

2017-18 Food Waste Recovery Pilot Program Beachside Montessori Village

Goal: The intention of this pilot is to create a program to replicate in schools throughout Broward County. With over 200 schools in the district, there is a potential for offsetting over 1.5 million pounds of greenhouse gases each year.

Summary: Through a partnership amongst Beachside Montessori Village, BCPS Food & Nutrition Services, Kids Can and Broward Outreach, Beachside Montessori is piloting a food rescue project to reduce food waste in the school cafeteria, which results in reducing the school's carbon footprint, while supporting hunger relief in the community. Students are encouraged to donate leftover unopened, uneaten or unpeeled items from their lunch trays that they don't want to eat. These collected foods are donated to Broward Outreach, which then distributes them to the community.



Procedure: Items that can be rescued include: unopened milk cartons, juice, fruit cups, yogurt, cheese sticks, hummus, cereal bowls, raisin boxes, crackers, ices, whole bananas, and oranges. The students place these items on the share table rather than discarded. Broward Outreach will receive the rescued food products for distribution in the community and the school will track the amount of food items rescued to measure the impact.

Background: Food in the landfill decomposes and creates methane gas, which is 21 times more potent than CO₂. Over 1 billion food items are wasted annually in U.S. schools. A food waste audit conducted by students in the school's Sustainability class recovered 289 unwrapped, unpeeled food items. This converts to 40 pounds of greenhouse gases emitted into atmosphere each day. Keeping food out of the landfill significantly reduces greenhouse gases.



Additionally, the partnership allows the school to tackle hunger issues in Hollywood and Broward County by rescuing unconsumed food from the school cafeteria. The food that is rescued are distributed to the community through Broward Outreach.

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