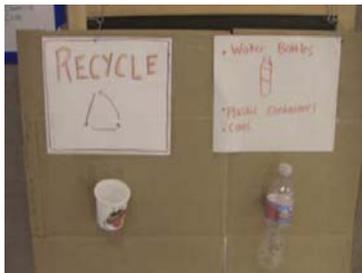
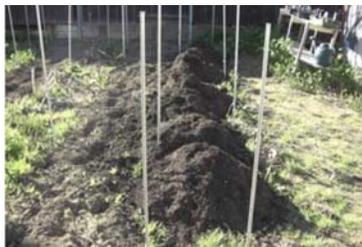


Green Businesses in Sunnyvale

Environmental Values at Work



Students at Cumberland School created an educational recycling display



The soil in the organic garden is getting prepped for spring



Compact fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, used DVDs, and cell phones are collected and recycled

Cumberland Elementary School

824 Cumberland Ave., Sunnyvale | 408.522.8255 | www.sesd.org/schools/Cumberland
Certification Date: June 2007

The students at Cumberland Elementary School are very motivated to make their campus as "green" as possible. Not only do the students collect their own recyclables from the classrooms and take them to the curb on collection day, they also have energy "monitors" who check to make sure all of the classroom lights and computers are turned off at the end of the day and they have started collecting batteries, DVDs, cell phones and fluorescent light bulbs for recycling. "The kids really make the environmental ideas come to life," says Melinda Teves, fifth grade teacher and "green" coordinator for the school. "They have so many ideas and they want to put them into action right away!"

Some of the other environmental initiatives the school has implemented or is working on are:

- energy efficient lighting
- low flow toilets
- elimination of single-use foam trays in favor of reusable trays in the lunchroom that are washed and reused daily
- skits to educate classmates on what can be recycled
- a native garden filled with butterfly loving plants
- a dollhouse sized model of an energy efficient house which has working solar panels and a grey water system
- an organic garden used for lunchtime education programs
- a plan to replace lawn in a quad area with native plants and trees
- recycled content paper

The school has also been designated as a trial school for environmentally friendly cleaning products. "Because we got certified, everyone works extra hard to maintain the "green" standards around the campus," says Teves. "People think twice about how they are handling the earth's resources now!"

"The certification process has been relatively easy and very fun for us," says Teves. "You can incorporate math, writing and science skills into all of the environmental projects." Not only are the students learning about the environment, they are having fun while they are doing it.

For more information on the green efforts of Cumberland Elementary School, please contact Melinda Teves.



To learn how your business can become certified as a Green Business, contact the Santa Clara County Green Business Program at 408.282.3180 or visit the website at reduce.waste@pln.sccgov.org

