

A Purpose Forward Core Investment

Lunch Out of Landfills (LOOL)

A Practical Model for Eliminating Food Waste in Schools

Waste in schools is visible, daily, and preventable.

Across the country, unopened milk cartons, packaged food, and fresh produce are discarded — not because they are unsafe, but because recovery systems were never built into cafeteria processes.

This waste carries real consequences:

- Lost nutrition
- Increased landfill methane
- Wasted taxpayer dollars
- Missed educational opportunities

The LOOL Model

Lunch Out of Landfills provides structure where structure is missing.

LOOL does not operate cafeterias or transport food.

It facilitates:

- Share Table recovery systems
- Dedicated recovery refrigeration
- Clear implementation playbooks
- Measurement standards and impact benchmarks
- Philanthropic coordination for equipment funding

Recovered food remains under school district control and operates within federal liability protections.

Documented Impact

- Approximately 50 pounds recovered per school per day
- Over 11,500 milk cartons recovered annually per school
- Approximately \$10,000 diverted from landfills per refrigerator each year
- At scale, recovery can reach millions of pounds annually

This is Human Return on Investment (H-ROI) made tangible.

Why Purpose Forward Invested

Lunch Out of Landfills meets PFF investment criteria:

- Visible, preventable waste
- Practical intervention
- Measurable results
- Replicable model
- Accessible leadership and direct engagement

Founder Jeff Ott has met directly with LOOL leadership and maintains ongoing engagement to ensure disciplined oversight.

A Non-Partisan Standard

Food waste is not ideological. It is operational.

Reducing it:

- Conserves resources
- Improves efficiency
- Reinforces responsibility
- Models stewardship for students

Environmental progress requires systems that work.

To learn more go to:

<https://esrag.org/lunch-out-of-landfills/>

www.purposeforward.net