

Adlai E. Stevenson High School

2023 Project Report



The Project:

Adlai E. Stevenson High School's Waste Reduction Initiatives aim to bring Stevenson closer to net zero waste through three mini-projects that each target a specific area of school waste, including single-use plastic utensil waste, single-use plastic cups, and overall waste from decorations at school-wide events like Homecoming. The school's Path to Zero project is led by Green Team, a student-led co-curricular group that emphasizes education and service.

Project Focus: Path to Net Zero, Waste Reduction

Staff Involved: 5

Location: Lincolnshire, IL

Students: 40



The Green Team is a student-led co-curricular group that emphasizes education and service.



The Process:

The Green Team includes three committees that focus on different initiatives:

- Project Cut-lery
 - Project Cut-lery seeks to eliminate the school's 3 tons of annual single-use plastic utensil waste, specifically from daily school lunches. The Green Team utilized signage in the cafeteria to encourage students and faculty to bring their own reusable utensils, a more sustainable source of cutlery, rather than distributing single-use ones.
- The Jazzman's Project
 - Jazzman's targets the school's cafe waste, aiming to replace plastic beverage cups that are sold every day with reusable cups sold once.. The goal is to encourage the use of reusable cups by increasing awareness of their environmental and financial benefits.
- Project deCOrations
 - The Green Team collaborated with Student Council, which coordinates the decorating for each major school dance. They established a plan to preserve the decorations following each event. For example, after a school dance called Winterfest, they saved about 50% of decorating materials for future use.

The Green Team hopes to expand the three-pronged project to include the local community beyond Stevenson.

