



Community Composting for Green Spaces

— California Bioresources Symposium —
November 18, 2021



Funded by a \$1.5M grant administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) through the California Climate Investments (CCI), and a fiscally-sponsored project of the People, Food, and Land Foundation.

CCGS Project Goals



- Support the sustainable development of community composting sites
- Support associated community benefits at community composting sites
 - Local access to healthy, fresh, and chemical free foods
 - Community outreach, engagement, and education
 - Green space development, habitat creation, and local beautification
 - Numerous environmental impacts, such as increased soil water retention & ground water infiltration, decreased methane emissions & increased carbon sequestration, improved soil health and biodiversity increases
 - Providing financial resources to workers (through both short and long-term job creation)
- Support, uplift, and empower underserved, low-income, and environmental justice communities
- Demonstrate the significant contribution of community composting to overall organics diversion, emissions reduction, public health, and social justice goals

CCGS Scope of Work



1. Project Solicitation and Selection
2. Soil Stewardship Training Program
3. Digital Support Tool
4. Comprehensive Reporting

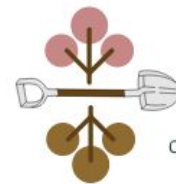
1. CCGS Project Solicitation

- **Broad Digital Call**
 - Emailed over 500 organizations & individuals across the state
 - Launched website, with over 1400 views in the first month, with over 1000 project page views
 - Social media flyers were developed and posted
- **Phone Support**
 - Received over 45 phone calls; average time 15-20 minutes (call lengths 2.5 min-1.5 hours)
- **Regional Solicitation Methodologies**
 - IE farmers market flyer distribution + direct phone outreach to ~70 orgs, site visits + application support
 - LA primarily social media outreach (~1300 views/80 engagements) + direct outreach in LA Compost network
 - BA + SD primarily direct email outreach to local contacts
- **Language Considerations**
 - Spanish & Chinese applications options for application submission
 - Spanish social media flyer developed
- **Technology Considerations**
 - Mail in application available, only 3 mail form submissions from individuals having trouble with Google form

