

**ZERØWASTEMARIN**  
PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES TOGETHER  
[ZeroWasteMarin.org](http://ZeroWasteMarin.org)

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**Zero Waste Schools Program Awards Event**

*First annual ceremony celebrates students' efforts toward Zero Waste initiative*

**San Rafael, CA** – Teaching our children the importance of reducing waste and our carbon footprint is critical to protecting our children's future. To recognize and support progress on this front, the first annual awards ceremony acknowledging the accomplishments of the schools and student bodies participating in Marin's Zero Waste Schools Program will take place on Thursday, October 24th, 2019. The event will be held at the [Marin County Office of Education](#) headquarters, located at 1111 Las Gallinas Avenue in San Rafael, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the main community room.

The Program is a project of the Zero Waste Marin Joint Powers Authority and provides schools with professional level [zero waste](#) training, indoor and outdoor recycling and compost containers, custodial carts, stickers and signage, and teamwork incentives, all at no charge to the school. The program helps Marin's schools and residents learn best practices for saving valuable resources and provides lifelong lessons to students.

The Program began in 2015 with Laurel Dell Elementary School and White Hill Middle School. It operates under the [Zero Waste Marin](#) initiative, which is a coordinated effort of Marin's 12 cities, towns and the County working together to achieve the County's zero waste goal by 2025. While there are costs to recycling and composting, Laurel Dell achieved an annual savings of \$10,800 for waste management costs and waste diversion increased from 21% to 51%. White Hill realized an annual savings of \$2,010 and increased waste diversion from 37% to 54% of total discards.

Based on the success of these two pilot schools, the Program has been adding four to six schools per year since 2015. The goal is to implement the Program in all 49 public K-12 schools and then begin the effort at Marin's 36 private schools as well as the College of Marin and Dominican University. As of the 2018/19 school year, 23 public schools across 14 of the 19 Marin school districts participate in the Program.

In May, the Program announced a certification process for enrolled schools, challenging participating schools with 30 activities and goals needed to attain bronze, silver, gold, and platinum status. Each level will receive an award at the first annual awards event on October 24th, as well as a monetary stipend and recognition on the [Zero Waste Marin](#) website.

Marin schools that are not enrolled in the Program are encouraged to [sign up on the wait list](#). Each school year, a number of schools from the wait list are added to the Program based on resource availability. Please join us on October 24<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the program and help our schools and students celebrate!

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