



SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023





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SUSTAINABILITY AT SDJA

SDJA's Sustainability Initiative goals encompass a comprehensive strategy to lead our school towards a greener future. We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint, from energy to waste, water, and transportation. Central to our vision is the engagement of stakeholders, including students, faculty, and the broader community. We aim to foster champions who share our passion for sustainability, both formally and informally.

To achieve a holistic impact, we're integrating learning opportunities that create character development parallel to academic excellence and the expression of Jewish values. Collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts are at the core of our approach, promoting sustainability within our school's fabric.

Alongside these efforts, we continue to develop new outdoor learning opportunities and educational spaces that exemplify practical ways to lead more sustainable lives. Through these initiatives, we aspire to not only enhance the educational experience at SDJA but also contribute positively to our planet and the generations to come.



SDJA's commitment to sustainability has not only lessened our environmental footprint but has created operational efficiencies, cost savings as well as a sense of pride in our role as change-makers within our school, community, and the broader world. Working hand in hand with our committed faculty, we've fostered educational bonds that highlight the impact of our actions on both people and the planet. Through our everyday choices, we recognize the profound impact each one of us can make. *Joanna Dubbeldam, Director Sustainability*

THIS YEAR'S KEY RESULTS

97% Electricity derived from SDJA Solar System
(pending SDGE revision)

100% Organic waste from SDJA Kitchen
diverted from landfill

100,000 lbs Recycled

▲ 54% to 77% Increase in Sustainable Cleaning Supply
Score

*13,177 lbs Food waste converted into animal feed

*10,000 lbs Composted

*2,425 lbs Edible Food donated to JFS

▼ 30% Decrease in paper towel usage

100% New waste receptacles donated/upcycled

100% Elimination of single use plastic bottles
in school vending machines

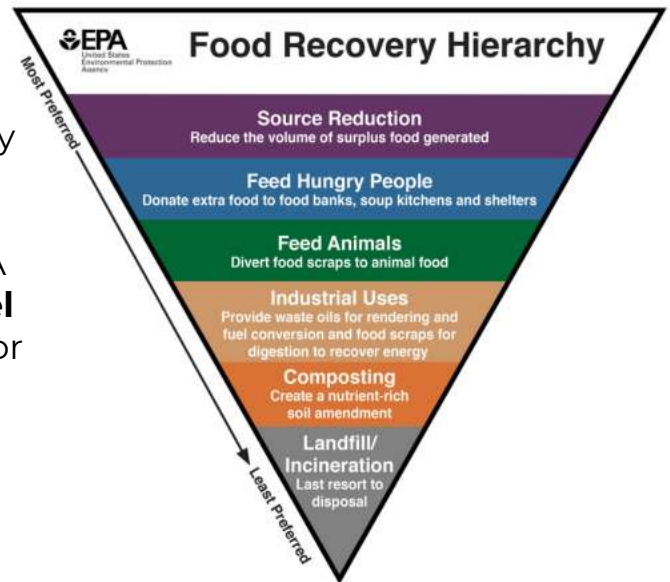
* 4 month period only (programs commenced mid year)



WASTE DIVERSION

CONVERTING TRASH INTO VALUABLE LOCAL RESOURCES

In alignment with the EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy and SB 1383 guidelines, SDJA is set this year to **transform 100,000 lbs of trash into valuable local resources**. SDJA has also earned the distinction as a **“model school”**, as noted by Kayla Thomson, Senior Food Procurement Supervisor from San Diego Food Bank’s food rescue program.



SDJA donates all unused edible food to our food recovery partner, Jewish Family Services (JFS), which distributes the food to unsheltered San Diegans living out of their vehicles through JFS’s Safe Parking Program.

Kitchen discards and inedible leftovers are separated and turned into animal feed by local farmers or fed to the school’s chickens.

All remaining organic waste from the dining program is hauled away and processed locally into biofuel that powers the hauler's truck fleet.



RECYCLING REIMAGINED

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS THAT KEEP WASTE OUT OF LANDFILLS

From dried out markers and used coffee pods, to scrap paper bins in classrooms, plastic food pouches in the ECC, book donations and preloved uniforms, SDJA has embraced circular economy and unique recycling opportunities. Through innovative partnerships, educational integrations, and student-driven initiatives, SDJA has breathed new life into used items while diverting substantial waste from landfills. Notable campaigns include:



Old SNEAKER Drive

In partnership with Got Sneakers, we diverted sneakers from landfills, cutting toxins from the air and soil. Wearable pairs were resold affordably, while well-worn ones were recycled to repurpose materials and convert waste into energy.

245 pairs were collected and displaced from landfills
7,350 lbs equivalent carbon dioxide displaced
552,965 gallons equivalent water saved



Used SOCK drive

TerraCycle provides customers with an innovative yet simple way to divert waste from landfills by giving new life to items. Old, odd, and holey socks are shred into shoddy which is then used to make new products.

1,700 socks were collected weighting **63.6 lbs**



Preloved UNIFORM drive

PTO hosted three used uniform sales this year and also provided parents the option to visit the GMLS office for gently-used items. Sales proceeds support the PTO, benefiting the whole school community.

600 items were collected and resold

FOSTERING ECO-CHAMPIONS

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO STUDENT EDUCATION

Through engaging lessons and hands-on experiences, students gain the knowledge, skills, and mindset to become informed global citizens and proactive stewards of the planet.



Students learn about recycling with fun relay games.



Students connect nature and art during Kayefet's Eco Art class.



Students prepare garden beds for soil experiment.



Learning 'How we take care of Earth' during morning meeting.



Lunchtime Garden Sustainability Club prepares collection boxes.



Students create seed balls in the garden.



Students collate results from personal waste audits.



Middle schoolers create fashion from upcycling.



Students harvest vegetables from the garden.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

CULTIVATING A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The love of nature is where it all starts. In SDJA's Levana's Garden, students find not only a vibrant learning space but a sanctuary of discovery. They touch, smell, and witness the wonders of the natural world firsthand, igniting a passion that becomes the foundation of their sustainability journey.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

By involving parents, staff, students, and local partners, we build a collaborative foundation that not only enhances the impact of our efforts but also fosters a culture of environmental consciousness that extends beyond the classroom. Key community events this year included:



- Local professionals led sustainability workshops: 'Vermicomposting 101' and 'Sew & Sip'
- The First Grade Purim Fruit Pick was SDJA's first Zero Waste event
- During the MUS Climate performance, audience members committed to one positive action, writing it on a paper leaf
- A fun volunteer day was enjoyed with our community in Levana's Garden

