

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**GreenRibbonSchools**  
**School Nominee Presentation Form**

**ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS**

**School and District's Certifications**

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. *In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.*

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades early learning to 12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

**U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools**

Public  Charter  Title I  Magnet  Private  Independent  Rural

Name of Principal: **Mr. Greg Sahakian**

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name: **Edison Elementary School**

(As it should appear on an award)

Official School Name Mailing Address: **2700 Buena Vista Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501**

(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: **Alameda** State School Code Number \*: **01 61119 6090013**

Telephone: **510-748-4002** Fax: **510-523-6131**

Web site/URL: <https://edison-alamedausd-ca.schoolloop.com/> E-mail: [gsahakian@alamedaunified.org](mailto:gsahakian@alamedaunified.org)

\*Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal's Signature)

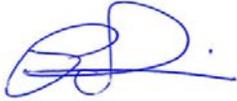
Date: 1/21/2020



Name of Superintendent: **Mr. Pasquale Scuderi**  
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)

District Name: **Alameda Unified**

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



Date: 1/21/2020

(Superintendent's Signature)

### **Nominating Authority's Certifications**

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: **California Department of Education**

Name of Nominating Authority: **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond**

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.



Date: February 10, 2010

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

### **SUBMISSION**

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2021

### **Public Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



# *Edison Elementary School*

California School Nominee to  
U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools



Prepared By:  
California Department of Education  
School Facilities and Transportation Services Division  
[Green Ribbon Schools Award Program](#)  
February 2020

## PART II – SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

### Edison Elementary, Alameda, Calif.

#### *Environmental Leadership Scales Impact Across District and City*

Edison Elementary School has been leading its community and district in efforts to become more environmentally focused since 2000, when they initiated a parent-led garden program. These efforts became the seeds for the Alameda School District's (AUSD) Go Green movement, launched in 2004. Environmental themes have not only shaped the culture of the school, but have successfully persuaded both the district and the City of Alameda to update and change policy. Edison families, teachers, and students have been at the forefront of three-stream recycling and zero-waste, alternative transportation, healthy and local food options, and environmental education in schools across the city.

Edison earned ENERGY STAR certification in 2019 with a score of 77. Between the years of 2009 and 2018, Edison documented a 41% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. Staff and student conservation education, Edison's participation with AUSD's energy conservation solution provider Cenergistic, and major campus modernization projects completed from 2018-19 all attribute to this reduction.

Edison's electrical energy, purchased from Alameda Municipal Power, is zero-carbon as of January 1, 2020. The school also participates in the utility company's "Power Up for Learning" educational program. In partnership with the Alameda Education Foundation, this innovative initiative has brought to life a fabulous STEM Robotics Club for upper grades in Alameda elementary schools.

Edison has reduced its water use by 36% since 2009 by installing high-efficiency faucets, diverting water through bioswales, and practicing systematic monitoring. Edison also uses drip irrigation with a three-station timer to reduce watering in the vegetable garden, as well as the native and low-water habitats. Adding to water conservation efforts, the Garden Science teacher shows fifth grade students how to retain water and improve garden conditions through sheet mulch utilizing organic mulch, cardboard, and burlap bags.

Edison has a significant alternative transportation population. A 2018-19 Safe Routes to Schools survey conducted by the county showed that 41 percent of students walk to school, nine percent "roll" (i.e., bicycle, scooter, or skateboard), and two percent carpool.

The school began monitoring waste service levels in 2013 and demonstrates an 80 percent diversion rate, which is among the highest in both the district and county. After several years of audits, students have found that classrooms now produce so little trash they must weigh it in grams, rather than pounds. Three-stream collection rates are reported to the AUSD Board of Education annually during Earth Month to increase awareness.

At the beginning of each year, Edison teaches—and re-teaches—every single student how to properly sort compost, recycling, and landfill waste; and how to rescue uneaten or bitten food during lunch. Proper sorting includes student-conducted waste audits that were institutionalized and made teacher-led over time through partnership with StopWaste.org. By invitation, Edison presented to StopWaste.org stakeholders about Go Green efforts and their results. Training students, staff, and custodians annually through multiple touchpoints helped to increase Edison's waste diversion rate by 30 percent over the last ten years.

In 2008, Edison was the first AUSD school to implement a fresh salad bar, and influenced other schools to follow. Due to this initial effort, salad bars are now available at all schools in Alameda. In 2009, Edison became one of five district schools to add composting to its recycling program. Edison has a Food Share Bin where uneaten healthy foods from Food Services can be shared to both reduce food waste and feed others. Food Share Bin items are saved for students in need of snacks, and uneaten foods are donated to local groups.

Edison has an edible garden containing fruit trees, herbs, and vegetables, with a designated space for instruction. Edison students participate in weeding and digging in the teaching garden during their scheduled garden classes, at recess, or during weekend garden workdays. In 2018, an additional outdoor classroom was created for the school. Excess produce from Edison's school garden is given to staff and Edison families. On occasion, when enough is in season, excess produce is also given to Alameda's Food Shift Kitchen, a local nonprofit catering business that works collaboratively with communities, grocers, and governments to cook and serve food that would otherwise go to waste.

Every student at Edison has the opportunity to try nutritional garden-grown vegetables thanks to on-site gardens. This starts with the kindergarten lesson, "Five Senses in the Garden," which encourages students to taste, smell, and touch what they see growing. Students plant, grow, harvest, and cook the organic vegetables they eat. At the end of the year, students receive a cookbook of recipes that they made, including pesto, stir fry, salad, rosemary potatoes, cheesy chard, fig jam, salad dressing, roasted pumpkin seeds, salsa, and more.

In 2014, AUSD received the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award for a district-wide Green Schools Program. Edison was one of two model schools during CSBA's validation process, and several Edison parents and teachers were named as part of this award for their district-wide contributions. Student letter campaigns from 2015 to 2019 to City of Alameda officials and local businesses have been instrumental in moving the needle on numerous local issues, including the implementation of three-stream recycling bins in downtown areas, the creation of the City of Alameda's "Straws on Request," and a compostable foodware ordinance for restaurants.

