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LAcAR GUY Sponsors Grades Of Green Trash Free Lunch Challenge

There is no better way to teach new eco-friendly habits to the next generation

by Audi Pacific

Created by environmental education non-profit [Grades of Green](#) and sponsored by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, as well as Santa Monica-based [LAcAR GUY](#), the third annual Trash-Free Lunch Challenge, an L.A. County contest that rewards schools for reducing lunchtime trash, has doubled in scope since its inception two years ago.

"[LAcAR GUY](#) is thrilled to sponsor Grades of Green and the Trash-Free Lunch Challenge. There's no better way to teach eco-friendly habits to the next generation," said Mike Sullivan, founder and President of [LAcAR GUY](#).

The Trash-Free Lunch Challenge has diverted as many as 40,000 bags of trash from area landfills and saved schools thousands of dollars over two years.

"With 24 schools in this year's program, we expect to see nearly 30,000 more bags of trash diverted from the new schools alone," said Lisa Coppedge, Grades



GRADES of
green
every shade makes a difference

of Green's Director of Programs. "But what's more important is that an additional 17,500 students will learn how to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost--new habits that will protect the environment in the years to come."

The competition gets underway October 2, when representatives from each school will attend a training session and tour of the Sanitation Districts' Puente Hills Landfill and Materials Recovery Facility.

Once the competing schools implement their Trash-Free Lunch programs, Grades of Green selects three finalists through an application process. A panel of environmental experts and other judges will evaluate the implementation and success of the three finalists' programs. The winning school will receive a Grand Prize of a \$1,000 education grant. The second- and third-place schools will receive \$750 and \$500, respectively.

Though the deadline has passed to compete in this year's Trash-Free Lunch Challenge, any school may still initiate a Trash-Free Lunch program. Complete instructions are available at no cost to schools at www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/trash-redux/trash-free-tuesdays.

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