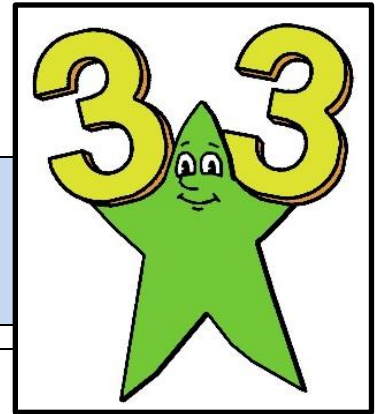


Five and Ten-Year Celebrations

eco-cycle

Snapshot

After a school has been actively working toward Zero Waste for the milestones of five years or ten years, it's time for a week-long celebration!



<https://bit.ly/eco-cycle-zero-waste-schools-guide>

Objective: Students and staff will be refamiliarized with their school's Zero Waste goals and how these actions help the earth. Everyone will have a renewed sense of the school's Zero Waste mission.

Age Group: K-12th Grade

Setting: School building and recess area

Project Duration: One week

Materials:

- Projector, computer, and audio equipment
- Prizes that reduce waste (reusable or made with recycled content)
- Framed certificate with signatures of officials
- Recess activity supplies (for cloth napkin making or game show spinning wheel)

Why This Project Matters:

After five years or ten years, a school that regularly employs Zero Waste methods has likely avoided thousands of pounds of trash and drastically reduced its ecological footprint. With landfills filling up and natural resources disappearing, this valiant waste-reduction effort makes a real difference for the environment and should be celebrated!

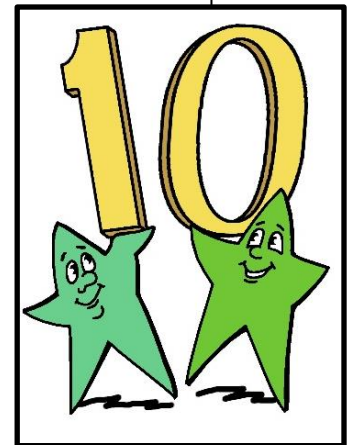
Project Summary:

Once a school has been striving for Zero Waste for five or ten years, enthusiasm and practice may wane amid so many other obligations of school life. This celebration is designed to give the school recognition for its efforts and to reinvigorate participation in Zero Waste projects. The four-day celebration involves an all-school assembly on Day 1, and the reeducation of students and staff on Days 2-4 through classroom presentations and fun Zero Waste activities during recess and lunch.

Implementation:

Pre-event:

1. Approximately six months in advance, schedule an all-school assembly with the principal and provide them with an outline of the other celebration activities.
2. Prepare a presentation for the assembly (see Day 1 below). For the 10-year assembly, consider including an animal rehabilitator (such as a birds of prey specialist), an environmental musician, or other special guest. This will help students make connections between their Zero Waste actions and their wider impact on the community and/or wildlife habitat. Schedule the guest presenter as soon as possible.
3. Invite school district and community officials to participate (superintendent, district officials, county commissioners, city officials, etc.).

