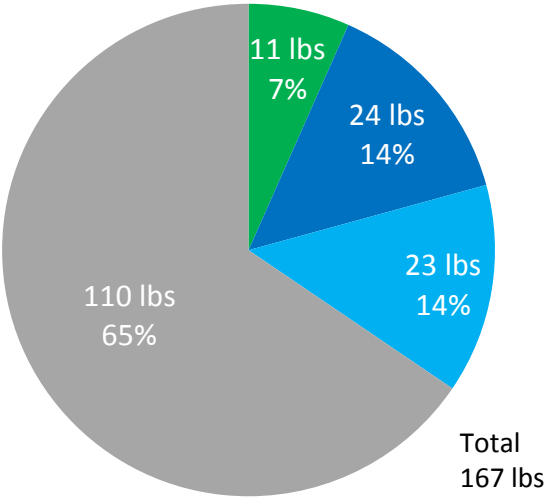


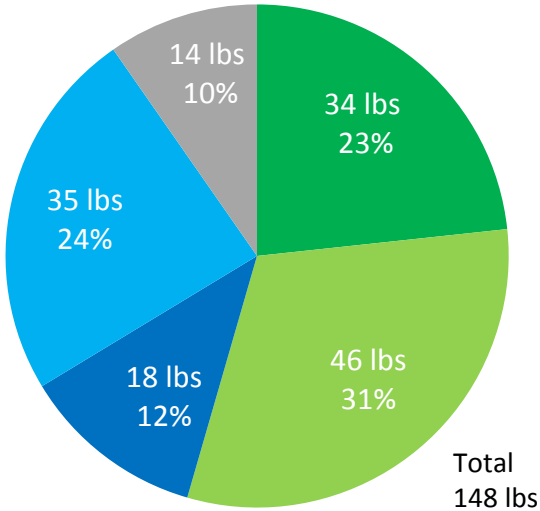
# Going for ZERO WASTE at Waters Elementary School

## Waste Assessments - Cafeteria & Kitchen Combined

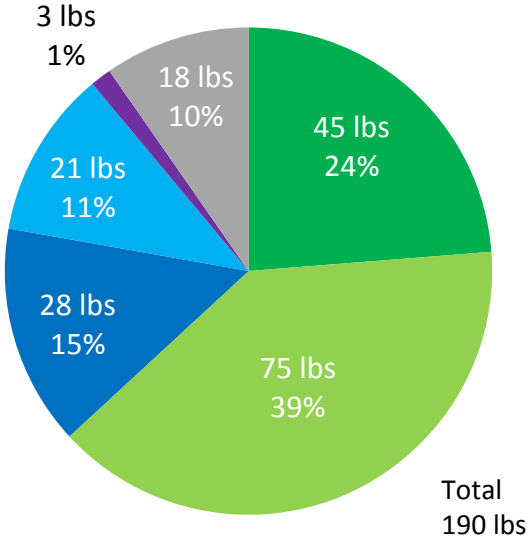
Baseline 11/9/2015



Launch Day 11/23/2015



Year-End 5/31/2016



■ Garden compost    
 ■ Commercial compost    
 ■ Recycling    
 ■ Liquid    
 ■ FoodShare    
 ■ Landfill

## Feedback from Seven Generations Ahead

### Successes & Highlights

- Waters School is consistently diverting an astounding 90% of materials from the landfill!
- Waters' garden composting continues to provide place-based learning through composting while commercial composting allows for maximum diversion and the opportunity to learn about another way to compost.
- The kitchen staff add their perfectly-sorted compost and recycling to the cafeteria sorting counter, contributing to the school's overall impact and using fewer bags in the process.

### Areas for Improvement

- Clear bags were being used for both the recycling and landfill bins, and the clear bags of landfill were being added to the recycling dumpster. Black bags need to be used for the landfill bins, and they need to go in the landfill dumpster.
- The students are really into the routine of contributing to FoodShare, but very few items are being taken. Right after the students from one lunch period left, the custodian sorted the food items left over (even oranges) before the next group of students had the opportunity to take anything. On 5/31/16, sixty-six items were contributed, but only six items were taken. While the custodian's above-and-beyond effort to sort is reducing landfill waste, it is not leading to food recovery. Perhaps if a box was used to collect the food, the box could be moved closer to where the students eat so they could more easily access it. Donation of items to a local food pantry is also an option through CPS' FoodShare program.

### Looking Ahead to Next Year

- Plan for teaching new students about the how and why of the program, in addition to providing a refresher to everyone else.



**Thank you for your dedication and support of the program!**

**We look forward to hearing your feedback and continuing to work with you next year.**