

San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority

Five-Year Strategic Plan Feedback

Virtual Comments Received

Business Sector

Anonymous

“Overall, our organization is excited to see the implementation of IWMA’s strategic plan and further reduce waste throughout our county. DTSLO is on board with the sustainable goals and is willing to support educational initiatives to increase business involvement in the implementation.”

Anonymous

“I am both a business owner and resident in SLO County, and I would find it beneficial to have resources to better understand what is expected of me for waste management and what my options are for my waste streams. It would be helpful to know what materials need to be disposed of in a certain way, and what IWMA-certified options are available to dispose of those materials. An online resource where I can see the wastes needing disposal and who provides services to dispose of those materials would be helpful to stay on top of things.”

Education Sector

One Cool Earth

Representative: Katharine Rondthaler Krieg

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“Dear IWMA Board Members,

On behalf of One Cool Earth, we appreciate your leadership in advancing waste reduction, resource recovery, and environmental stewardship across San Luis Obispo County. We are writing to propose dedicated funding to support expanded school-based waste education programs that directly align with IWMA’s mission and regional sustainability goals.

One Cool Earth currently partners with schools across the county to provide garden-based, hands-on environmental education. One Cool Earth delivers weekly waste education programming at 33 schools throughout San Luis Obispo County. This program centers on student-led ‘Green Teams,’ empowering youth to take an active role in improving waste systems on their campuses. Green Team students teach their peers how to properly sort

waste in lunch areas, reduce contamination, and increase diversion rates. They also engage in composting practices within their school gardens, creating a closed-loop system that reinforces real-world sustainability concepts.

In addition to peer-to-peer leadership, One Cool Earth educators provide standards-aligned curriculum to entire school communities, focusing on waste reduction, composting, recycling, and marine debris prevention. These lessons are experiential, place-based, and designed to foster long-term behavior change.

Importantly, the impact of this work extends beyond school campuses. Students bring these practices home, influencing household behaviors and contributing to broader community awareness and participation in proper waste sorting and reduction.

By investing in this program, IWMA has the opportunity to support a scalable, proven model that not only improves on-campus waste practices but also builds a generation of environmentally responsible residents. This is a cost-effective strategy to reduce contamination, increase diversion, and prevent waste from reaching our waterways and ocean.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with IWMA to expand this work and deepen its impact across the county.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to a more sustainable future.

Sincerely,
One Cool Earth”

Resident / Public Sector

Anonymous

“Host more community cleanups and take-back days in different areas. It is not convenient for residents to only drive to HHW facilities. Take-back days for tires, paint, and mattresses happen in other counties. Why do they not happen here?”

Anonymous

“Add a new objective to reduce illegal dumping countywide. Illegal dumping on roadsides and private property is a worsening issue, and there should be a countywide task force that works with IWMA and haulers to implement a variety of solutions. Drop-off days, vouchers, cleanup days, and similar efforts should all be explored to reduce the frequency and severity of illegal dumping.”