... and CCGS Project Selection

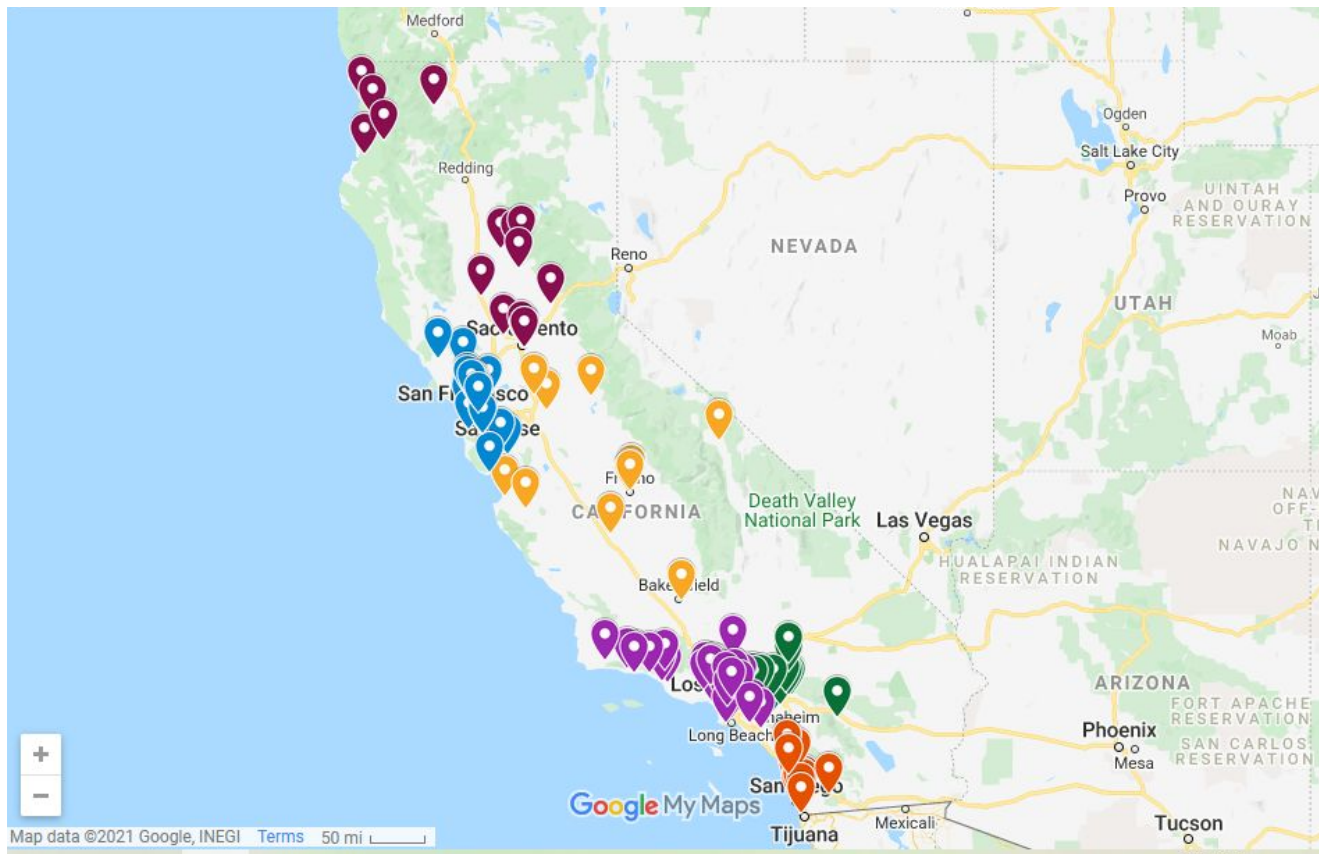
- Overwhelming CCGS Program Interest
 - 138 unique applications received & reviewed for 171 sites
 - 104 orgs and 134 sites recommended for support: Bay Area (7 orgs/10 sites), Central California (5 orgs/5 sites) & Northern California (9 orgs/ 11 sites) regions, Inland Empire (26 orgs/29 sites), Los Angeles (44 orgs/ 48 sites) and San Diego (13 orgs/24 sites)
- Eligibility Conditions
 - “New” diversion, public access, land ownership, contracting entity criteria
 - Impacted ability to support 9 applicant programs in areas with established municipal composting
- Resources Available
 - Important independent consideration for determining best overall use of the funds
 - Introduced a cohort selection model (rather than a purely competitive model)
 - Impacted selection and ultimate support packages offered
- Inclusivity
 - Important criteria that influenced regional teams in selection processes
 - Some concerns about impact to projects unable to be selected (due to eligibility or capacity)

