

TTAD Sponsorship Request Description

SWEP's 2022 Partnership Request is a continuation of the work that SWEP is currently doing with the Tahoe Truckee Emission Reduction Partnership with TTAD. To continue our shared goal of reducing our local methane and carbon emissions, SWEP has a two-part plan for the year 2023.

Our first goal is to continue the work reducing methane emissions and compliance with the California state law SB 1383, which requires recovery of all edible food by 2025. To accomplish this goal with TTUSD schools, SWEP will utilize the three R's framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). This project will expand on the food waste recycling efforts implemented with TTAD support in 2022 to include reducing food waste and reusing (sharing) food. Food waste reduction will be achieved through education and outreach to TTUSD students, teachers and staff. Students will be taught the components of a healthy meal and offered an opportunity to make lunch selections that constitute a healthy meal (currently there is little to no education on what students must take which creates more food waste and higher cafeteria cost). Current lunch service does not include student choice and students are served menu items that in many cases, they have no intention of eating. Through education and outreach TTUSD food services can offer students more choice, thereby ensuring students are taking items they intend to eat and reducing food waste. Reusing food (food sharing & food recovery) will require implementing specific "food share" tables in each TTUSD cafeteria. These food share tables are a safe place for uneaten food to be collected to be served at another time at the school site or to be potentially shared with community food banks like Sierra Community House. The tables include cold packs, trays and signage on rolling carts. This new, but important step will also require time spent understanding food sharing regulations and safety requirements, training staff and educating and empowering students on how and why this is important and what can and cannot be shared. This step is a big addition to the cafeteria, but has the potential to reduce many pounds of food wasted each day at our schools.

Our second goal is to support school-wide zero waste initiatives. Over the last several years, TTUSD school sites returned to single-use disposable food service items due to COVID related safety precautions. SWEP has been asked to support TTUSD school cafeterias with the re-implementation and expansion of reusables. Our support would include: 1) coordination with TTUSD administrators, food services and custodial services, 2) education and outreach with TTUSD students, teachers and staff, 3) obtaining necessary equipment and supplies for re-implementation and expansions efforts, and 4) actual implementation of reusables and oversight throughout the school year. Reusables will include trays and utensils as well as the addition of reusable cups. Some participating sites will also need kitchen equipment to facilitate the use of reusables. For example, school sites will need additional dishwashing machines and milk dispensers. Milk dispensers (and reusable cups) would be an expansion of the reusable program and will reduce the use of non-recyclable milk cartons as well as reduce refrigerated storage and deliveries of milk). We would hope to continue our Bento Box program to offer these

TTAD Sponsorship Request Description

reusable lunch containers with TTAD logos to all first graders to encourage “zero waste” practices. Another expansion of this goal is to ensure that all campus meetings, celebrations and events are zero-waste. To do this SWEP would like to provide each school site with an event/party “green box” that includes reusable dishware (plates, bowls, cups & cutlery). These “green boxes” would ensure that all TTUSD school site functions (PTO meetings, staff meetings, class parties, school-wide events) are zero-waste. The “green boxes” can include TTAD community partner stickers on them to ensure recognition. These zero waste goals and initiatives have been requested by the head of TTUSD kitchen services, administrators, teachers and students and are therefore supported. However, they require funding to bring them to fruition, which is why TTAD support is crucial.

Fall 2022

- Continuation of Emission Partnership Year/Phase 1 - Food waste recycling expanded to TTUSD schools that have yet to implement

Winter 2023

- Zero waste and food waste education and outreach continue in January 2023 through our sustainability clubs.
- Education and outreach materials for food waste reduction created with input from sustainability club students.
- Share table construction, marketing materials and signage created with input from sustainability clubs students.
- Purchasing of approved reusables and equipment for TTUSD cafeterias
- Implement existing reusables at school sites (trays & utensils)
- Implement school “green box” programs to ensure each TTUSD site has access to reusables for meetings, celebrations and events.

Spring 2023

- Pilot program of food waste reduction and food recovery share tables implemented at 1-2 elementary schools (to learn and fix any issues that come up before impending everywhere)
- Implementation of acquired reusables with proper education and outreach to students, as TTUSD staff allows
- Implementation of acquired cafeteria equipment

TTAD Sponsorship Request Description

Fall 2023

- **Implementation of food recovery share tables to all schools**
- **Continual monitoring and education of reusables, food waste separation and food sharing, which will include beginning of school support**

This project benefits SWEP by supporting our vision of students, working collaboratively with community partners and teachers to address relevant environmental and social issues. The goals we have outlined will empower students with clear steps they can take at school and then at home to improve the environment through zero waste efforts.

Our partnering agencies: TTUSD, Town of Truckee & Placer County benefit from this project by being able to rely on SWEP to implement and manage waste reduction initiatives in TTUSD schools that comply with state and county regulations and community goals. These agencies are able to utilize SWEP's existing programming, long-standing partnerships and educational expertise to ensure that emissions reduction occur through successful implementation of zero waste initiatives at all TTUSD school sites. SWEP has a long standing record of partnering to create positive change in our community and empowering students to take action to protect the environment.

TTAD's constituents will benefit from reduction of local methane and carbon emissions, less waste in our local landfills, and educated and empowered youth that take what they learn home to share with family and friends to further their impact.