Edison's list of assemblies, classroom programs, and community activities weigh increasingly towards environmental and sustainable impact focus areas, including visits from Ms. Resilience, Mr. EcoHero (mreco.org), Imperfect Produce, Alameda County's Waterways Puppeteer, KIDS for the BAY, Lawrence Berkeley Labs, Safe Routes to Schools Bike and Pedestrian Rodeo, and many more. Edison students host a table at the annual City Earth Day events through Community Action for Sustainable Alameda (CASA). The school's annual Earth Week—sometimes month-long—celebrations exemplify the school's environmental leadership by hosting events such as environmental learning assemblies, slide show presentations, zero-waste lunch photo boards of students, campus tree planting, student morning show Green Tips, earth-related mural paintings, Go Green Family Nights, Golden Sneaker Award Walk & Roll days, and the invention of Edison's famous "Recycle Cart" built by the Dad's Club and used by every family at school to dispose of hard-to-recycle items.

Edison's faculty have embraced the integration of environmental education and sustainability concepts across its curriculum. The school employs several policies regarding this work, including a written definition of environmental literacy, which focuses efforts on three thematic areas: Ocean and Bay Science, Watershed Protection, and Ecology and Biodiversity Awareness. Environmental literacy is being integrated into Edison's science instruction via the Full Option Science System (FOSS) Program, a research-based science curriculum for grades K-8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science at the

University of California in Berkeley. The FOSS curriculum is used school-wide and ensures that all students are learning about Life Science in the context of the Earth's connected ecosystem. Students study animals, plants, environments, and living systems.

Edison is motivated to take its environmental and sustainability stewardship as well as its ability to organize and influence other schools and districts to new innovative levels. In November 2019, five students from Edison's new 2019 "Green Otters" student club attended AUSD's Board of Education meeting during which a student-written "Resolution Calling for Climate Crisis Response" was unanimously passed by Board Members. This move, in conjunction with the City of Alameda's new 2019 "Climate Action & Resiliency Plan" will only strengthen Edison's position to continue scaling environmental impact and education.

## PART III – DOCUMENTATION OF STATE EVALUATION OF SCHOOL NOMINEE

### Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

#### Element IA: Energy

- Edison prioritizes the monitoring of energy usage. In 2016, as a part of AUSD's plan to manage and reduce energy use, the district hired Cenergistic, an energy conservation solution provider, for a five-year term. Audits and inspections now occur daily at all schools, including Edison, to monitor and check lighting, computers, and all HVAC equipment for efficiency, as well as to ensure that items not actively in use are unplugged whenever feasible. Bi-monthly bill analysis is also performed to provide comparisons of Edison's monthly usage of both gas and electricity from one year to the next.
- Edison's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions have been calculated to compare base-year emissions to those that occurred in 2018, using the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. Electricity and gas emissions were calculated using AUSD's Dude Solutions Energy Manager software, which documented a 41% GHG decrease between 2009 and 2018, and earning the school an ENERGY STAR award on September 25, 2019, with a score of 77.
- Edison uses Alameda Municipal Power (AMP), one of the greenest electrical utilities in the U.S., which provides municipal power using nearly 70% renewable sources, including geothermal, biomass, wind, and small hydroelectric means. An additional 30% of AMP's resource comes from large, longstanding hydroelectric sources within California. This blend of methods provides results that easily exceed California's requirements for clean power. Additionally, beginning on Jan. 1, 2020, AMP's electricity will be rendered 100% zero-carbon.
- In 2016, AUSD adopted a Solar Master Plan and executed a Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Generation (CEG) Plan, regarding on-site generation and resiliency. As part of this effort, the district will continue to identify opportunities whereby on-site solar and potential energy storage make sense for specific schools, including Edison.
- Edison participates in AMP's educational program "Power Up for Learning." This innovative initiative has brought to life a fabulous STEM Robotics Club for upper grades (fourth and fifth) in elementary schools within Alameda County. AMP, has been a strong supporter of technology education and offers this program in partnership with the Alameda Education Foundation (AEF).
- Edison also participates in AMP's Comprehensive Energy Efficiency School Audit program. In 2010, this program was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Over the

years, AMP has provided a special edition of its newsletter, The Flash, to give all AUSD teachers direct advice on how to most optimally conserve energy in their classrooms. As one of AMP's largest customers, AUSD also receives a preferred municipal electricity rate to further offset its total energy expenditures.

- Edison has reduced the heat island effect, as approximately 20% of Edison's property is made up of permeable surfaces, with 95% of the school surrounded by grassy areas. Students have full access to these unpaved surroundings as well as the Edison teaching garden.
- Edison has worked to reduce energy use across the campus, from performing facility upgrades to cultivating teacher and student awareness efforts. In the past, fifth grade students were tasked with conducting light-use audits of classrooms and presented report data to illustrate the usage habits of each. Edison teachers added the position of "Lights Monitor" to the list of classroom duties. In 2014, staff meeting time was allocated to specifically train teachers to use power-saving features on new high-efficiency Smart Boards and projectors, which are still currently in use. Further, since 2014, Edison's six relocatable classrooms have used programmable thermostats to ensure individual HVAC units were turned off during non-school hours.
- In 2018, Edison underwent a large modernization project, funded by the California Clean Energy Jobs Act (Proposition 39) and local district bond funds, which specifically targeted the improvement of campus-wide health, comfort, and energy efficiency. Upgrades included the following: New Low-E windows; new exterior LED lighting fixtures, upgrading existing T-12 fluorescent tubes to T-8 tubes; roof improvements in the form of the application of a "cool roof" coating, with reflective, energy-efficient, white coating painted on every rooftop to reflect heat; a new high-efficiency steam boiler; new overhangs and shade structures installed over southern-facing classrooms to provide protection from direct sun exposure and reduce radiant heating; and the addition of new doors with reflective coating and passive cooling vent systems.
- In 2019, Edison's new administrative building was completed and its media center was moved to a new location that incorporated new HVAC and floor-to-ceiling Low-E windows for natural daylighting and energy efficiency. Edison's asphalt was also completely repaved with special reflective coatings incorporated to offset heat. Through these combined measures, Edison has had a 30% reduction in energy usage observed from 2010 to 2019.