All Applicants for CCGS Support

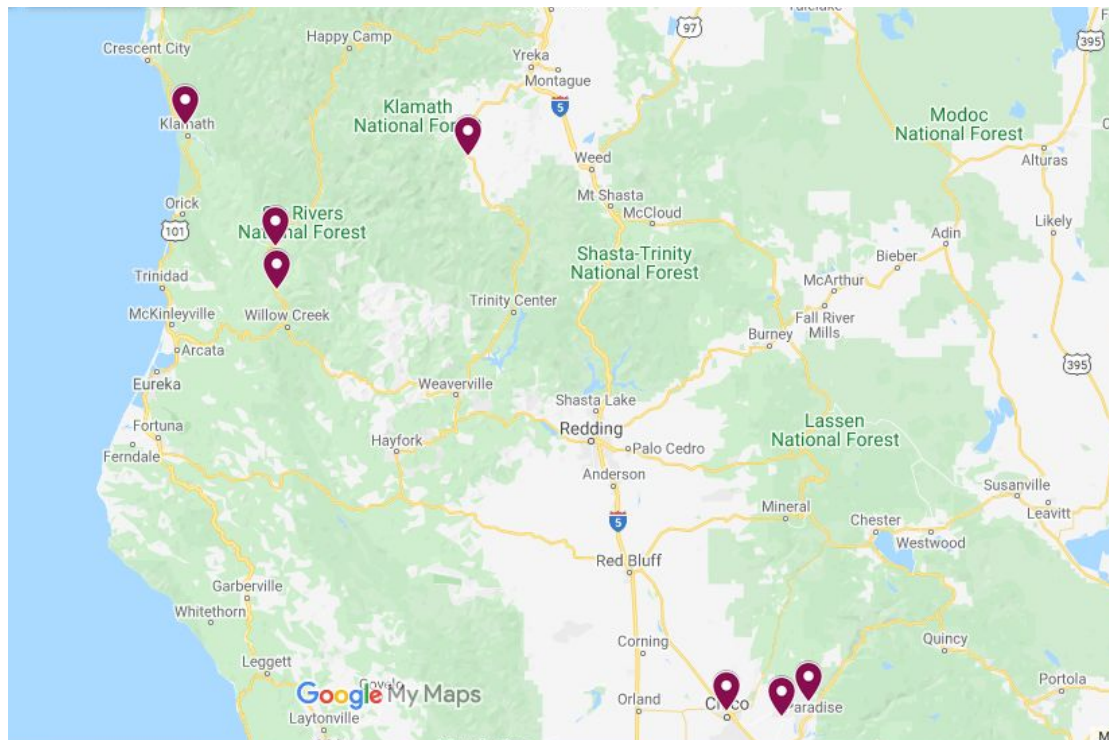


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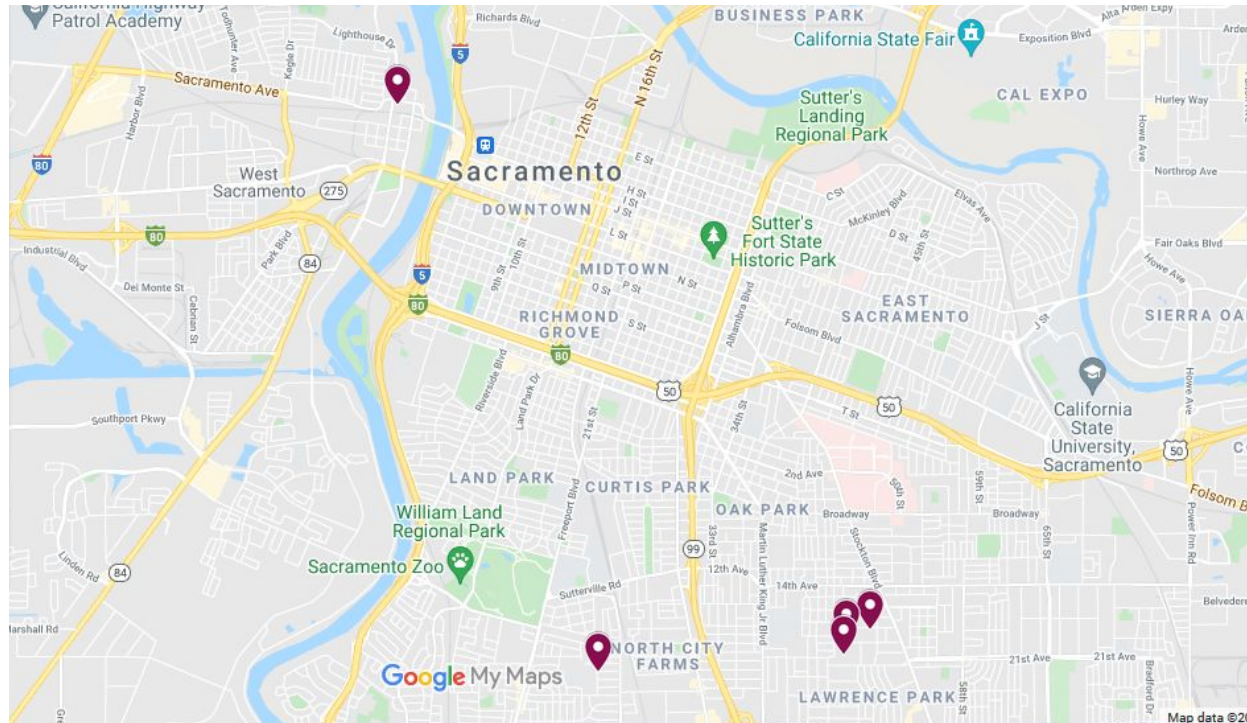
California Alliance for Community Composting



