

NOAA Ocean Guardian School Example Projects

September 2017 – June 2018

School	Project Description	Awarded Funds
Adams Elementary School (Santa Barbara County, CA)	In their third year of funding, Adams Elementary will be continuing to build off their efforts to reduce waste on campus through increased use of reusable items, composting and recycling. Their primary goal is to move towards a zero waste cafeteria on campus as well as in other school-based areas. Self-selected 3 rd – 6 th grade students will be forming the first Ocean Guardian Ambassadors group on campus to lead the school- and community-based conservation projects. These ambassadors will also serve as mentors to roughly 120 students in afterschool programs to help educate and build junior ocean ambassadors.	\$3,999
Alameda Unified School District (Alameda County, CA)	Alameda Unified School District will be participating in a multi-year phased approach towards addressing their district's recently adopted Environmental Sustainability resolution. This resolution addresses the need to increase recycling rates, reduce energy use, generate renewable power, conduct routine waste audits, and participate in local beach clean-ups across the district. Focusing specifically on the 5Rs and Energy and Ocean Health in the coming years, Alameda Unified hopes to increase ocean literacy in all classrooms.	\$19,985
Amelia Earhart Elementary School (Alameda County, CA)	Amelia Earhart Elementary will be focusing their 2 nd year of funding on the 6 R's: reduce, reuse, recycle, rot, refuse, and <i>rethink</i> . Throughout the school year, teachers and students will be learning about the many impacts that single-use plastic items have on the local watersheds, ocean, and the wildlife that inhabit these areas. Through this learning experience, Amelia Earhart Elementary will be exploring ways to reduce and refuse single-use plastic packaging, improve their existing recycling program and maintaining an on campus composting area for their school garden.	\$4,000
Blue Heron School (Jefferson County, WA)	In its 3 rd year of funding, all 7 th and 8 th grade students at Blue Heron will be addressing how they can make a positive impact on the local watershed and salmon population through habitat restoration. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn more about the science behind water quality monitoring and the importance of long-term habitat studies. Through their restoration efforts, students will be planting trees and removing invasive species from the riparian habitat.	\$4,000
Buena Vista Middle School (Monterey County, CA)	During their first year of funding, Buena Vista Middle School's main goal is to install a filtered water refill station and sell reusable bottles as a means to reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles on campus. The school's Ocean Solutions Pollution (OPS) club will be sharing how single-use plastics negatively impact the marine environment with their fellow peers, local families, the School Board and community members in hopes to inspire a community-wide waste reduction effort.	\$4,000
Bullis Charter School (Santa Clara County, CA)	With Bullis Charter's 3 rd year of funding they will be expanding on their efforts to combat marine debris in their local watershed and nearby marine habitats. Kindergarten students will be learning about leatherback sea turtles, ocean literacy, and the effects plastics have on their local waterways and	\$2,482.82

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	ocean. School-wide projects will be aimed at increasing ocean literacy on campus as well as reducing items that contribute to marine debris. Students at Bullis Charter will also be collaborating with their sister school in China to create pieces of art that help educate others about the impact of marine debris on their local and global communities.	
Calabasas Elementary School (Santa Cruz County, CA)	Calabasas Elementary School's Green Team will be building on last year's successful project to reduce their use of single-use plastic bottles in their waste stream. Green Team members will be collaborating on the design of a logo for reusable water bottles to be used at a water refill station on campus. Students will be rewarded for their use of the reusable water bottles. In addition to reducing single-use bottles, students will continue to work towards further reducing plastic spoons, ramping up recycling, and composting waste from their cafeteria.	\$3,937.50
Carmel Middle School (Monterey County, CA)	With continued funding, Carmel Middle School students will be actively working to reduce their carbon footprint through investigating if car idling is an environmental issue at their school. In response to this study, the Environmental Club will be developing a "no idle" zone with student-created signage at the school drop-off/pick-up locations and educating their school community about the environmental impacts of idling cars. In addition, students will be launching a bike/walk/bus to school day to further reduce carbon emissions. Overall, their main goal is to promote safe and environmentally friendly ways to travel to and from school.	\$1,470
Carmelo Child Development Center (Monterey County, CA)	As part of their 3 rd year in the Ocean Guardian School program, Carmelo Child Development Center will continue to promote ocean literacy and stewardship by reducing single-use plastics on campus. In doing so, they hope to increase student and community awareness of human impact on the health of the ocean, the local Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the organisms that depend on these habitats. Throughout the school year, students will be conducting waste audits to look into the use of single-use containers. Carmelo's school community will be taking part in vermi-composting as well as a school-wide online trading post to further reduce single-use waste.	\$4,000
Cascade Canyon School (Marin County, CA)	Students at Cascade Canyon School will be maintaining and improving their Native Wildlife Habitat and Pollinator Gardens they designed and installed last year. Additional elements such as signage, seating, pathways, storage and composting areas will be installed this year to improve the use of these habitats as outdoor learning environments. School community members will be educated by the K-1 class about gardening, local wildlife, and watershed/ocean health. Much of the food grown by Cascade Canyon's students will be harvested and donated to people in need.	\$4,000
Cesar Chavez Elementary School (Monterey County, CA)	With their first year of Ocean Guardian grant funds, Cesar Chavez Elementary hopes to reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles on campus, replace Styrofoam trays with compostable	\$4,000