### Element IB: Water and Grounds

- Edison's water is supplied and metered by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Due to periods of prolonged drought in California, Edison has dramatically reduced overall water usage and has implemented higher-efficiency faucets. As a result, Edison has seen a 36% reduction in water usage from 2009 to 2018, going from 1,319,563.64 gallons used in 2009 to 838,566.20 gallons used in 2018.
- Edison monitors water usage and irrigation closely via Energy Cap and Dude Solutions software. This tool also provides indicators for leak detection. Edison's landscaping staff frequently checks on the statuses of its irrigation systems and repairs them as needed. The Edison teaching garden uses drip irrigation for all of its vegetables and has a three-station timer in order to reduce watering. Additionally, the Garden Science teacher has taught fifth-grade students how to retain water and improve garden conditions through sheet mulch, which utilizes organic mulch, cardboard, and burlap sacks.
- Approximately 20% of Edison's campus is made up of permeable surfaces, which serve as a bioswale to reduce and filter stormwater runoff. Grass surrounds all paved playgrounds, buildings, and paved

paths. Rainwater that collects on the playground via the downspouts is absorbed into these permeable surfaces and feeds the landscape instead of running directly into storm drains. Edison's teaching garden and outdoor classrooms have decomposed granite to help with water runoff.

- Many of the trees on Edison's campus are established and stand at over 80 feet in height. All new trees planted are ensured to be regionally appropriate.
- Over 8% of Edison's grounds are devoted to ecologically beneficial uses. Edison has an edible garden, containing fruit trees, herbs, and vegetables, with a designated space for instruction. In 2018, an additional outdoor classroom was created for the school.
- Edison's courtyard garden beds divide the lunch area to provide students with the opportunity to watch pollinators at work as they eat. The xeriscape at Edison's front entrance was planted as a native low-water habitat by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Edison's native oak trees also have many uses, including providing shade for the school lawn, a climbing area, and acorns used as part of the curriculum, such as in fourth grade Indigenous peoples of California studies.

### Element IC: Waste

- Edison's use of a three-stream waste collection is thriving and sets an example for other schools across the district to follow. As one of the original pilot schools to utilize compost in 2009, when AUSD first implemented compostable collection, Edison has worked with AUSD's Green Team to reduce landfill trash and increase recycling and compost collection.
- As of 2013, waste service levels were monitored and Edison was determined to have achieved a recycling and compost rate of 80%. This rate was among the highest in both the district and in all of Alameda County.
- Edison's waste collection program is overseen by AUSD's Maintenance Operations and Facilities (MOF) Department. Three-stream collection rates are reported to the Board of Education every year during Earth Month. Student Green Teams, composed of the fifth graders at Edison, monitor sorting stations daily at lunch to instruct fellow students on how to properly sort, fix mistakes, and reduce food waste.
- Edison's green waste from lunch, classrooms, staff areas, and bathrooms is composted by Waste Management, a local waste hauler, and is then taken to San Leandro's Davis Street Transfer Station. In 2011, Davis Street constructed a LEED™ Gold transfer building to manage organic material. Nearly 800,000 pounds of organic material passes through this building each day en route to regional composting facilities. Compost can then be purchased at a reasonable price, the proceeds for which go toward the district's garden program. On occasion, large batches of compost are also donated back to the school.
- Edison also embraces composting via the garden program, wherein students add vegetable skins, leaves, and other compostable waste from the school's teaching garden to a dedicated worm bin. They are taught how to harvest the compost and add it back to the garden when it is rich and ready. Students are given a lesson about the "red wiggler" and are shown how to identify eggs and tiny worms. Edison plans to expand to a larger composting system soon.
- Edison's custodial staff has been trained on the proper storage, labeling, handling, clean-up and disposal of hazardous waste. Only low-VOC water-based paints and materials are used, and the district has established an environmental program to properly dispose of batteries, which are removed from sites by a certified handler, along with anything related to chemicals. Oversight is conducted by the Alameda County of Environmental Health. All compact fluorescent lamp (CFL)

lighting which contains mercury that requires replacing is treated as hazardous waste and is disposed of by custodians with proper methods. Edison is also compliant with AUSD's asbestos management plan, which adheres to the Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Program.

### Element ID: Alternative Transportation

- Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools conducts an annual survey each spring to track how local students travel to and from school, with additional input provided by teachers. Edison's 2018-19 survey results show that 41% of students walk to school, 9% "roll" (i.e., bicycle, scooter, or skateboard), and 2% carpool.
- Edison has a publicized No-Idling policy, which is now implemented district-wide, via its website, e-mails, Konstella (a mobile app for parent communities), school events, and multiple reminders throughout the year. Edison also plans to work with the city and the district on posting signs alongside AUSD-owned fenced areas.
- The majority of Edison does not use school buses. However, AUSD has worked to reduce its environmental impact by partnering with AC Transit for daily bus routes. AC Transit's fleet includes hydrogen cell buses, with plans to deploy more electric buses going forward.
- Many Edison teachers take advantage of public transportation via AC Transit, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), and SF/Alameda ferries for field trips and daily commuting. Charter buses and carpooling are also used for field trips, on an as-needed basis or when walking is not an option. The lack of a school parking lot further encourages students and staff to find alternative forms of transportation.
- Edison is committed to providing active transportation activities to students and receives support in this endeavor from several community partners. For example, Edison's Walk & Roll Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Committee focuses on several events per year, starting with International Walk & Roll to School Day in October. There is also a winter Walk & Roll to School Day, a Bike to School Day, and a two-week "Bike Elf" program to further shape daily behavior patterns. The "Bike Elf" visits Edison's secure bike cage and scooter racks to tie ribbons on certain handlebars. Students with five or more ribbons get to celebrate with a bike blender smoothie party at recess.
- Since 2018, Edison's biking and scootering trends have tripled. Random surveys of the school's bike cage show that three times as many riders on Walk & Roll Days (W&R), and five times as many on Bike to School Days. In addition, several parents lead Edison Bike Buses or Walking School Buses. Parents who must drive during W&R events are encouraged to park a minimum of three blocks away and walk the remainder.
- Other relevant programs at Edison include Alameda County's BikeMobile visits in August to provide free bike tune-ups and repairs. In 2018, Edison hosted a Pedestrian Safety Rodeo for first and second graders, a Bike Rodeo for third and fourth, and a great musical assembly 'Rock the Block' (during which students learned about safe biking and walking to school). In 2019, the city funded a new pilot program to expand bike education for all AUSD students. Primary students also received a bike rodeo, while fourth and fifth graders received a 2½ hour bike education class and off-campus rides provided by Cycles for Change.
- Edison plays a very active role working with the City of Alameda to provide its Safe Routes to School map to the larger community. The school ensures that this map is available online and at events. This fall, Alameda's Transportation Commission also partnered with Edison to meet with families and encourage direct input on walking and biking route safety concerns.