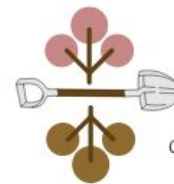
Northern California Selected Sites



Sacramento Area Selected Sites

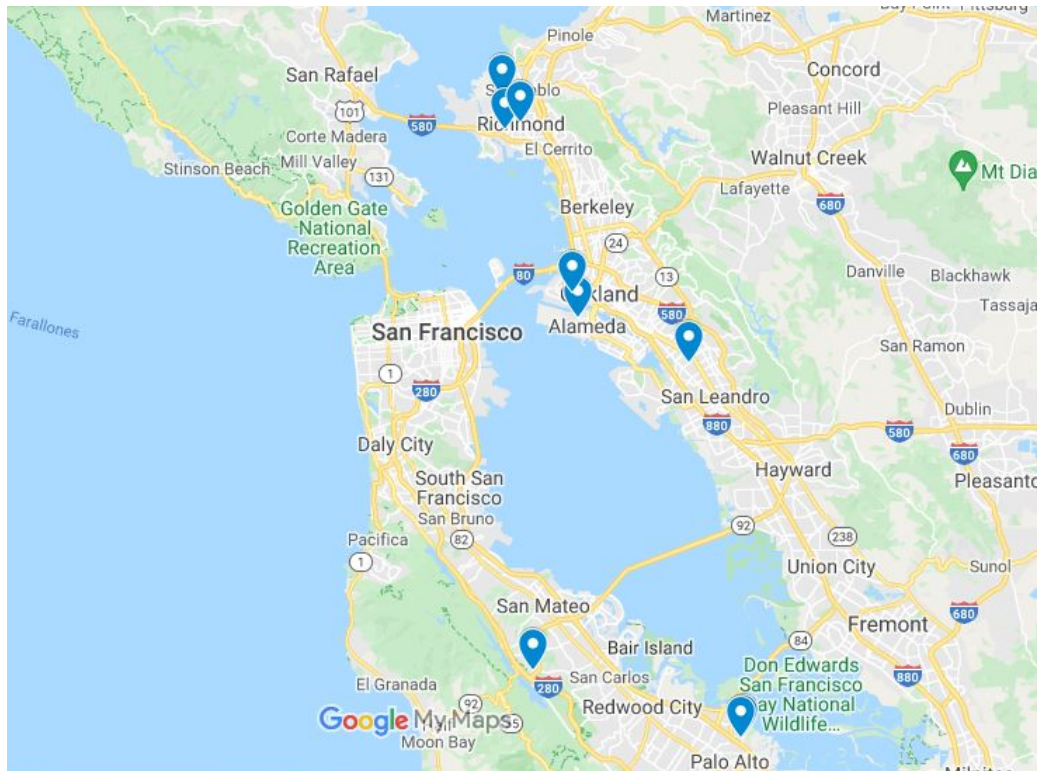


Bay Area Selected Sites

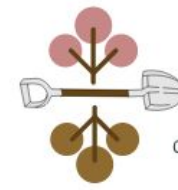


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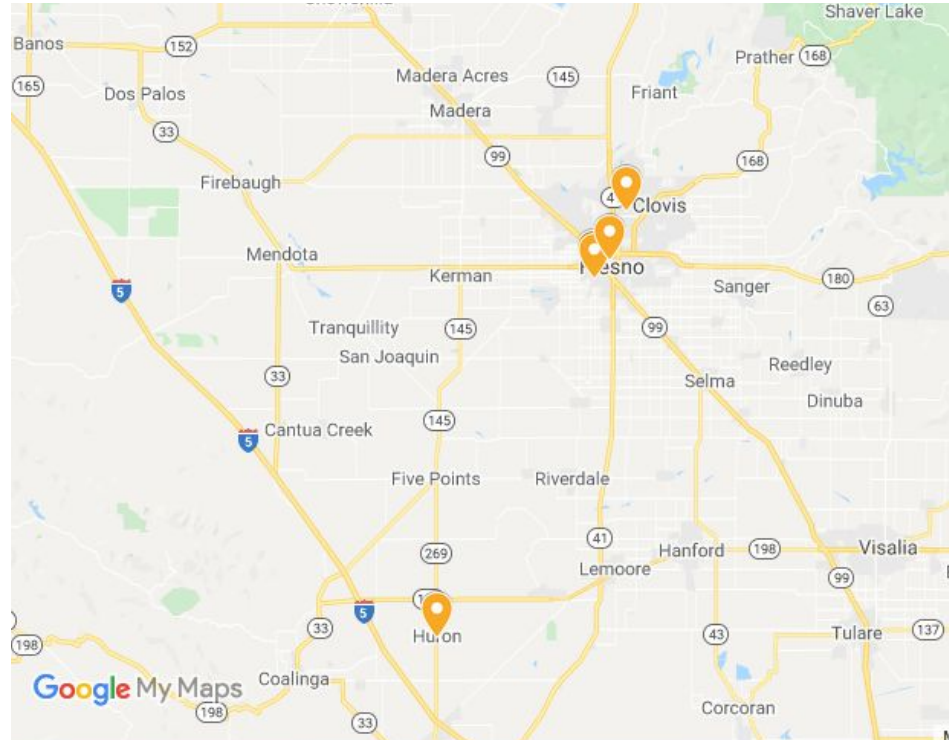