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	alternatives in the cafeteria, and develop a composting bin in their school garden. First through third graders will be spearheading these campus-wide efforts in conjunction with educating their peers, families and community members about the dangers of plastic pollution.	
Chimacum Middle School (Jefferson County, WA)	Students at Chimacum Middle School will be fully immersed in a watershed restoration project for their first year in the Ocean Guardian School program. Through this project, 6 th grade students will be trapping, identifying and counting fish as well as planting trees, monitoring water quality and identifying benthic macro invertebrates. These students will also be learning about the issues surrounding water pollution, climate change and ocean acidification. Student presentations containing their results, conclusions and recommendations will be developed and shared with student peers at a Youth Summit in June 2018.	\$4,000
Crescent School (Clallam County, WA)	The main goal of this Year 2 grant is to further develop a school garden where students can learn about sustainable gardening, how to protect their watersheds, and grow food for the school cafeteria. Enhancing the infrastructure of a school garden will allow Crescent School to add native plants, attract pollinators, construct a greenhouse, and include interpretive signage for students and visitors to enjoy. K-12 students will have the opportunity to take part in garden-related events throughout the year such as harvesting garden veggies for stone soup and creating artwork for the garden to tie in the local watershed, marine life, and other important organisms.	\$4,000
Dixie School (Marin County, CA)	Dixie School will be spending their second year as a part of the Ocean Guardian School program continuing to develop the Dixie Outdoor Classroom (DOC). The outdoor classroom serves as a space for students to explore science and nature by observing and inquiring about their natural surrounding. In addition, students will take part in riparian habitat restoration, erosion reduction efforts, and developing interpretive signage for DOC visitors.	\$3,365
Gault Elementary School (Santa Cruz County, CA)	During Gault Elementary School's 4 th year of funding, students will continue to participate in the Gault Seabright Coastal Restoration Program (GSCR). The GSCR utilizes education-based restoration science to help expose students to restoration and stewardship activities in nearby coastal ecosystems. Through this program, students will take part in native plant propagation, invasive plant removal, ecological restoration and scientific research.	\$2,500
Green Acres Elementary School (Santa Cruz County, CA)	For their 1 st year of funding, Green Acres Elementary School will be focusing on the 5Rs: refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, & rot. Through this project they hope to raise awareness of eco-friendly changes that students and staff members can make in their daily lives, increase the use of a pre-existing life lab at school, and eliminate single-use plastic utensils and water bottles on campus. Fifth	\$4,000

