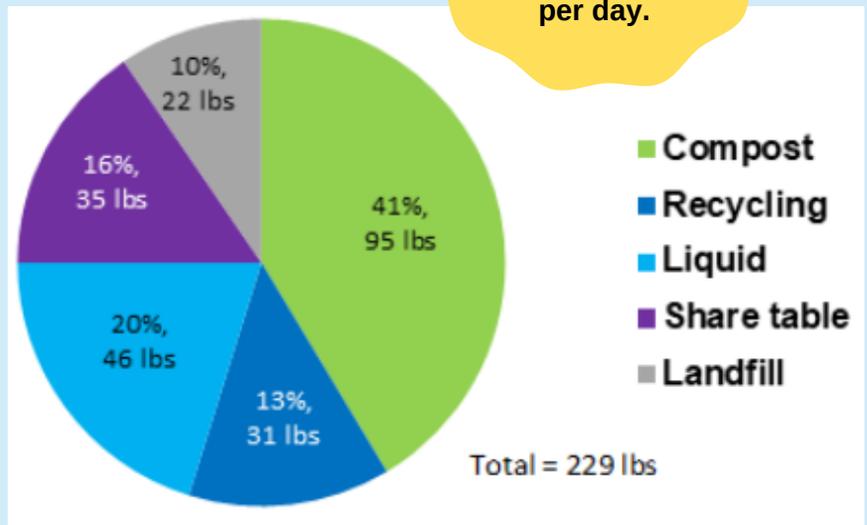
## OUR IMPACT

### In One Day

- 95 lbs composted
- 31 lbs recycled
- 46 lbs liquid diverted
- 35 lbs food recovered
- 207 lbs diverted from landfill

### Potential for One School Year

- 17,100 lbs composted
- 5,580 lbs recycled
- 8,280 lbs liquid diverted
- 6,300 lbs food recovered
- 37,260 lbs diverted from landfill



# 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 single-use disposable products, pack a zero waste lunch with washable food and drink containers, utensils, and cloth napkins.

## REDUCE FOOD WASTE

40% of food in the U.S. gets wasted while 1 in 7 families is food insecure. To prevent good food from being trashed, Oak Terrace's sorting station has a share table where students can put school lunch items (whole fruit and factory-sealed foods) they took but did not eat. These foods can be used later as extra snacks. Students with home lunches are encouraged to take their uneaten food back home and talk with their families about packing a nutritious lunch that won't get wasted.

## COMPOSTING

When food scraps decompose in a landfill, the greenhouse gas methane is produced. When food scraps are composted, they can be used to build healthy soil. The food scraps and food-soiled paper collected at Oak Terrace get turned into compost at the Organix compost facility in Chicago.

Oak Terrace families can also compost at home.

[Highwood](#) and [Highland Park](#) both offer curbside commercial compost service.

You can also compost in your own backyard. Learn more [here](#).

