

# City of Lakewood

# SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

2015

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

## Jefferson County Open School Community Garden

JCOS Parents, Students, and Staff



The **Jefferson County Open School (JCOS) Community Garden** allows students to follow their food from farm to fork. Produce from the garden provides healthy meals in the school cafeteria and is shared with the community through a weekly Youth Farmers Market.

The garden was created by parents, students, and staff who wanted to improve the nutritional value and quality of the food that students consumed while providing a hands-on educational environment for sustainable living. After extensive research, exploration, and creative fundraising JCOS began to build the permaculture garden and in 2014, JCOS launched the Garden to Cafeteria program.

This project opens the door to a living world, allowing students to learn about nature and nutrition, incorporating concepts of ecosystem balance and sustainability. It is an example of how shared passion and commitment can bring a community's vision to life.



### Achievement Area

- Preservation of Ecology & Biodiversity
- Green Design
- Community Health & Engagement

