

City of Lakewood

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

2018

BRUCE PEOPLES ECO-EMPLOYEE AWARD

Head Start Zero Waste Champions

Brent Berninger, Kathy Ireland, Jose Rivas,
Melissa Martinez, Jill Fruhwirth, Jannah Wendel,
Tracy Sluzalis and Marie Moak



When teachers at Lakewood's 11th Avenue and Patterson Head Start facilities heard that compost collection was coming to their classrooms, they jumped in with both feet. With the full support of Family Services Manager Brent Berninger and Classroom Coordinator Kathy Ireland, six teachers became the "Zero Waste Champions" for their classrooms, ensuring the program's success by identifying the best locations and design for new zero waste stations and signs; purchasing reusable, compostable and recyclable materials; and teaching the students about zero waste.

Through their enthusiasm and diligence, the Zero Waste Champions created an immediate and lasting positive impact. In just one month, more than 1,800 pounds of material were composted at the 11th Avenue and Patterson Head Start classrooms. The program also improved recycling. In December 2017, both classrooms recycled nearly 300 pounds of material. At this rate, both classrooms will recycle and compost more than 25,000 pounds of materials each year.

Achievement Areas

- Climate Change & Adaptation
- Resilient Economy
- Zero Waste