- Edison’s PTA supports Alameda’s Annual Bike Festival, hosted at rotating K-5 schools. During this event, bike safety equipment such as free helmets, bells, safety vests, and lights are given to all attendees. The W&R committee partners with the city, the Kiwanis and Elks Clubs, Bike Walk Alameda, and the Safe Routes to Schools taskforce to plan, fund, and staff this event. Edison works with Bike Walk Alameda to educate students and families on bike safety, local bike trends, new policies, and opportunities to transition residents out of their cars.

## Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

### Element IIA: Environmental Health

- Edison’s efforts to practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and reduce overall pesticide use are consistent with the district’s IPM Policy, AR 3514.2, which meets the requirements of California’s *Healthy Schools Act*. The use of Roundup was stopped in 2012 district-wide, and routine inspections and recordkeeping are managed by AUSD. Glue and snap traps are used to control mammalian pests, such as rats and mice, during school breaks. Exterior eating areas are wiped down and cleaned of debris.
- Edison does not use pesticides. Students working in the gardens use horticultural soap, along with biodegradable soap, oil, and compost tea. On occasion, neem oil is used on the fruit trees. The plant diversity attracts enough beneficial insects to keep many common pests in check. Edison’s Garden Science teacher instructs students to routinely check to ensure that all plants look healthy. Students remove, by hand, anything that imperils garden plants, such as snails or aphids. Sheet mulching is used as a method to control weeds without using herbicides.
- Edison takes measures to minimize exposure to hazardous contaminants by prohibiting smoking, posting “No Smoking” signs throughout campus. Any CFL lighting containing mercury is treated as hazardous waste and custodians use proper disposal methods to remove them. A thorough inspection of Edison’s central heating system and carbon monoxide detectors is performed annually. Edison is compliant with AUSD’s asbestos management plan, which follows the Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act (AHERA). AUSD does not allow any pressure-treated materials containing Chromate Copper Arsenate to be used on campus. Custodial staff is trained on the proper storage, labeling, and handling of chemical inventory, as well as on the proper clean-up and disposal of hazardous waste. AUSD’s compliance coordinator issues a yearly report regarding the district’s chemical management program while Alameda County of Environmental Health provides district oversight. AUSD also has a program where custodians use Green-Seal-Certified cleaners wherever possible.
- Edison employs several indoor environmental standards, including equipping classrooms with acoustical ceiling tiles to reduce airborne noise and to improve sound quality. Bulletin boards and area rugs also help with sound absorption in conjunction with new windows. In 2018, Edison’s new Low-E solar film windows were installed to improve comfort and increase daylight. Overhangs were also built on classrooms with southern exposure to help with heat and glare remediation while allowing in more natural light. A handful of classrooms have humidifiers and air purifiers. All classrooms can open windows for ventilation, with the exception of the new media center, which has a centralized AC unit to regulate temperature for computer equipment.
- 50% of Edison’s classrooms have a view of the green courtyard in the middle of campus, including mature trees and planter boxes with California natives. All classrooms have views of trees and nature, as the school is surrounded by an established tree-lined neighborhood.

- Edison’s ventilation operation and maintenance practices include an annual summer inspection of every classroom by AUSD’s MOF staff to study gas heating systems and ventilation operation. All issues are identified to prevent any carbon monoxide from entering the school. Filters are changed in every vent before each school year begins, and on an as-needed basis upon request. Portable classrooms are equipped with HVAC systems and undergo the same annual maintenance. In 2018, in addition to the many energy efficiencies upgrades already detailed, Edison also added new one-way passive cooling vents to all classrooms to remove heat and stale air.
- Edison takes measures to prevent exposure to asthma triggers across campus. The faculty receives an updated list of Student Health Concerns at the beginning of each school year. Asthmatic students are identified so that teachers can work with parents to best understand each student’s situation. AUSD’s Health and Wellness Committee compiles information for teachers to inform them of items that can be triggers for asthma. This data is sourced from the California Department of Public Health’s Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program (WRAPP), as well as *Healthy Cleaning & Asthma-Safer Schools: A How-To Guide*. AUSD’s MOF department publishes a specialized Plant and Tree List that identifies those species specifically known to trigger asthma so that these species are avoided when planting is done on campus. AUSD’s 2019-20 Gardening Manual provides a new guideline of plants, design, construction, and implementation to ensure health and safety. To coincide, AUSD has a district-wide green-cleaning program that has, over time, reduced dozens of cleaning chemicals down to only a few Green Seal-certified alternatives.
- Edison’s measures to control moisture—in cases of roof leaks, water intrusion or mold—includes using dehumidifiers to remove moisture, fans for drying, and extractors. Remediation work, when needed, is done by a licensed third-party environmental firm that is required to test, abate, and re-test air. In 2018, new roofs were installed, with special drains added to prevent future leaks.
- Built in 1942, Edison is an older facility, and in an effort to ensure that its buildings are lead-safe, it has undergone multiple remodeling projects. For the past decade, Edison and AUSD have committed to only purchasing materials from manufacturers who confirm that their products are 100% lead-free. Soil testing for lead is also part of all facility construction. Every material deployed on-site is tested for lead content prior to use.
- Edison receives water from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), which filters out sand, anthracite, and carbon to ensure access to clean drinking water. Each water treatment plant provides disinfection, fluoridation, and corrosion control. All plumbing at Edison is lead-free and compliant with California AB 1953. State law since 2006, this legislation established the toughest drinking water/plumbing/lead content standards in the world. On September 1, 2017, ACC Environmental Consultants collected drinking water samples from eight locations at Edison. Samples were analyzed for lead, in accordance with the EPA SM3113B Test Method. One source had slightly above 15 ppb and has since been replaced.
- In 2019, two ELKAY ezH2O refillable water bottle filling stations were installed on campus and have already eliminated the need for 4,000 single-use plastic bottles. Each station has a WaterSentry Plus filter rated for 3,000-gallon capacity and National Science Foundation (NSF)-certified to NSF/ANSI 42 and 53 for the reduction of lead, Class 1 particulate, chlorine, taste, and odor.
- All Edison and AUSD custodial staff are trained on the safe use of chemicals routinely used on campus in order to minimize student and staff exposure. These safety measures are reviewed every summer by MOF managers. Edison’s cleaning products are deliberately locked in custodial supply rooms and are therefore inaccessible to students. The staff is trained to use safe cleaning products for general cleaning, and on what to do for cases where bleach or antibacterial cleanup is needed. All efforts are taken to minimize the use of these chemicals, student and staff exposure, and the

effect on the local environment. For example, bleach is only used to clean mops at the end of the day and must be rinsed off before and after use.