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	graders will be spearheading these efforts to help educate their fellow students and school staff members about the importance of reducing their dependence on single-use plastic items.	
Greta Oppe Elementary School (Galveston County, TX)	With a 5R project in mind, Greta Oppe Elementary will be focusing their first year of Ocean Guardian program participation on reducing trash on campus and in the nearby environment. Specifically, the Greta Oppe Green Team will be leading these efforts by increasing the use of recycle bins across campus, installing fishing line disposal units for fishermen to utilize, participating in biannual school-wide beach clean-ups, conducting campus clean-ups and reducing the number of single-use bags being used on campus.	\$2,999
Happy Valley Elementary School (Santa Cruz County, CA)	Happy Valley Elementary students are aiming to increase their composting efforts by developing a bin for a campus-wide composting program. Building off of last year's project, students & staff at Happy Valley hope to significantly reduce the amount of trash that is sent to their local landfill, boost garden fertility, and work to protect the nearby watershed and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Through composting, students will have the opportunity to learn more about the importance of properly sorting and diverting waste.	\$3,397
Harden Middle School (Monterey County, CA)	Seventh grade students at Harden Middle School will be working to create and maintain a school yard garden habitat for their first year of funding. This garden will serve as an outdoor classroom for students to learn about ocean-friendly gardening techniques, composting, and rainwater catchment. In addition to learning, students will also have the opportunity to scientifically monitor this outdoor setting and share their key findings with their peers, school representatives, and parent community.	\$3,991.63
Hollister Elementary School (Santa Barbara County, CA)	In their 2 nd year of funding, Hollister Elementary students will be ramping up their recycling efforts and starting a composting program on campus. Their county's recycling program will be used as a model to teach students and staff about recycling – what can and cannot be recycled, where the recycling goes after it leaves campus, and how to reduce waste. In addition, the 6 th grade Leadership team will be gathering data throughout the school year to monitor the overall impact of this project.	\$4,000
J.C. Parks Elementary School (Charles County, MD)	The J.C. Parks Green Team will be using their 3 rd year of funding to expand upon their "No Straw" campaign. Throughout the school year, the students at J.C. Parks Elementary will be expanding their recycling program, maintaining school gardens, educating others to reduce their consumption of plastic straws in nearby schools and the surrounding community, and encouraging the replacement of plastic straws with compostable alternatives. 3 rd through 5 th graders will be focusing on encouraging the local government to assist with their "No Straw" campaign.	\$4,000
Joaquin Miller Elementary (Alameda County, CA)	The student-led 'Trash Patrol' at Joaquin Miller Elementary will be working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on campus this year. Last year, students conducted a study to determine the	\$4,000

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	connection between waste produced on campus, their local watershed and the health of the ocean. With the results from this study, the Trash Patrol hopes to educate their student peers about the importance of reducing the use of single-use plastic bottles on campus and inspire them to keep the surrounding environment free of plastic debris. As an alternative to using single-use plastic bottles, funds from their Ocean Guardian grant will help support the installation of a hydration station on campus and enable them to purchase reusable water bottles.	
Kenwood Elementary School (Sonoma County, CA)	Students at Kenwood Elementary will be focusing their 5 th year of Ocean Guardian funding on establishing a small nursery that will propagate and provide native plants for nearby watershed restoration purposes. This nursery will serve as an on-going hands-on project for engaging students in learning about the benefits of native plants and for encouraging them to become enthusiastic advocates for the propagation, distribution, and planting of native plants in their watershed. Kenwood's Ocean Guardians club, comprised of 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th graders, will be spearheading this effort on campus.	\$1,854.20
Lincoln Middle School (Alameda County, CA)	During their 4 th year of funding, 90 Environmental Science students at Lincoln Middle School will be participating in a hands-on stewardship project centered around watershed restoration in the nearby San Leandro Estuary. Throughout the year, students will be removing 25 square meters of non-native invasive plants and replacing them with native plant species. In addition to restoration, students aim to remove up to 40 kilograms of trash from the estuarine habitat. Overall, the Environmental Science Students hope to educate their 850 students peers about how to be active stewards of their local environment.	\$2,500
Mary Chapa Academy (Monterey County, CA)	As part of their 2 nd year in the Ocean Guardian School program, Mary Chapa Academy will be focusing their 5R project on increasing composting practices and reducing the use of single-use plastic water bottles on campus. Within their established school garden, students will be working to reduce waste through using a vermiculture composting system for all cafeteria food waste. To further reduce waste, students on campus will receive reusable water bottles to use at their water refill station.	\$4,000
Melrose Leadership Academy (Alameda County, CA)	The main goal of this year's grant at Melrose Leadership Academy is to develop a field classroom and outdoor lab. Roughly 200 students will be conducting scientific research and engaging in community service work to restore the nearby Courtland Creek habitat. Following their restoration efforts, students will present their data to and work with the City of Oakland to advocate for increased positive environmental change in the community. Students will also become docents for the creek by developing field guides and leading tours for elementary field trips.	\$4,000

