



## Gildo Rey Elementary School

**School district:** Auburn

**School location:** Auburn

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** September 2012

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2013

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- During 2012-13, Gildo Rey increased its recycling rate from 64% to 75% as a result of recycling in every classroom, office space, staff break room, and copy room, as well as food scrap collection throughout the school.
- The school decreased the size of its garbage dumpster and saved money for the district, thanks to the increase in collection of recyclable and compostable materials.
- To educate students about waste reduction and recycling practices, third-grade teacher Jim Smith dressed as Captain Compost for the school's fall assembly.
- The student Green Team helped monitor the school's recycling, compost, and garbage bins. Team members met with the principal to discuss the school's progress with collection of recyclable and compostable materials.
- The custodian regularly provided updates on contamination issues to the principal, who then communicated with teachers. To teach students what materials belong in garbage and recycling bins, teachers conducted skits and role plays with students.
- The school reduced waste by using durable silverware four days per week during breakfast and lunch.
- To decrease food waste, the school set up food share tables outside the lunch line and in each classroom for unopened food items from the school lunch program.
- To reduce paper use, students and teachers use whiteboards, use both sides of paper, and distribute meeting agendas and memos by e-mail. A reuse paper bin was placed in the copy room so staff can make copies on unused sides of paper.