- In 2010, AUSD received a grant from the California Department of Public Health to build a district-wide Green Cleaning Program. Through the Cleaning for Asthma Safe Schools (CLASS) Pilot Project, AUSD reduced dozens of cleaning chemicals down to a few Green Seal-certified alternatives: using all-purpose cleaner, disinfectant, neutral cleaner, and graffiti wipes; transitioning from disposable cotton mops and rags to nylon microfiber ones, employing a laundering system via mobile washing machines; removing the use of bleach from non-food servicing areas; switching out buckets and mops for automated restroom cleaning machines; and increasing staff training for the new equipment.
- In recent years, Edison and AUSD's custodial department began purchasing eco-friendly paper products. Flooring equipment has been transitioned from using chemicals instead of using water and soap. Carpets are cleaned solely using steam, no chemicals. Custodial gas power washers and blowers have been transitioned to all-electric equipment, and custodians have adopted a three-stream trash system to reduce environmental impact. District gardeners only use organic products.
- At Edison, every classroom is inspected during summer break to identify issues with heating and cooling systems, using EPA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) checklist as a resource. Staff is reminded early in the year not to block heating vents with shelving or boxes.
- Edison staff is also instructed by MOF to report any indoor air quality concerns by submitting a work order. Given the frequency of wildfires in this region, and the resulting unsafe air conditions due to smoke, debris, and extreme weather, there has been a heightened need for clean indoor air quality. While classrooms now have vents to reduce temperatures and help with comfort levels, some Edison teachers have worked with parents and PTA to add fans and air purifiers as well, to further improve air quality for students in the face of climate change and more extreme weather. Plants in some Edison classrooms also help to filter harmful air through their natural properties.
- Other practices related to environmental health and wellness at Edison include the school's "No-Idling" policy for vehicles anywhere around campus. Edison has no parking lot, thus walking, biking and rolling is encouraged year-round, with frequent Walk & Roll days. In addition, Edison's PTA works with the Garden Science teacher to plant native and edible gardens around the campus and encourage local habitat. Edison has a longstanding tree-planting campaign that has tracked the growth of trees around the school. This coincides directly with AUSD's 1:1 tree policy, stating that for every tree removed due to disease, one must be planted in its place.

### Element IIB: Nutrition and Fitness

- In 2008, Edison was the first school to lobby the district to pilot and influence other schools to implement salad bars with fresh fruits, vegetables, and legumes, all of which are now available at all schools across AUSD. Today, Edison school meals meet or exceed all state and federal regulations, and the nutritional guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Purchasing practices avoid trans fats, antibiotics, growth hormones, and high-fructose corn syrup. Much of the food is made from scratch in the district's central kitchen. Over the last several years, Food Services has begun incorporating much more local and organic produce, with AUSD getting as much produce as possible from regional farmers in places such as Sacramento, Napa, and Salinas. All meats are grass-fed and hormone-free.

- Edison has a Food Share Bin, where uneaten healthy foods from Food Services can be shared to both reduce food waste and feed others. Food Share Bin items are saved for students in need of snacks, and uneaten food is donated to local groups.
- Edison prioritizes the promotion of healthy food and nutrition at all grade levels. This is supported by AUSD's website which includes extensive information for parents and students. In fifth grade, students study Family Life Education, which explores healthy choices that students can make. At Edison, every student also has a monthly class in the teaching garden, where students grow, harvest, and cook organic produce, and discuss the nutritional value and carbon footprint of their food. While Edison does not have direct control over the district's food purchases, a majority of food items bought by the PTA for on-site events, appreciation days, and gatherings are fresh, organic, and sourced as locally as possible, with a focus on more plant-based options rather than meat.
- Edison's PTA has been committed to a school garden program for over 15 years. It has both purchased curriculum and organized parent volunteers to teach lessons at every grade level, from K-5. In 2017, the PTA hired a professional Garden Science Teacher, and parent volunteers continue to support this experienced garden educator in helping students grow, harvest, cook, and eat fruits and vegetables from the garden. Parents, students, and community members also come in to help with garden workdays.
- Excess produce from Edison's school garden is given to staff and Edison families. On occasion, when enough is in season, excess produce is also given to Alameda's Food Shift Kitchen, a local nonprofit catering business that works collaboratively with communities, grocers, and governments to cook and serve food that would otherwise go to waste.
- Since 2018, other unique practices and partnerships have aided Edison's focus on reducing food waste in partnership with Alameda County's StopWaste.org. As a result of the school's lunchtime Food Share Bin, after students have been fed, Edison distributes the leftover food items, such as fresh fruit and cheese sticks, to local partner programs, including Edison's on-site aftercare, Edison's off-site aftercare, and the City of Alameda Food Bank. Training by AUSD Nutrition Services staff has led to decreases in leftover milk, with the clarification of student choice to take a milk carton only as desired, not as mandated. Since launching, wasted food has decreased dramatically, while student and staff awareness levels on the importance of not wasting food have increased significantly.
- All P.E. classes are held outdoors, except for rare days with dangerous air quality or heavy rain. Primary students perform exercise stations during fitness testing preparation. Students run for five to ten minutes, depending on grade level. Every lap is recorded bi-annually and compared to students' individual and class counts in previous years. Fourth and fifth grade students are tested twice per year using Fitnessgram. The fourth grade is tested in the hope of introducing them to the Fitnessgram before it becomes mandatory in fifth grade. It is an opportunity for students to learn their fitness levels and to choose to work on certain exercises they want to improve.
- For staff wellness and mental health support, Edison takes full advantage of AUSD's Employee Assistance Program provided by Magellan Health Services of California. It includes access to a 24/7 toll-free crisis counseling number and offers tools and resources on achieving work-life balance, grief and loss, depression, family and relationships, healthier living, and emotional wellness. They also write a bi-monthly newsletter that includes tips to improve health and wellness.
- Edison staff can also take advantage of AUSD membership discounts at four different local health clubs.
- Edison students who participate in after-care programs also benefit from the significant outdoor time and a healthy amount of additional exercise, whether on-site, at local city parks, or practicing martial arts.

