



ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MANHATTAN BEACH USD:

- 100% school and classroom participation
- A 23% increase in District-wide recycling in just one year
- Comprehensive sustainability curriculum
- Hands-on support for maintenance staff
- Composting training for volunteers and staff
- Ongoing support and materials for enhanced recycling programs, including free, reusable lunch boxes for first-grade students

Grades of green in Manhattan Beach USD.

Parents and civic leaders in California's Manhattan Beach Unified School District are strong advocates for both education and the environment. So it comes as no surprise that, even as early as 2007, they wanted to radically decrease the amount of waste being generated at their schools. Already a pioneer in sound environmental practices, the District turned to Waste Management for help reducing their carbon footprint.

That year, MBUSD and Waste Management entered into a private-public partnership to launch school-based waste and recycling programs and put energy conservation principles into practice. We began with a five-school sustainability audit, which revealed many opportunities for improvement. Customized waste and recycling plans were developed to tackle each one.

Kids, volunteers and school staff quickly took up the cause. Dedicated parents were so enthusiastic they founded "Grades of Green," a volunteer organization geared to energizing environmental initiatives across the district. Working with school staffs, they introduced kid-friendly programs like "Trash-Free Tuesdays," "Walk-to-School Wednesdays," e-waste recycling, composting and ecology education.

The results of the partnership between Waste Management and the Manhattan Beach Unified School District were impressive. In the first year, recycling across the district increased by 23 percent. And, in a single month, electricity consumption was reduced by 17 percent. Today, MBUSD's environmental commitment is stronger than ever. Students are making a difference not only in their schools, but are actively protecting beaches, community spaces and wildlife as they integrate "Grades of Green" into every part of their lives.

Let's talk about sustainability for your school or district. Call an Education Solutions specialist at 888 558 6390 or visit wm.com/schooldistrict.

"With Waste Management's help, we're teaching today's students how to become tomorrow's green leaders."

—Dr. Michael Matthews
Superintendent, Manhattan Beach USD