



Leading The Charge

Sustainability in Action!

At High Point Academy, LESS IS MORE!

“The success of our students is integrally tied to our commitment to environmental sustainability and to practicing what we preach from the inside-out.”

– Kristin Haines, Assistant Head of School



Going Above and Beyond!

At High Point Academy, we endeavor to provide our students with not only a rigorous academic environment but also opportunities to apply their knowledge and newly acquired skill sets to affect positive change in the world and in our immediate community.

Facts At-A-Glance

- 2009 ORP Program Launch; landfill diversion rate 77%
- 2010 \$10,000 award from Lexus for zero-waste lunch efforts
- 2011 Received City of Pasadena Green Award Certificate of Recognition from Senator Carol Liu
- 2012 HPA “closes the loop” and uses finished compost on athletic field
- 2013 Trash rate: 6%
Landfill diversion rate: 87%
- 2015 Over 25 tons of organics composted

One of the ways we deliver on this is by partnering with **Waste Less Living**. We are proud to be the first school in the state to adopt its uniquely designed **Organics Recovery and Education Program (ORP)**. This program is one of the most **innovative** and **sophisticated** sustainability programs available that consistently delivers results year after year. With solid waste as the main theme, students from K-8 learn how waste affects the natural world and the resources we all depend on for our survival and good health. It is by knowing and understanding this connection that our students become active stewards of the environment and responsible citizens.



Students present to Councilmember Gene Masuda.



Students work side by side with industry experts to interpret and analyze solid waste data.



Students study the environmental benefits of using compost on the field.





Project-Based Learning to Solve Real-World Problems!

The Problem:

Solid waste and its impact on the environment

The Solution:

Integrate environmental education and learning with zero-waste management practices and offer opportunities for students to participate and use their math, science, analytical, and language arts skills

High Point Academy (HPA) has been committed to environmental sustainability for decades having invested in various ‘green’ initiatives, including SmartBoards, drought tolerant landscaping, water wise irrigation systems, etc. It wasn’t until parents decided to host their first zero-waste event with Waste Less Living that it dawned on both the parents and the administration that solid waste was an area that needed serious attention and that the students could learn a valuable lesson from it. The ease of executing a zero-waste fundraising event was the catalyst for putting in place a more permanent on-campus zero-waste management program. With direction and guidance from Waste Less Living, the program evolved into a comprehensive environmental education program that essentially “closed the loop” on the school’s waste management operations.



Award Recognition in 2011 by Senator Carol Liu (second from left) and honorary guest Ed Begley, Jr. (right)

“High Point Academy Sets A Precedent For Others To Follow”

*Christine Lenches-Hinkel
Founder, Waste Less Living*

The City of Pasadena has adopted a zero-waste goal of 85% of waste to landfills by the year 2040. HPA has already achieved an 87% diversion rate and 100% of its students can be credited for this great achievement.



How Our Students “Close The Loop”

1. Learn the environmental impacts of solid waste
2. Learn ways to reduce waste
3. Learn how to sort their lunch waste
4. Study the science behind composting
5. Monitor and analyze waste data
6. On-going education and study

Getting Ahead of the Curve and Staying There!

AB 1826 is California’s new Food Waste Recycling Law passed to help curb the tons of organic material ending up in landfills each day causing both air and water quality pollution. HPA has been redirecting their organic waste for composting since 2009 and in the process has realized significant waste reduction rates as low as 6%. We are proud of our accomplishments and success of surpassing this new law years in advance. And we have the numbers to prove it. We are even more proud of the fact that 100% of our students made it happen and that we have reduced GHG emissions by 148%.

HPA gets the job done and finds innovative ways to educate the students in the process.