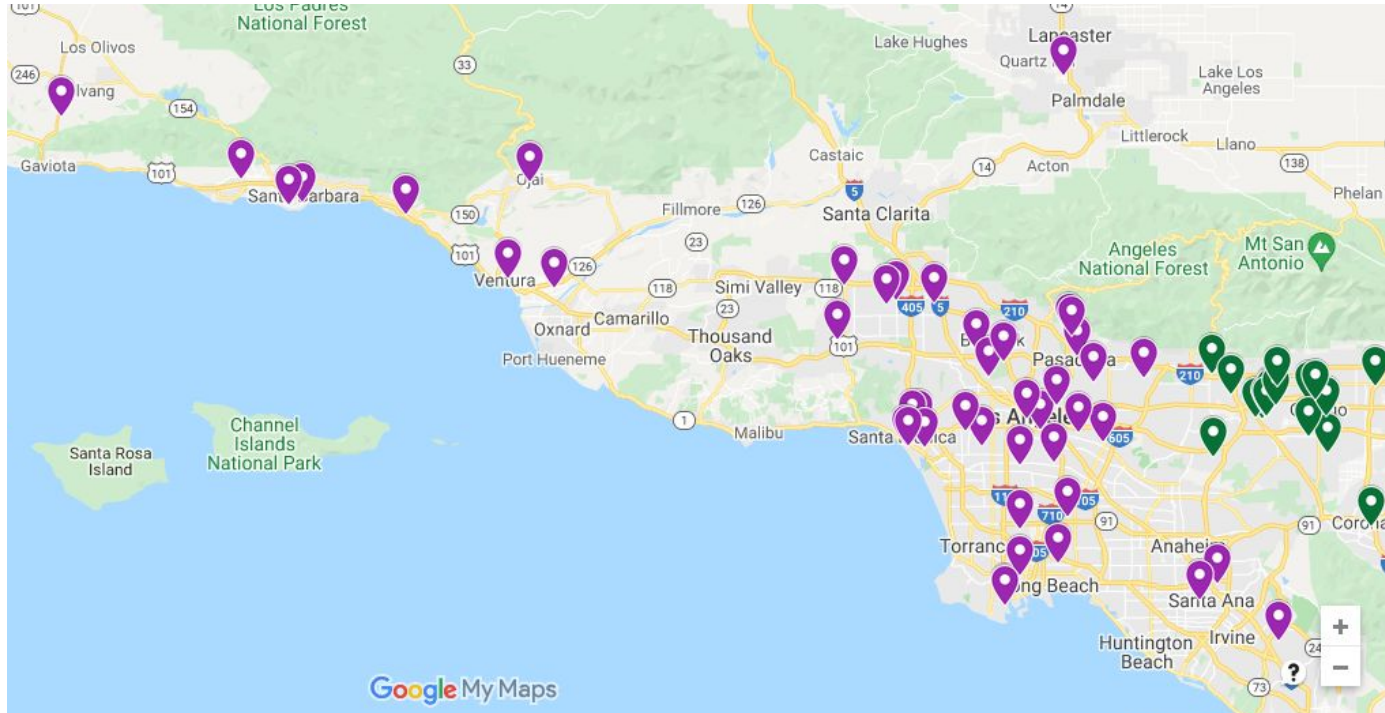
Central California Selected Sites



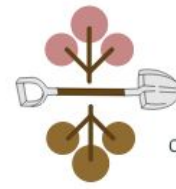
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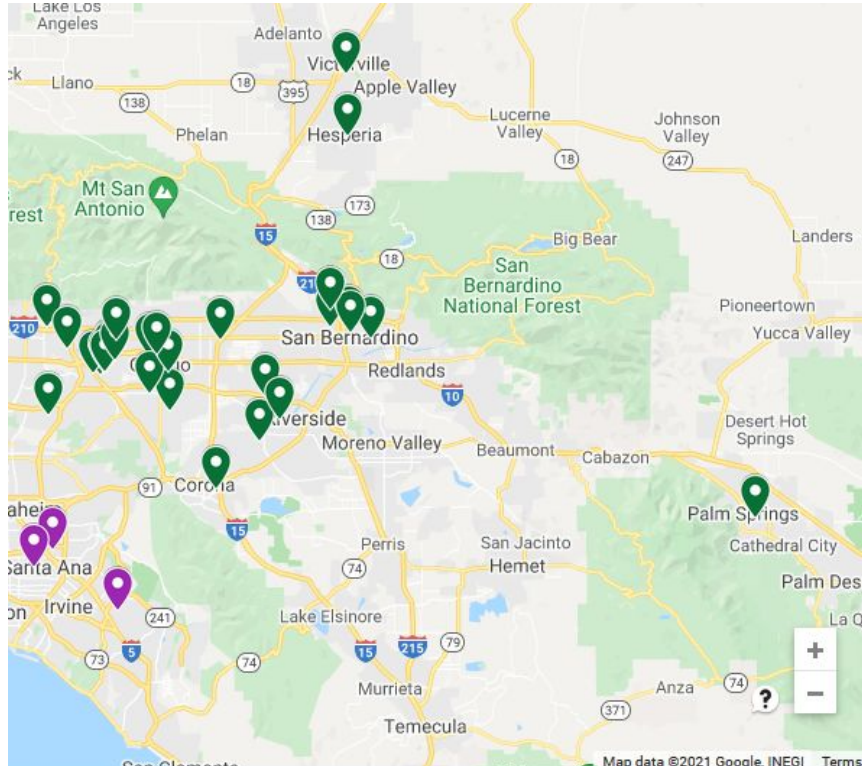




