



Waste Reduction at Alameda County

Alameda County Sustainability

Climate Corps Bay Area

Program Name / Project Descriptions

Goal: Enhance Alameda County's composting and recycling service to divert materials from the landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1. Adding Infrastructure:

- Designing new waste enclosures.
- Completing site assessments, waste audits and interviews.
- Coordinating with occupants, janitorial, architects, and waste haulers to balance the needs of the various stakeholders and create site specific plans.
- Adding new containers and signage.

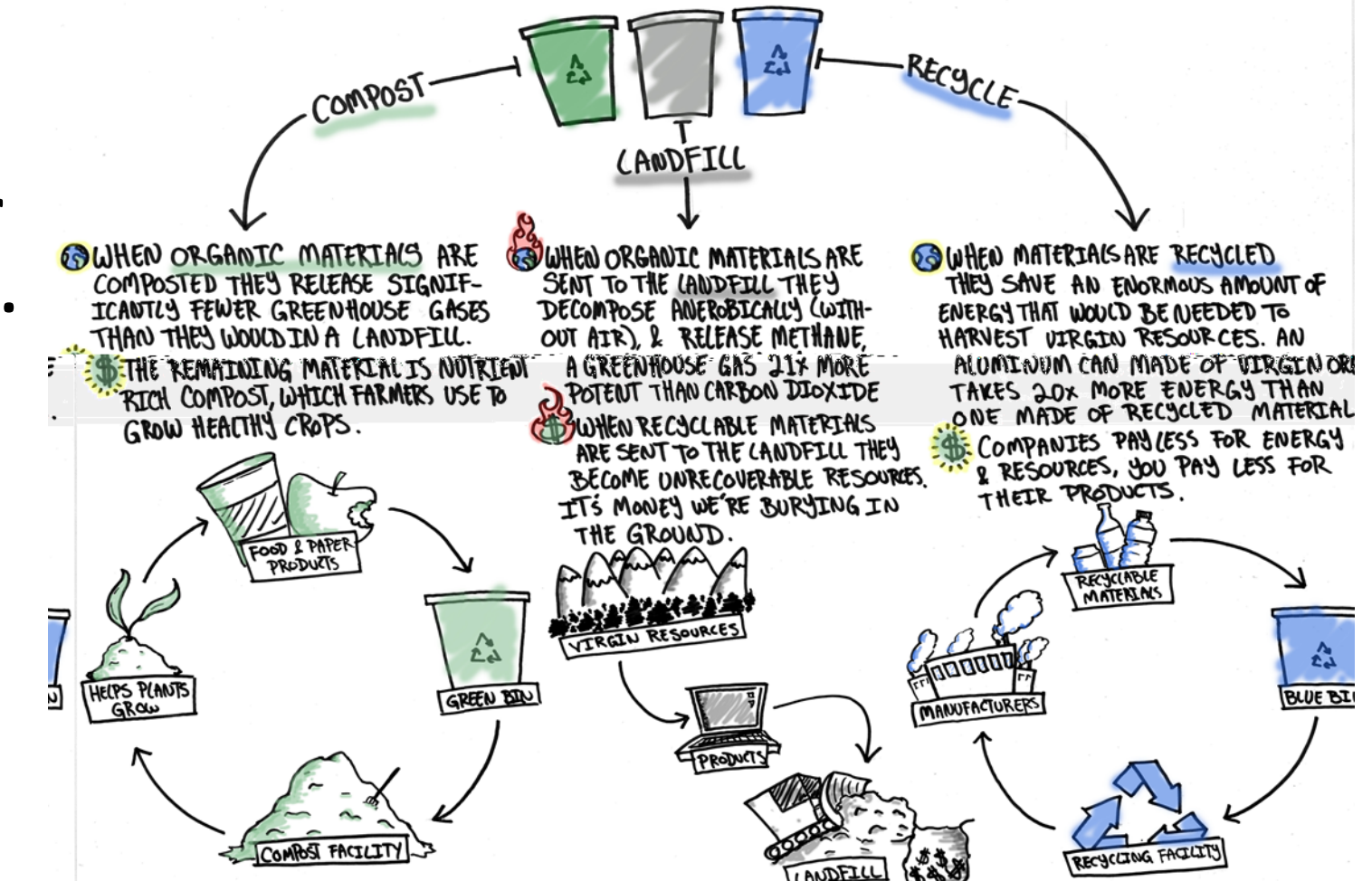
2. Outreach:

- Training people on how to compost and recycle and why it's important, including: janitors, employees from a number of different agencies, mental health patients, youth and the public.
- Creating and updating printed outreach materials, such as: signs, fliers, posters, and stickers; as well as creating video outreach materials and lesson plans.



Achievements / Results / Outcomes

- Added service to 9 buildings.
- Updated services at 7 others.
- Conducted outreach and education to over 350 employees and members of the public.
- Diverted an estimated 2,146 tons of waste from landfills annually.
- Kept 1,890 tons of GHGs from being emitted from landfills annually.



Lessons Learned / Fellow Experience

Successful Strategies:

- Patience, Persistence, Politeness: working with the number of different stakeholders that it takes to roll out a new waste service can mean each project takes a long, long time. Learning to balance a large number of projects, all of which move slowly, rather than trying to rush one at a time, was key.

Recommendations:

- Continue expanding service to owned County Facilities.
- Once all facilities have been reached, revisit and update all outreach materials and initiate a county-wide compost and recycling education and outreach campaign
- Design centralized waste collection, rather than desk side collection, into all new buildings.

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Matt graduated from UC Irvine with a B.A in Social Ecology and a minor in Educational Studies. He would like to continue working in and learning about Environmental policy, advocacy and community engagement.

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