



School Name: _____

Address: _____

Dear _____

Where and how we produce and consume food represents one of the greatest threats to all life on earth. In the US, we waste between 30-40% of our food supply. If wasted food came from one farm, the farm would be three-quarters the size of California, it would harvest enough food to fill a 40-ton tractor every 20 seconds, and most of it would be dumped into a landfill where it creates 20% of all methane emissions in the US (methane is one of the most potent greenhouse gases). At the same time 63 million tons of food is wasted each year, one-in-eight Americans live in food insecure households, including 3 million households with children. Bringing it full circle, agricultural expansion for food and fuel is putting tremendous pressure on ecosystems like the biodiverse Northern Great Plains (NGP) of the US and Canada, where we're losing the some of the planet's last remaining temperate grasslands on a scale greater than we're losing rainforests in Brazil (1.4 million NGP acres lost to tillage in 2014). It is important that we educate both children and adults about this problem to build a food secure future in balance with nature for all Americans. Waste reduction initiatives in schools and city governments are a great starting point for this education.

With guidance from the USDA and EPA, our school is going to begin measuring, recording, and reducing our food waste beginning this year. Students will be engaged in activities that have them assisting in waste separation, measurement, and data recording. The project will run as a science project that is both educational for the students and beneficial for the community. The students will learn why not wasting food is so important to the environment and community, why it is we waste so much today, and begin creating a strategy for reducing food waste tomorrow.

As we begin this project, we ask for the engagement of the _____ in launching its own food waste initiatives. Additionally, we ask for a response of what proposals the _____ has already employed to reduce food waste in our community. There are too many food insecure households who depend on meals we often simply throw away. We hope that the _____ will engage in this project and help us reduce food waste, protect the environment, and feed those in need in our community.

Sincerely,

