

Moving Toward Zero Waste One Facility at a Time County of Alameda

A PROGRAM OF SEI

Project

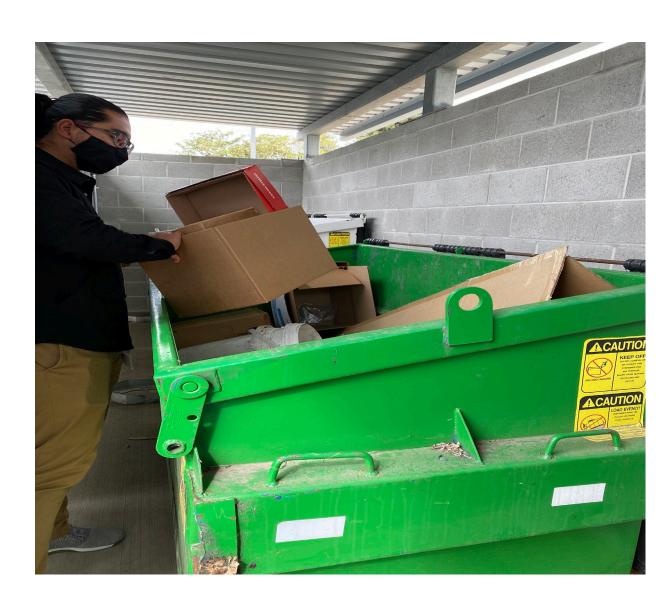
As Compost and Recycling Associate at Alameda County, I help oversee the waste and recycling program for 61 County-owned facilities, making their operations more sustainable. My duties include managing the day-to-day operations, designing training and outreach materials, and advancing projects to reduce the county's upstream waste.

Data Gathering

- Interviewed 10 janitorial supervisors and stakeholders representing 16 County facilities to understand opportunities to improve the recycling and composting programs at their sites.
- Conducted site visits and walkthroughs of 23 County-owned facilities to identify opportunities for infrastructure updates and training.

Employee Outreach

- Updated recycling training presentation with information on new waste legislation and facility-specific items.
 Revised approach to increase interactive participation.
- Updated indoor container labels to aid waste sorting and to comply with statemandated SB 1383 outreach requirements.





Results

Waste Assessment Report

 Prepared a 10-page report on findings and recommendations from interviews and site visits.
Recommendations included targeted trainings, infrastructure updates, and expansion of composting.

Recycling Training

 Trained approximately 55 County employees on waste sorting.

Compost & Recycling Roll-outs



BEFORE

AFTER

Next Steps in May and June

- Prepare for fall pilot of equipment reuse program to ensure successful launch.
- Create interactive recycling training videos to increase the reach and efficiency of training.
- Lead five more live recycling trainings to educate employees on waste sorting.
- Conduct five more facility walkthroughs to identify additional opportunities for outreach.
- Apply new indoor container labels in 12 County buildings with new signage.





Sam Talarigo, 2021-2022 Climate Corps Fellow

Sam graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.S in Environmental Science. After falling in love with the zero-waste field during his undergraduate studies, Sam joined Alameda County to work on waste reduction in local government. Inspired by his experience at the County, he will pursue a career in the waste management/zero waste field to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting waste from the landfill.

Acknowledgements

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