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Mesa Union School (Ventura County, CA)	Mesa Union School will be utilizing their first year of Ocean Guardian School funding to take on a problem-based learning project in effort to replace the Styrofoam trays currently used in their cafeteria. 7 th graders will be researching marine plastic pollution and presenting their findings to the local School Board to propose the removal of Styrofoam trays on campus. In addition, this class will also be working to educate their younger student peers about the issues surrounding plastic pollution and the importance of protecting marine resources.	\$3,810
Monterey Bay Charter School (Monterey County, CA)	The goals of Monterey Bay Charter School's project are to build upon their previous two years of Ocean Guardian work by introducing families and the local community to native plants, organic gardening, watershed protection, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. In doing so, they hope to encourage their student peers and community members to conserve water, reduce waste, restore habitats, and consume healthy organic produce. Curriculum will be developed for all grade levels to use in the Ocean Guardian Garden and Habitat.	\$4,000
Morro Bay Montessori Center of Family Partnership Charter School (San Luis Obispo County, CA)	Ocean-friendly gardening will be the main focus of Morro Bay Montessori's first Ocean Guardian School grant. In effort to promote ocean-friendly gardening techniques, K-5 th grade students and their families will be building raised garden beds, designing and constructing an 'insect hotel', propagating native plants to share with the community, establishing a pollinator/butterfly garden, growing organic vegetables and collecting seeds from the garden to share with local gardeners. Along with this list of tasks, students will have the opportunity to learn more about watershed stewardship through visits to the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) visitor center.	\$3,908.60
North Point High School (Charles County, MD)	North Point High School aims to reduce the use of single-use plastic drink bottles and Styrofoam by incorporating the use of compostable cutlery, plates and to-go containers on campus for their 4 th year of funding. In doing so, students will continue to learn about water conservation, their connection to the local watershed/ocean, the current health of the ocean, and the importance of conserving energy. To build upon their previous years of Ocean Guardian work, students will also be working to maintain their established native plant garden on campus.	\$4,000
Odyssey Academy (Galveston County, TX)	Students at Odyssey Academy will be kicking off their first year in the Ocean Guardian School program by educating their peers and community about the importance of healthy watersheds. Odyssey Academy's Maritime students will be in charge of constructing a floating wetland on campus to conduct scientific monitoring, educate their peers about the local watershed, and provide insight into scientific careers in their community. Floating wetland tours will be lead by these students to help introduce their student peers and community members to the importance of protecting the nearby Galveston Bay.	\$2,974

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Parkview Elementary School (Ventura County, CA)	Over 700 students and 30 teachers will be focusing Parkview's 5 th year of Ocean Guardian participation on the 5R's. Most importantly, educators at Parkview Elementary hope to stress the idea of 'rethinking' before using single-use plastic items on campus. Kindergarteners will be given reusable water bottles to carry with them throughout their time at Parkview and refill in their classrooms' filter stations. In addition to classroom refill stations, a new recycling bin will be installed on campus to encourage students to properly dispose of their plastic waste. Throughout the school year students will continue to learn more about the 5Rs and the importance of protecting their local watershed.	\$997
Prunedale Elementary School (Monterey County, CA)	For their 2 nd year of participating in the Ocean Guardian School program, Prunedale Elementary hopes to continue to promote the use of their water refill station by increasing the amount of reusable water bottles available to their student body. In sticking to the 5R principles, students will also be conducting a research project on how to efficiently reduce the use of plastic spork packages in their cafeteria. Throughout the school year, all Prunedale Elementary students, families and the local community will be educated (in English and Spanish) about the negative impacts of plastic pollution on marine environments.	\$4,000
Robert Gray Elementary School (Cowlitz County, WA)	Robert Gray Elementary students are focusing their 3 rd year of funding on decreasing the amount of trash on campus that is sent to the landfill by ramping up their recycling efforts. Cardboard, paper, and milk cartons on campus will be thoroughly compacted and properly recycled to divert waste on campus that is normally tossed into the school's dumpster. After being educated throughout the school year on the harmful effects of plastics on seabirds and animals, students will conduct a beach clean-up at a local beach in Ocean Shores, WA.	\$4,000
Salesian Elementary and Junior High School (Monterey County, CA)	A year 2, school-wide project at Salesian Elementary and Junior High School will focus on the beneficial impacts of sustainable gardening on the overall health of the local watershed and ocean. This outreach will be accomplished by maintaining demonstration gardens, conducting educational hands-on learning activities, and installing professional signage on campus. In addition, students and staff at Salesian hope to increase their garden's growing capacity to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to their cafeteria and local charities.	\$4,000
Seaside High School (Monterey County, CA)	As part of their 1 st year of participation in the Ocean Guardian School program, Seaside High School is hoping to reduce the disposal of single-use plastic items on campus. In effort to reduce their impact on plastic pollution, students at Seaside High will be installing multi-bin refuse receptacles, educating the school community on how to reduce and properly dispose of plastic waste, and informing others about the negative impacts of improperly disposed plastics on the nearby Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.	Participating without funds