- In 2019, Edison registered for the EPA’s Sunwise school program to further educate students and families on the damaging effects of UV radiation and to promote sun safety practices. The school will have at least 50% of students participating by mid-2020.
- Fourth and fifth grade “recess buddies” are trained to help younger students with organized games during lunch recess. The blacktop is painted with guides for different sports, such as four-square, tetherball, wall ball, basketball, and baseball. There is also a large, shaded, grassy area for students to relax and play other sports, such as soccer.
- Edison students participate in weeding and digging in the teaching garden during their scheduled garden classes, at recess, or during weekend garden workdays.
- The Alameda Education Foundation offers additional classes after school, such as tennis, island dance, hip hop, karate, and basketball.
- Over the last few years, Edison students have been permitted to run around the exterior campus as part of the school’s parent-organized afterschool Running Club.
- Many of Edison’s field trips are also organized as walking field trips or active outdoor adventures.
- Edison staff nutrition and well-being are also prioritized. Healthy snacks such as fresh fruit and vegetables are provided at staff meetings, and staff can be seen enjoying their own healthy options in the staff room at lunchtime. On occasion, Edison teachers participate with their students in running/walking laps or will walk on their own during a lunch break. In the classroom, the staff is encouraged to request an ergonomic assessment from AUSD Human Resources, which results in a formal evaluation to ensure that staff is working smart.
- In the early 2000s, the Edison garden program was launched to teach students about the importance of locally grown fresh foods and to provide them with access to these foods. As a result, every student at Edison has the opportunity to try nutritional garden-grown vegetables. This starts with the kindergarten lesson, Five Senses in the Garden, which encourages students to taste, smell, and touch what they see growing. Students plant, grow, harvest, and cook the organic vegetables they eat. At the end of the year, students receive a cookbook of recipes that they made, including pesto, stir fry, salad, rosemary potatoes, cheesy chard, fig jam, salad dressing, roasted pumpkin seeds, salsa, and more.
- Edison’s garden curriculum educates students about vitamins, minerals, and how people need these nutrients to be healthy. Students also learn about the importance of choosing pesticide-free foods, and the impact of eating locally.
- At Edison’s Fall Parent Info Night, teachers talk to parents about the importance of providing healthy snacks and lunches. Parents are requested to pack all food in reusable containers, to the best of their abilities, and to work towards Edison’s zero-waste goals. Edison has a no-sweets policy for birthdays. Classrooms are designated as allergen-free and there is a designated nut-free space at lunch.
- Edison students have daily access to a health office assistant who is CPR-, First Aid- and AED-certified. A registered nurse is also available for students with greater health concerns. Additionally, AUSD has two registered nurses on staff who attend to students throughout the district, administering medicine, organizing home/hospital academics, and performing vision and hearing screenings to both special education students and general education students.
- Edison has a school psychologist and counselor on-staff to provide students with social, emotional, and academic support, as needed.
- Edison utilizes the “Otter Be” Character Education program which recognizes students for exhibiting positive Life Skills, such as respect, responsibility, perseverance, and kindness. Positive Behavior

Implementation and Support (PBIS) is a school-wide program encouraging behavior following these three rules: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.

- Edison also now uses a Socio-Emotional Learning program called Soul Shoppe, which works to decrease violence and teasing, and creates safe learning environments for students utilizing five key components: 1) Staff In-Service: workshops to learn classroom tools to build community and trust; 2) Peacemaker Training: 20 students in grades 3-5 are chosen to receive a four-part training to develop skills like communication, decision making, de-escalation, teamwork, and leadership; 3) Assembly and Workshop Days: Grade level assemblies and classroom workshops that focus on specific character traits (e.g., Respect, Being an Ally, Doing Your Best); 4) Parent Information Night: An event to encourage families to reinforce program components/themes at home; and 5) Curriculum: The “Cool Tools for School” curriculum gives over 170 lessons, introducing attributes using role-plays, stories, and discussions. A Buddy Bench for all students has also been added this year as a bridge to aid with daily inclusion.

### Pillar III: Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

#### Element IIIA: Interdisciplinary Learning

- Edison’s faculty embrace the integration of environmental education and sustainability concepts across its curriculum. The school employs several policies advancing this work, including a written definition of environmental literacy, which focuses efforts on three theme areas: Ocean and Bay Science, Watershed Protection, and Ecology and Biodiversity Awareness. Environmental literacy is being integrated into Edison’s science instruction via the FOSS (Full Option Science System) Program, a research-based science curriculum for grades K-8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California in Berkeley. The FOSS curriculum, used school-wide, ensures that all students are learning about Life Science in the context of the Earth’s connected ecosystem. Students study animals, plants, environments, and living systems. Kindergarteners learn about trees and how plants grow. First graders study different ways plants reproduce. Second graders look closely at brassica plants, mealworms, air, and weather. Third graders study Structures of Life, how seeds travel alongside water and climate, giving students the foundation needed to understand climate change. Fourth graders study isopods, erosion, ecosystems, adaptations, and energy. In fifth grade, students go very deep into studying Monarch migration, food webs, food chains, and more.
- In addition to curricula and programs, AUSD has developed an articulated list of environmental education experiences for grades K-12. The goal is for students to participate in at least one environmental education experience per year, in which Edison’s classrooms and students actively take part.
- Since 2017, several of Edison’s teachers have also participated in AUSD’s Environmental Literacy Professional Development workshops. Edison had the highest showing of faculty during the district’s June 2019 program. Partners include BaySci, Lawrence Hall of Science (UC Berkeley), ChangeScale, and StopWaste.org. The district is also developing a network of environmental education providers who can provide support on integrating California’s Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&Cs) with the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).
- Music at Edison also directly integrates environmental learning. The school’s music teacher helps first and second graders, in particular, connect with the planet every spring as part of their Earth Concert, where students sing songs about caring for and protecting the environment. It is geared to raise awareness and teach the parents in Edison’s community as much as the students.

