



*EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD*  
*Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement*

**Grant #: 18-38**      **Date report submitted: 6-25-19**

**Grant Name: Zero Waste Classroom**

**Grant Contact: Jacqueline Omania**

**Amount funded: \$500**      **Amount requested: \$500**

**Grant Objectives (Brief summary of grant):**

The goal of the grant is to support third grade students in being Zero Waste for their school year by providing them with sustainable materials and allowing them to experience using more sustainable products as part of school and so directly understand how they can have a measurable impact on the environment. The overall goal is to empower students with the knowledge that their choices can make a difference.

Please submit a narrative report (approx. 2-4 pages) addressing the following questions for the project or activities. It is required that this form be page 1. This grant report may be used to keep both the Altamont Education Advisory Board informed about your activities and the impact of our support. Photographs are encouraged. If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please contact the Board Contact person at [altamonteab@gmail.com](mailto:altamonteab@gmail.com).

1. Please report the outcomes of the funded project. In doing so, please refer to the grant objectives included above.
2. Describe what you did to accomplish your objectives and any significant course changes you made along the way.
3. What methods were used for evaluating and documenting progress towards these outcomes?
4. What were the most important things you learned?
5. Please outline any significant changes in your organization since the grant was made. In particular, please describe any changes in key leadership positions in the organization and/or program.

6. In addition to measuring the outcomes of the funded project, we are interested in how grants directly improve the lives of the people in your community. Please share one or more stories or quotes that show how this project has made a difference in the lives the people your program serves.

**Please send completed progress report forms in PDF format to Lauren at [altamonteab@gmail.com](mailto:altamonteab@gmail.com) with “Final Report-Grant #18-xx” in the subject line before June 30, 2019.**

## Final Report for Grant 18-38: The Zero Waste Classroom

The Zero Waste classroom had a year of great success thanks to your support!

The use of the materials funded by the grant (bamboo cutlery kits and unpainted pencils, natural erasers and other zero waste classroom materials) allowed the students to achieve their goal-- they made 2 cups of landfill waste for the entire 180 days of the school year! We avoided 1,440 gallons of waste (nearly two 4 cubic yard dumpsters)- an amount made by an average classroom over the 180 days of the school year. By using reusable cutlery and cups, we avoided almost 4,000 plastic disposables.

To accomplish this goal we did regular waste audits to see what was in our waste and what we could avoid. Students learned to be more thoughtful; for example, in their use of tape. When we built our recycled cardboard arcade there was a fair amount of tape used. We had class meetings led by students and together they discussed how to solve the problem. We found paper and cellulose based tape as an alternative and tried to use other kinds of tape more wisely. Our small 2 cup size waste bin, agreed on by the class, was visible at all times to remind us of our goal that we had set in September.

The work in our classroom inspired us to reach out to our school. We supported the school's two kindergarten classes with waste audits and inspired them to attempt to reach

the goal of zero waste. Over 3 weeks, the kindergarten classes avoided 64 gallons of landfill waste and became more thoughtful and knowledgeable about their ways at school. Our efforts, alongside those of the kindergarten classes, helped us win grand prize the Berkeley Unified School District's Zero Waste contest.

The class' efforts deeply affected the lives of their families. We did a weekend waste audit in which we collected and observed plastic waste from home over 2 weekends. After sorting the knee high mountain of waste into categories, we decided in collaboration with the art teacher to make giant sea animals to alert others to the problem of plastic pollution. These sea animals were displayed in the city wide school art expo, on our own campus and now the blue whale and our plastic pollution awareness posters are at the famous David Brower Center in downtown Berkeley through September.

The greater community heard of our work and both youth and families were interviewed by a filmmaker making a documentary for Upstream Solutions. A parent also interviewed students for me and captured the youths' reflections on their experience of being in a Zero Waste classroom.

"I feel it is really awesome. I wasn't sure we could do it. Before I went to this classroom, I made a big can of garbage every week. Now I know I should stop doing that. If everybody did this (holds two cup jar)- everybody in the school-- everybody in the WHOLE world- we would have a ton of less plastic pollution!" -- Hez grade 3 ( captured on film)

**Thank you so much for supporting our efforts and helping to empower the students.**

**-- Jacqueline Omania**

**Grade 3 Teacher--Oxford Elementary School-- Berkeley California**