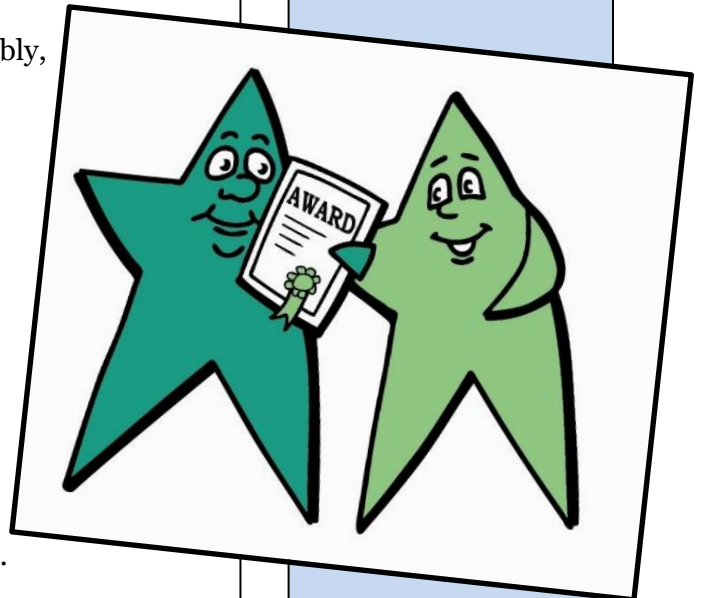


4. Prepare materials for the recess and lunchtime activities (see below for more details).
5. Organize materials for refresher presentations to be given to each class. The goal of these 25-to-30-minute presentations is to make sure every student knows what can be recycled and/or composted in the school, and to increase participation in other waste-reduction efforts being made by the school community (such as reusing one-sided paper, etc.). It is also an important opportunity for staff and students to ask their own “burning” questions.
6. One month before the assembly, confirm dates, times, and venue (gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria) with the principal, district officials, community officials, and any special presenter. Ask guests to arrive 15 minutes early. Make sure to ask about any AV or room set-up needs.
7. Print and frame a 5-year or 10-year award certificate for the school (see samples below).
8. Create a sign-up schedule for individual class refresher presentations to occur the few days following the all-school assembly. Send to the school office manager two weeks prior to the celebratory week, asking them to post and share with all teachers. Ask for the principal’s support in motivating teacher sign-up.
9. Acquire 5-7 reusable or recycled-content prizes to distribute during the all-school assembly.
10. Acquire a large quantity of small prizes (equivalent to the school population) to distribute to all classes on the last day of the celebration week (e.g., pencils made from recycled newspaper) (optional).
11. Create a list of Zero Waste questions to ask students during the assembly and lunch periods.
12. Write a letter to student families explaining the school’s accomplishments and the celebration activities. Ask the office manager to distribute it.
13. Coordinate with the custodian regarding assembly Set up (AV equipment, podium, chairs for officials, stage needs for special guest, etc.) and provide an agenda.
14. Coordinate with office and/or custodian about where to set up the recess activity stations near the playground, requesting the use of 2-4 tables.
15. Gather all items needed for the assembly (presentation, props, framed certificate, prizes, etc.).
16. Create announcements to be read over the PA system during the assembly week.



Day 1: all-school assembly:

1. Set up the stage area, A.V. system, and computer equipment one hour before the assembly.
2. Prepare the 5-year or 10-year certificate in its frame (see samples below). When district and/or community officials arrive, ask them to sign it.
3. Assist special presenter with setting up (if applicable).
4. Once all students and staff are assembled in the meeting space, have the principal introduce the celebration organizer/assembly MC.
5. General outline to be covered by the celebration organizer/assembly MC:
 - a. Congratulate the school community and review what it means to be part of the school's Zero Waste program and projects.
 - b. Recognize the principal, teachers, custodians, kitchen staff, and students for their different roles in supporting the program.
 - c. Ask the dignitaries (district/community officials) to each speak for 2-3 minutes.
 - d. Present the school's award certificate to the principal.
 - e. For the 5-year assembly, present a slideshow about the specifics of the school's Zero Waste projects. Describe the positive difference the program makes for the community and the environment. For the 10-year assembly, have the special guest present their program.
 - f. Wrap up the assembly by asking 5-7 composting, recycling, and/or waste-reduction questions of the students, handing out prizes for correct answers.
 - g. Remind teachers to sign up for class refresher presentations and where to find the sign-up sheet.
 - h. Review the rest of the celebration week's activities.
6. Collect the class refresher sign-up sheet (or have it emailed to you) once completed.



Days 2-4: reinforcement activities:

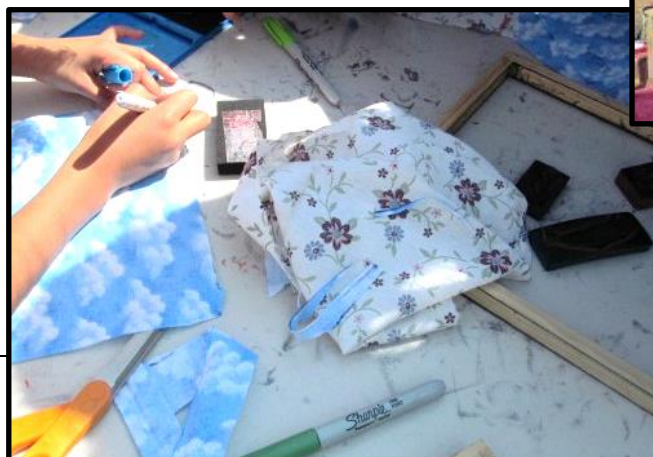
1. Recess activities:
 - 5-year celebration - Facilitate a cloth napkin-making activity (for K-6th grade students) during recesses for two days to allow all students to participate. (See Making Cloth Napkins, Chapter 13.)
 - 10-year celebration - Facilitate a game show activity featuring a spinning wheel with images of waste items attached (can, chip bag, etc.). Students spin the wheel and are then asked a Zero Waste question about the item they landed on. If they get two out of three questions correct, they may enter a prize drawing for movie tickets, school t-shirts, recognition by the principal, etc.
2. Present individual class refresher presentations for teachers at the times registered on the sign-up sheet.
3. During lunch, have adult or student group volunteers pop-quiz students with recycling, reusing, and composting questions. These volunteers can also help monitor the waste station.
4. Have a student group or adult give PA system announcements with motivational messages throughout the celebration week.
5. Consider other activities such as waste-sorting relays, a “Wear Green” day, etc. (See Reinforcing Collection Programs Over Time, Chapter 27 for ideas.)

Assessment:

Asking students questions about their school’s Zero Waste program and about how Zero Waste practices help the environment will serve as the project’s assessment.

Related Activities:

Making Cloth Napkins – Chapter 13
Reinforcing Collection Programs Over Time – Chapter 27



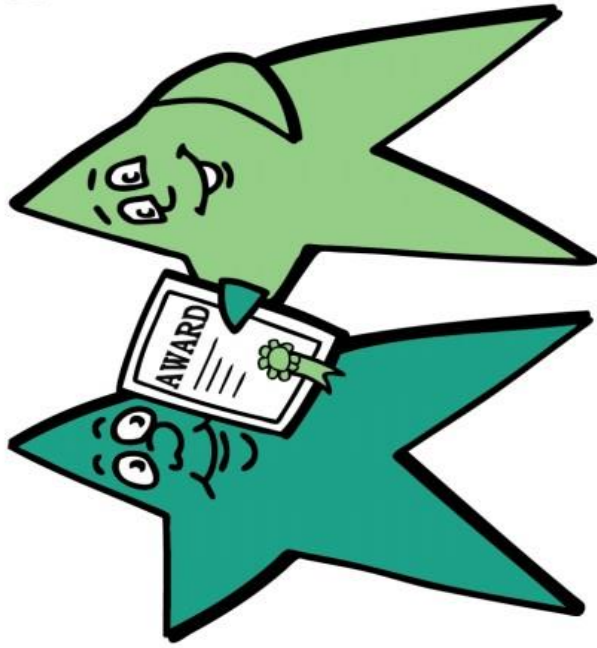
CONGRATULATIONS

for completing

5 Years

as a

Zero Waste School



Awarder's Signature

Other Signature

Other Signature

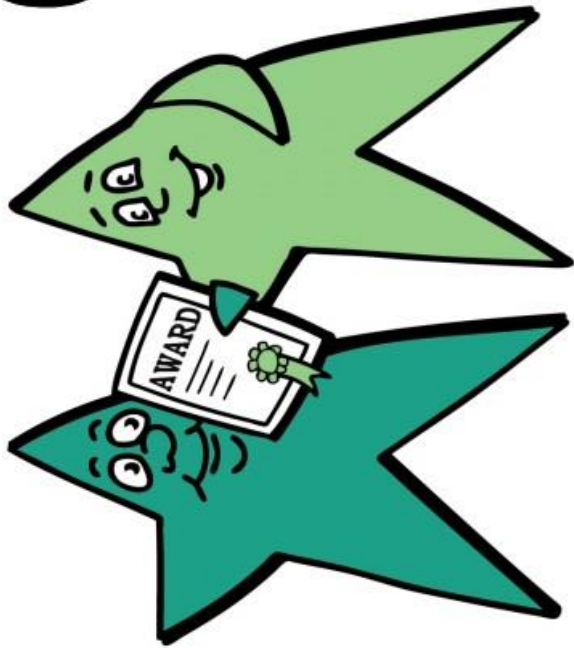
CONGRATULATIONS

for completing

10 Years

as a

Zero Waste School



Awarder's Signature

Other Signature

Other Signature