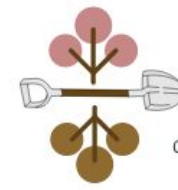
Inland Empire Selected Sites



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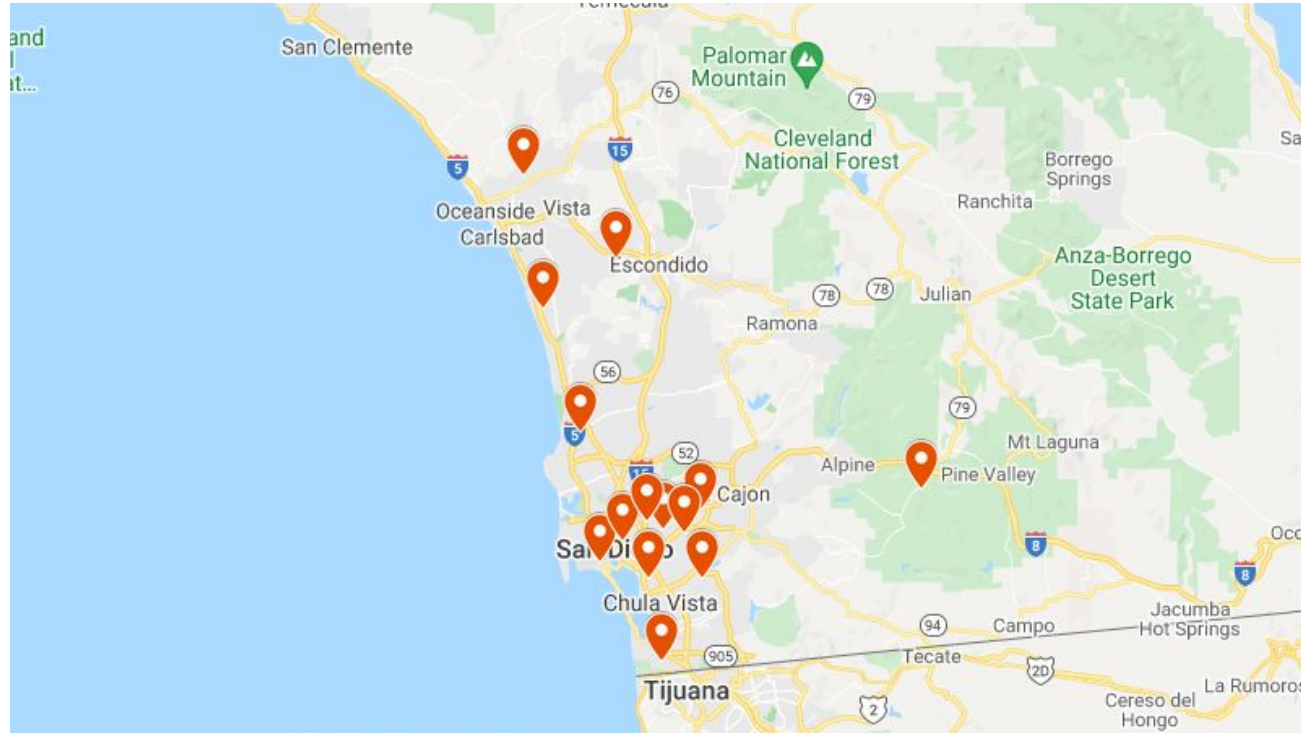


