In science class, students created a final project that had a zero waste focus. Here was their assignment:

**Does our waste ever really disappear?**

**(What happens to it?)**

**Background:**

In order to answer the driving question, we began by looking at matter from an atomic level and examined both nonliving and living matter.  In both cases, atoms get cycled through physical and chemical changes...but these atoms never get destroyed nor are new atoms ever created! Various energy forms drive these changes. We studied advantages and disadvantages of different waste disposal methods from an environmental standpoint, and putting all this together, we now have to answer the question with which we began.

For your final project, you must do three things:

**1) answer the question: Does our waste ever really disappear?**

**2) identify a specific problem around waste** and

**3) design a realistic solution.**

**Requirements:**

1. *Answer* the unit 1 driving question in a claim.
2. *Use the science* that we learned to *provide detailed, scientific evidence* that supports your claim. Address ***at least 3*** of the following unit 1 science concepts:
	1. Basic chemistry principles
	2. Physical changes and chemical changes
	3. Energy forms in relation to changes
	4. Law of conservation of matter & how it relates to waste
	5. States of matter and how they relate to waste
	6. Current waste disposal methods and the advantages & disadvantages of each
3. *Identify a specific problem about waste* at our school, home, or community (what needs to be fixed?).

*Design a feasible, zero waste-related, scientific solution(s)* to the problem. If your plan is something that is too major for you to accomplish, you can take a small step in the right direction by contacting someone who might be able to help, writing a letter, or sharing a public service announcement. You could even design of model of what you have in mind.

Students submitted a variety of projects, from self-composed music and lyrics about waste, posters, letters to leaders, children’s storybooks, and public service announcement videos. Several of these projects were shared with the Office of Sustainability and the SSF Scavengers for posting on their websites. Letters were mailed to the appropriate leaders and posters were posted around the school.