

City of Lakewood

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

2019

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Recycling In Green Mountain Schools

Mary Gilkison & Barbara Mills-Bria



Milk cartons, juice bottles, meal trays, chip bags, forks, spoons and much more! School cafeterias generate a LOT of waste. As members of the Green Mountain Sustainable Neighborhood, Mary Gilkison and Barbara Mills-Bria saw this waste challenge as an opportunity to make a positive environmental impact while educating the next generation. The pair set a goal to reduce lunchroom waste in the Green Mountain area schools. Through collaboration with school principals and lunchroom staff, they completed waste audits and identified milk cartons and beverage containers as the most common recyclable materials being thrown away. The two women set up recycling collection stations and educated students about the importance of recycling. While they were busy helping these schools build their lunchroom recycling programs, they also rescued more than 2,000 containers of unopened milk as well as hundreds of juices and fruits and donated them to the Action Center.

Mary and Barb have dedicated hundreds of hours to this effort since they started this program last August. To date, four of the five elementary schools have initiated a recycling program, and Mary and Barb are not done yet!

Achievement Area

Zero Waste



Lakewood.org/green

