

**K-12 Food Recovery**  
**Ramona Unified School District**

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Specialized Academic Instructor

## The Ramona Unified School District Composting Program

This project has been made possible through the generous support of the County of San Diego Department of Public Works – Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Section.

The County of San Diego purchased and installed this composting unit, called an “Earth Tub,” to help Ramona USD compost its food scraps and landscape trimmings.

The Earth Tub has a capacity of three cubic yards, and can handle up to 50 pounds of food scraps a day.

This program also includes food donation and feeding food scraps to the Ramona High School Agriculture Program’s livestock

### Hierarchy of Best Management Practices for Unserved Food/Food Scraps

Source Reduction (methods to prevent wasted food)

Donation to Food Banks (to feed people)

Feed Animals in the Agriculture Program

Onsite  
Composting



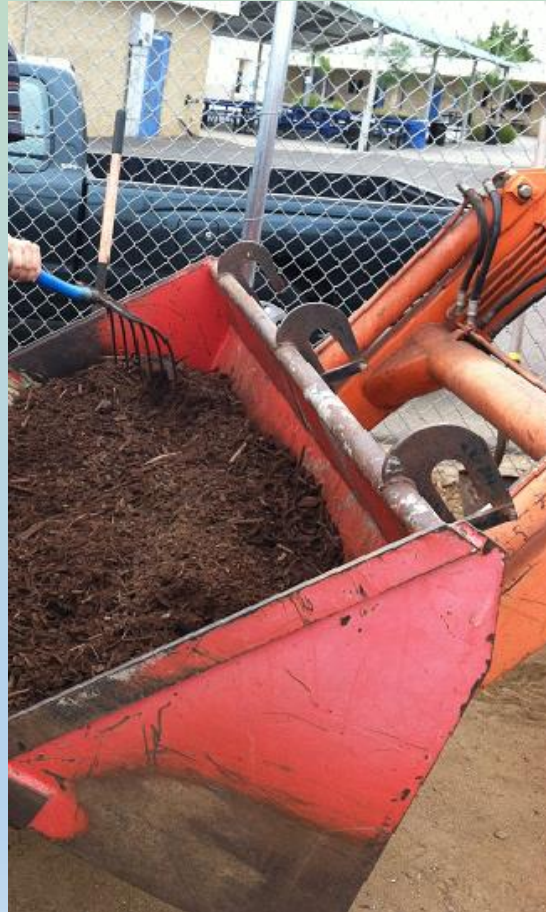
## The Program

RUSD participates in a comprehensive food donation and composting program in partnership with the County of San Diego.

Benefits of diverting organics from the landfill

- Feeding people
- Feeding animals
- Composting food discards
- Students involved in improving the Earth’s environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

# Converting Material



The Earth Tub can handle all of the food scraps the district produces each week.

In our first month:

- Over 1100 lbs.

First year:

- Over 10,000 lbs.

# Collecting Scraps



Bucket lids are labeled (with different labels for compost and animal feed).



All schools divide kitchen scraps. These are kept in buckets with lids and refrigerated until collection. They are then weighed before designating to animal feed or composting each day.



Composting in the Earth Tub.

# Food and Nutrition Services



Many entrée items are no longer servable to students but are safe per food handling codes. These are frozen and picked up weekly by a local pantry, the Ramona Food & Clothes Closet.



## Food Bank Partnership



First year:  
2,780 pounds = 2,316 meals  
distributed to needy people.



# Recovering Food for Lifestock



Left over food\* goes to two places:

1. Animals
2. Compost

\*Food that is left over from self-serve fruit and vegetable salad bars, as well as non-wrapped entrees from the eight school cafeterias participating in the program is separated for animal feed.



## Completing the Loop: Feeding Garden Soil



Compost is utilized in the Culinary Garden.



# Connectedness, Independence & Purpose



Produce from Culinary Garden.



Fresh from the Culinary Garden.

Common Core, measurement, weight, temperature, volume, documentation, technology use, motor skills, strength, endurance and career readiness skills.



# Meets elements of all CA Career Readiness Standards (2015)

- Apply appropriate technical skills and academic knowledge.
- Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason.
- Develop an education and career plan aligned with personal goals.
- Apply technology to enhance productivity.
- Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Practice personal health and understand financial literacy
- Act as a responsible citizen in the workplace and the community.
- Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.
- Work productively in teams while integrating cultural and global competence.
- Demonstrate creativity and innovation
- Employ valid and reliable research strategies
- Understand the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.

## How we did it...

It began with a phone call from Rich Flammer of Hidden Resources, consultant for the County of San Diego, who said a Green Mountain Technologies Earth Tub was available through the San Diego County Department of Public Works Landfill Division.

- After acquiring district approval, Rich Flammer and Gloria Quinn assembled a planning team of administration, maintenance, food services and personnel.
- For 8 school kitchens, baselines were established and procedures developed.
- Began coordinating with local food pantry for food donations.
- Set up site for Earth Tub (with water, power and fencing).



## US EPA Food Recovery Challenge

- With nearly 800 municipalities, grocery store chains, businesses, sports stadiums, amusement parks and others in an effort to reverse climate change and save the world.
- RUSD is first district in California and the fourth in the nation to participate.
- Please join us!

# Who Benefits?

- Students
- Educators
- Staff
- District
- Community
- Businesses
- Our future



Food donated to the  
Ramona Food and Clothes Closet

1 in 4 Ramona children  
are food insecure...



Here's an easy way to help:

Place the food you weren't able to use or serve today in this container  
**Call (760) 789-4458** • Someone from Ramona Food and Clothes Closet will  
pick it up • It's that simple! • Thanks for caring!

Sponsored by the County of San Diego – Solid Waste Planning & Recycling and Health & Human  
Services Agency • *Take a Bite Out of Waste!*

## Resources

- Gloria Quinn, Ramona Unified School District  
[gquinn@ramonausd.net](mailto:gquinn@ramonausd.net) 760-787-4144
- Rich Flammer, Hidden Resources  
[rflammer@me.com](mailto:rflammer@me.com) 619-758-0726

AB 1816 Information

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB1826](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1826)

CA Standards for Career Ready Practice

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/sf/documents/ctescrpflyer.pdf>