- Zero Waste plays a lead role in Edison’s sustainable education platform. The fourth-grade StopWaste.org student action projects measure food waste in an attempt to create zero-waste snacks, including designing experiments, tracking, monitoring, and writing a report. The fifth grade helps teach Edison’s community sustainable practices by conducting student-action “waste audits” in every classroom. These have been instrumental in driving Edison to improve waste diversion rates. Fourth and fifth graders also teach lower grades through their annual Earth Week “Place the Waste Quiz Show.” This is a “Jeopardy”-style assembly developed in the classroom over several weeks, then written and performed by students. It is designed as a tool to educate students and faculty on any updates to the school’s waste-hauler program. In 2018, the focus was on transitioning the placement of empty milk cartons from Edison’s blue bins to green bins. Food Share Bins were also introduced to the Edison community through this communication mechanism. The show has been a staple at Edison for years.
- Edison’s custodial staff receives training at the local transfer station and at various AUSD Green Symposiums about the importance of recycling and composting. The Garden Science teacher has attended local conferences sponsored by CASA (Citizen Action for a Sustainable Alameda) and StopWaste.org.org, as well as Life Lab Garden Educator classes, and shares the ideas learned at these events through the Alameda School Garden Project and the Edible Schoolyard Project. Local San Francisco outdoor educators share seeds, ideas, and methods for effectively teaching environmental literacy in the garden. Renee Sheppard Seeds donates the overstock of seeds to Edison’s garden program, which the school redistributes to all other AUSD garden programs.
- Inspired by demand from both students and Edison’s long-standing PTA Go Green Committee and the school’s Go Green Kids’ Club, The Green Otters formed this year. It is comprised of 25 students from second through fifth grades and is facilitated by two faculty members. In 2019, the students discussed focusing on the following efforts going forward: raising awareness around plastic pollution; encouraging concepts targeting reducing and reusing; fundraising for endangered animals; planting trees; discouraging litter through education about ocean pollution; and helping to educate their peers about why eating too much meat is not healthy for us or our planet. This has helped to further explain Edison’s 2019 move to “Meatless Mondays.”
- Many of Edison’s student field trips focus on environmental education, outdoor programs, and science. This includes visits to Lawrence Berkeley Labs (UC Berkeley), Chabot Space and Science Center, California Academy of Science and Aquarium (San Francisco), the Oakland Zoo, the Ardenwood Historic Farm, and Alameda’s very own Crab Cove.
- In second grade, students receive an interactive presentation from EBMUD covering how water is used in one’s home, where it comes from (i.e., the Sierra snowpack), how it is treated and distributed to homes, and what happens with wastewater. Students participate in a hands-on activity to filter water and discuss the drought in California. In partnership with the City of Alameda and AUSD, “KIDS for the BAY” delivers the Watershed Rangers Program (WRP) to every third-grade class in Alameda. This program, funded by the city, helps Alameda meet its goals for a clean, zero-waste environment while helping AUSD meet goals for its districtwide Environmental Literacy Scope and Sequencing.
- All programs are aligned with CA NGSS and California Common Core State Standards while also providing professional development to classroom teachers. Every year, fourth-graders visit the “Waste Management” Davis Street Transfer Station in neighboring San Leandro. This award-winning trip to the irecycle@school Education Center illustrates first-hand for students what happens to their recyclables, garbage, and green waste at a working material recovery facility and transfer station. This field trip provides real-life application of concepts taught in the classroom in the areas

of physical science, life science, and investigation/experimentation. Edison's fifth-grade students attend Nature Bridge, a two-day/three-night science retreat in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, offering an inclusive, hands-on learning experience in the Marin Headlands. Students engage in collaborative, authentic, scientific learning experiences designed to support CA NGSS, covering Marine, Earth and Physical Sciences; terrestrial plants and animals; watershed studies; and climate change.

- At Edison, environmentally-focused service learning projects are ongoing. To name a few, fifth graders visit the Alameda County Food Bank each year to learn, in-depth, about food waste and distribution to other communities. In third grade, students upcycle old T-shirts and jeans into dog toys for the Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter. This spring, the third grade class will be doing a new service project advocating for animal and habitat protection.
- Edison's students learn about soil health, composting, climate, and native plants and animals in garden classes. Students watch monarch caterpillars eat milkweed, turn into a chrysalis, and eventually emerge as a butterfly. Students can take home school-grown milkweed plants to start their own butterfly garden.

### Element IIIB: STEM Content, Knowledge, and Skills

- At Edison, STEM learning concepts and skills are of increased priority each academic year. All grades have dedicated FOSS Science curricula as a foundation for STEM modules, from science-based decomposing of organic materials and understanding garden-versus-city compost in kindergarten, to monitoring air temperatures and weather patterns in third grade, to learning about electricity and building magnetic circuit boards in fourth grade.
- Edison's fifth grade teachers and students have uniquely led the district and set an example by partnering closely with StopWaste.org to conduct annual school waste audits. These projects cover multiple Common Core State Standards for science and math. Each audit requires students to weigh trash using gram scales. (Note: after several years of audits, students have found that classrooms now produce so little trash they must weigh it in grams, not lbs.) They convert those measurements to show volume, in cubic inches, and percentages of the recyclables that ended up in that classroom's trash. Finally, the students analyze their data, develop a report to communicate their findings and solutions for reducing waste back to each classroom, the school at large, the faculty, and ultimately the Edison families and households.
- Edison and StopWaste.org are now working with AUSD to determine how funding, training, and implementation can work to extend this fifth-grade STEM-focused audit and learning mechanism to all fifth or sixth-grade classrooms districtwide.
- Around Halloween at Edison, students in every classroom utilize targeted science and math skills to build scarecrows out of used and nature-based materials. Each scarecrow is later auctioned off at Edison's Fall Festival, which helps students understand how the items they produce can bring real value.
- In 2018, to coincide with classroom learning, Edison's PTA launched a STEAM Committee, which today hosts an annual Family STEAM Night, at which over 50% of the school community attends to participate in organized, STEM-based creativity projects and step-by-step building efforts. Recyclables are collected from many Edison families to reuse for STEAM projects. Edison now also runs a booth at the City of Alameda Mini-Maker Faire, in partnership with Otis Elementary, a neighboring K-5 school. The current goal is to upscale this presence by encouraging more K-5

schools within the district to join, and encouraging older AUSD students to help lead this joint presence.

- Over the last ten years, many Edison students have worked with local artist Ginny Parsons to make art out of waste using STEAM skills. Special projects have included: beautiful junk-mail murals; eco-friendly messages painted on old T-shirts; office supplies made from used cans, bottles, and cardboard; bags and purses measured and sewn from recycled clothing; and Earth Spirit Masks made 100% from Edison trash.

