



Paradise Valley Unified School District Waste Diversion Education

THE PROBLEM Paradise Valley Unified School District (PVUSD), the seventh largest school district in Arizona, is estimated to produce about 1,500 tons of solid waste per year. While the school district has expressed commitment to sustainability education, only 40% of the district's 44 schools have a recycling program and many of those are ad hoc. Education about waste diversion and waste aversion for K-12 students is missing from the curriculum and PVUSD is missing opportunities for waste diversion and aversion.

THE PARTNERS Paradise Valley Unified School District, the city of Phoenix, Mayo Clinic and Republic Services

THE SERVICE Develop a district-wide waste diversion and aversion education program and provide support for implementing a recycling program at each campus in the district

THE SOLUTION In order to create the most effective recycling program and educational experience for PVUSD's students, ASU delivered the following components to reduce the amount of waste PVUSD generates and sends to landfills, as well as create new opportunities for experiential classroom education:

- Graduate student mentors to high schools students in the CREST program at Paradise Valley High School
- An excel tool to assess optimal waste and recycling infrastructure and scheduling at each school within the district
- Conducted workshops that provided support for teachers to implement student-led classroom-based projects that support waste aversion and diversion

THE OUTLOOK PVUSD is enabled to reduce the amount of waste they send to the landfill as well as reduce the money spent processing waste through the initiation of a recycling program in pilot schools and a commitment to a district-wide rollout. This project also enhances the sustainability education of the 33,000 K-12 students and 3,800 staff members in the district, allowing PVUSD to position itself as a leader in the sustainability education movement, instilling a sense of environmental stewardship in the student population and empowering students to be sustainability leaders in the next generation.

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