San Diego Selected Sites



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2. Soil Stewardship Training Course

- In-person 5 day intensive training June 21-25
 - 85 participants camped out at Amy's Farm in Ontario, CA
- Curriculum Development
 - Comprehensive curriculum covering soil science, compost methodologies, site design, community engagement, metrics tracking, policy, entrepreneurship, and more!
 - 17 training modules developed
 - BMP manual under development
- Reviewed by CCGS National Advisory Board
 - 16 participants, from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds
 - Provided extensive review over 4 month period
- Digital Course Curriculum
 - Zoom participation available for 25 additional participants
 - Videographer captured all lecture, site visits, and activity portions of training
 - Digital Release of online modules and CACC YouTube Channel of Training Retreat
- Planned: 2 Regional Training Hubs + Ongoing Learning & Support Community

3. Digital Support Tool

- Tracking data and metrics for all project sites for full grant term on:
 - Diversion quantities and feedstock types
 - Total Compost Produced, Trees Planted, GHG emission reductions in MTCO₂e
 - Time spent on-site management + other community benefits
 - Quantity of volunteer participation
 - Soft launch with google forms, maturing to web-based app release in 2022
- Best Management Practices remote sensing tools and platform on:
 - Various methodologies
 - Temperature, Moisture
 - Operation Emissions
 - Soft launch in 2022 with a combination of open source support platform, maturing to android-based app by 2023.

4. Comprehensive Reporting

- Community Compost Hub Health Assessments
 - 6 and 18 month assessments for each project site covering <60 variables in 5 health indicator categories and one compost quality test per site:
 - Compost Health, Neighborhood & Community Health, Environmental Health, Organizational Health, Social Systems Health
- 10 Planned Analyses
 - Community Benefit Analysis (Social, Public Health, & Environmental analyses)
 - Soil Quality Analysis
 - CARB Analysis (focused on emissions)
 - Statewide Growth Projections & Recommendations
 - Policy Review & Recommendations
 - Success Factors Analysis
 - Models Presentations
 - Compost Provision Analysis
 - Holistic Economic Analysis
 - Community Feedback Analysis

Lettuce Discuss!



- We are committed to a stance of inclusion and view various enterprises, government boards and city/state departments as important community voices.
- What information or data are you interested in that might be generated as a result of this project to advance the bioresources economy?
- Where do you see opportunities to support the goals of this project?
 - Developing decentralized and sustainable community resource recovery initiatives
 - Supporting community composting co-benefits (food access, community engagement & education, green space development, positive environmental impacts, providing financial resources to workers)
 - Empowering underserved, low-income, social/environmental justice communities
 - Acknowledging the contribution of community composting to statewide sustainability and community health, and social justice goals



Thank you

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