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Short Elementary School (Marin County, CA)	Short Elementary will be using their Year 1 grant to fund a schoolyard garden and to support school-wide watershed education principles. In their garden, students will have the opportunity to become 'Junior Botanists' by planting native plants to attract pollinators and learning how to grow healthy food options for themselves and their families. In effort to connect these students to their local watershed, field trips to the San Rafael Creek watershed will be conducted along with in-class watershed lessons.	\$4,000
Siuslaw Middle School (Lane County, OR)	Students at Siuslaw Middle School will be spending their 2 nd Ocean Guardian year fully immersed in a Marine Advanced Technology Education Remotely Operated Vehicle after-school program. Through this program, students will learn more about the water quality of the Siuslaw River and nearby watershed along with how to sample water quality with the use of robotics. Data collected during the water quality sampling activities will be shared with the surrounding community during outreach events.	\$3,986
South Daytona Elementary School (Volusia County, FL)	Roughly 600 students and 30 teachers will be involved in South Daytona Elementary's first year of Ocean Guardian School participation. As part of their 5R's project, students at South Daytona will be conducting regular waste audits, properly sorting trash and recycling, and establishing a composting program to reduce the amount of waste sent from campus to the local landfill. Students will also be exposed to the importance of utilizing soil from the compost bin to grow fresh produce in their campus garden plots.	Participating without funds
The Academy at Ocean Reef (Monroe County, FL)	Mangrove wetland restoration along with marine habitat and shoreline stabilization will be the primary focus of The Academy at Ocean Reef's first Ocean Guardian School project. In the classroom, students will be growing mangroves from pods to transplant in a nearby wetland habitat. In addition to growing the mangroves, students will be constructing informative art displays about mangrove habitats to share with their student peers and faculty. Through active participation in this eco-art program, students and the community will learn more about the importance of protecting mangroves and the overall value of these habitats to the environment and the local economy.	Participating without funds
Warrenton Prep Preschool (Clatsop County, OR)	Warrenton Prep Preschool will be focusing their efforts on maintaining their campus greenhouse as well as incorporating more natural elements into the students' playground. In doing so, they hope to educate themselves and the community about native planting techniques, the benefits of creating natural spaces for exploration, and protecting marine environments.	\$4,000
Washington Middle School (Monterey County, CA)	Educators at Washington Middle School are aiming to connect students with nature for their 3 rd year of Ocean Guardian funding. Students will have the opportunity to watch the plants grow in the garden from start to finish. This process will expose students to the benefits of organic gardening, the reason for composting, and how these practices protect the health of the local watershed. Educating students	\$3,955

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	about native plants and their interactions with local animal species will also be a key component of this project. Overall, students at Washington Middle will learn to appreciate the Salinas Valley and its natural resources.	
Watsonville Charter School of the Arts (Santa Cruz County, CA)	As part of their 2 nd year in the Ocean Guardian School program, Watsonville Charter will be continuing to focus on reducing single-use plastics on campus. First, fourth and fifth grade students will be actively working on eliminating the use of spork packets and other unnecessary disposable plastic items in cafeterias throughout the district. In addition to reducing plastics, students will also be educating their student peers and families about the negative impacts of plastic pollutants on marine environments. Taking the project outside their school boundaries, Watsonville Charter hopes to encourage the use of environmentally friendly alternatives at local sports games and community events.	\$3,991.38