### Element IIIC: Civic Knowledge and Skills

- Since the 2003 inception of Edison’s PTA Go Green Committee, led by parents and teachers, students have been engaged in driving civic- and community-minded environmental projects, which, in 2015, began to showcase their demands and voices when third-graders wrote to Alameda’s Mayor and City Council pushing for three-stream waste bins on Park Street, Alameda’s busiest downtown area. Their input was instrumental to city leaders and blue/green/black bins were installed six months later. Alameda—a city with a population of approximately 80,000—has since expanded bin installations across town, and demand keeps growing. In 2016, K-5 students supported the Last Plastic Straw Campaign to help Alameda pass a “Straws on Request” ordinance. This particular civic letter writing campaign resulted in hundreds of letters sent to city officials, pushing forth a new citywide foodware ordinance that took effect on January 1, 2018, and was enforced starting on July 1, 2018. In 2017, to further their impact, K-5 students wrote letters to their favorite restaurants in town asking each of them to stop using plastic straws and disposable foodware. Their goal was to raise awareness and help to reinforce the ordinance already set in place. Many restaurants in Alameda have since responded, and more are converting to reusables and compostable foodware every day.
- In 2019, Edison’s third-grade class targeted Trader Joe’s, asking them to use less plastic overall and move to compostable produce bags. This shift is now beginning to happen.
- Edison students and families have consistently donated to the environmental community, regional, and national projects. In past years, fundraising initiatives have included: selling reusable grocery bags designed by Edison students to support Save the Bay and local non-profit Mission Blue; collecting spare change for otter research and conservation at the Monterey Bay Aquarium; and raising enough to protect 22 acres of rainforest through Conservation International. More recent Go Green donation drives have supported the Earth Day Network (2016), local non-profit CASA’s “Straws Upon Request” Campaign (2017), and the Plastic Pollution Coalition (2018).
- Every student at Edison receives cooking instruction in the teaching garden, ensuring that students begin to enjoy cooking with the vegetables and fruits that they have personally grown. For example, kindergarteners make a salad; first graders make spiced pumpkin seeds and rosemary potatoes; second graders make pesto with pasta and Caprese kabobs; third graders make salad and Cheesy Chard with couscous; fourth graders make salsa; and fifth graders make Caprese kabobs, nutritious salads, and more. Most garden days, students have the opportunity to taste food from the garden, such as fig jam, apples, broccoli, beans, sugar snap peas, kale, and lettuce. Occasionally local community chickens come to visit and students feed the chickens while they observe the beak and feet, eventually comparing what they see with other types of birds.
- Second graders receive an annual presentation from San Rafael-based WildCare. This outstanding organization cares for over 4,000 ill, injured, and orphaned wild animals every year, focusing on habitat and endangered species. Fourth graders spend three days at the Outdoor Discovery School in Coloma, where they experience the California Gold Rush using lessons of the past to awaken

interest and a sense of responsibility for the environment. Fifth graders attend a three-day outdoor education program in the Marine Headlines, where students hike, tour Point Bonita Lighthouse, and conduct a study of human impact on the ocean.

- During Edison's Open House for Parents in May, the Garden Program has a community plant sale. Items sold by students include seedlings they have started in class, transplants from the garden, and donated plants from parents. 2018-19 sales included tomatoes, lettuce, Swiss chard, lemon sorrel, broccoli, kale, milkweed, succulents, and more. Cookbooks are sold as well, containing the recipes students have made during class. Edison's garden and plant sale are a tradition through which students can bring their parents into the Edison teaching garden to share with them the many fruits of their labor, skills they have learned, and their favorite plant-based foods to eat.
- Edison's Garden Program also expands its reach to engage other AUSD students and Alameda's wider community by inviting a variety of middle and high school students to help on workdays. This practice helps older students earn required community service hours and influence their increased involvement in local urban gardening trends. Students are taught how to plant, transplant, weed, prune, water, maintain, and sheet mulch. Edison's nearby community members and neighbors are always welcome on campus during the school's Fall Festival and for any spring plant sales.
- Edison students and families participate regularly in the city and regionally sponsored Coastal Cleanups, working with the East Bay Regional Park District, Rethink Disposable/Clean Water Action, and the City of Alameda. In addition to connecting to the broader community and participating in this civic activity, students learn about the most predominant waste items polluting Alameda's bay and estuary.
- Over the course of many years, Edison has partnered closely with numerous local community organizations to both improve upon the school's own environmental practices and to help support other local sustainability initiatives. Some of these include Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA), Bike Walk Alameda, StopWaste.org, Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter, Alameda Backyard Growers, and The Elks Club. In recent years, Edison has partnered with Merritt College's Horticulture Department, which provides plant donations for the school garden. In an effort to support other local schools in greater need, Edison has partnered with its sister school, Ruby Bridges, a Title 1 school with significantly less parent involvement. Work has focused on sharing resources and best practices in order to drive success towards their Zero Waste Lunch program, garden programs, and eco-related assemblies.
- Edison's Community Service PTA Committee works with multiple nonprofits in support of health and wellness within the local community. Edison's Family Community Service Night in partnership with Doing Good Together™ has worked on projects and/or donation drives over the years in support of the Alameda County Community Food Bank, Alameda Meals on Wheels (which distributes otherwise wasted food), homeless populations, local senior nursing homes, and local foster youth through the West Coast Children's Center. The Community Service PTA Committee also collaborated years back with nearby Otis Elementary and Franklin Elementary to support their start of community service committees for each school and the integration of service-learning. This collaboration and support continue today.
- Edison's commitment to core environmental, STEM-related education and civic action is unquestionable. In addition to all the aforementioned FOSS, garden science, student action, and service-related programming, Edison's co-curricular work continues to drive new innovation and learning for students and families alike. Every year, Earth Week/Month activities incorporate deep classroom grade-level projects and assemblies that speak to the latest trends in energy, waste, transportation, resiliency, and climate change. Student "Leaf" pledges invite every student to

commit to a new environmental focus each year. Since 2017, Edison has partnered during Earth Week (and now, by popular demand, throughout the year) with Nike to collect worn/torn sneakers that are either donated (if in decent condition) or are made circular, and therefore recycled into safe, reusable playground surfaces. Edison's "Recycle Cart," built years ago by the Dad's Club is highlighted to remind families to bring in hard-to-recycle items. This year, the school will turn this into a "Reuse Cart" to repurpose items, such as used crayons and small plastic toys received at birthday parties.

- In the effort to leverage the recently AUSD-board-approved "Resolution Calling for Climate Crisis Response," Edison is collaborating with many other AUSD Go Green Teams and students to further drive joint initiatives. Some of these include: stewarding reusables versus disposables across campus cafeterias; building stronger solutions districtwide for higher-efficiency indoor air quality improvements; furthering action to enable full-time garden teaching at every school; developing more on-site education related to reducing food waste; launching new STEM-focused learning programs in and out of the classroom; and spearheading continued education to promote and scale general behavior change – amongst students and families – to reduce Edison's, the district's, and, ultimately, Alameda's local carbon footprint.