

Edison Otters Honored for Anti-Straw Efforts

Students at Edison Elementary School were honored Monday for their efforts to convince the City of Alameda to pass a “Straws on Demand” ordinance. The ceremony was part of the school’s Earth Week activities.

The students, who sent hundreds of letters to city officials, had asked that the city pass an ordinance requiring restaurants to provide plastic straws only upon request. The new ordinance took effect on January 1, 2018 and be enforced starting July 1.



As part of Monday’s assembly, Jackie Nunez, who founded [The Last Plastic Straw](#), presented the school with a certificate of appreciation and showed students two short videos about the problem of plastics. Currently, 500 million plastic straws are used and discarded every day in the US – enough, daily, to wrap around the earth’s circumference 2.5 times. “You are helping to create change,” Nunez told the students. “You are making a difference!”

5th graders at the school also put on a mock quiz show about garbage, which included a waste-sorting challenge and a contest to see whose lunch produced the least waste. (The girl with a cloth napkin and re-usable sandwich and water containers won.)



“UnPackage Alameda” Campaign Begins

This week, the City of Alameda and the Alameda Green Schools Challenge steering committee kicked off a new letter-writing campaign, one aimed at encouraging local restaurants to follow the ordinance and use reusable or compostable dishes and silverware, as well as more compostable fiber-based to-go packaging. The letters will also help support a wider “Unpackage Alameda” effort that is part of an ongoing partnership between the City of Alameda and Clean Water Action’s [Rethink Disposable](#) aimed at helping local restaurants go “plastic free.”

Principals and teachers have information about the campaign; the deadline for turning into the schools is April 27.

“I love how our students are learning to engage in environmental action that helps not only our island community but the entire globe,” Superintendent McPhetridge said. “These students are leading the way towards change at a time when change is desperately needed.”