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# Community Composting for Green Spaces

— California Bioresources Symposium —  
November 18, 2021

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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

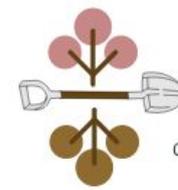
# 1. CCGS Project Solicitation

- **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

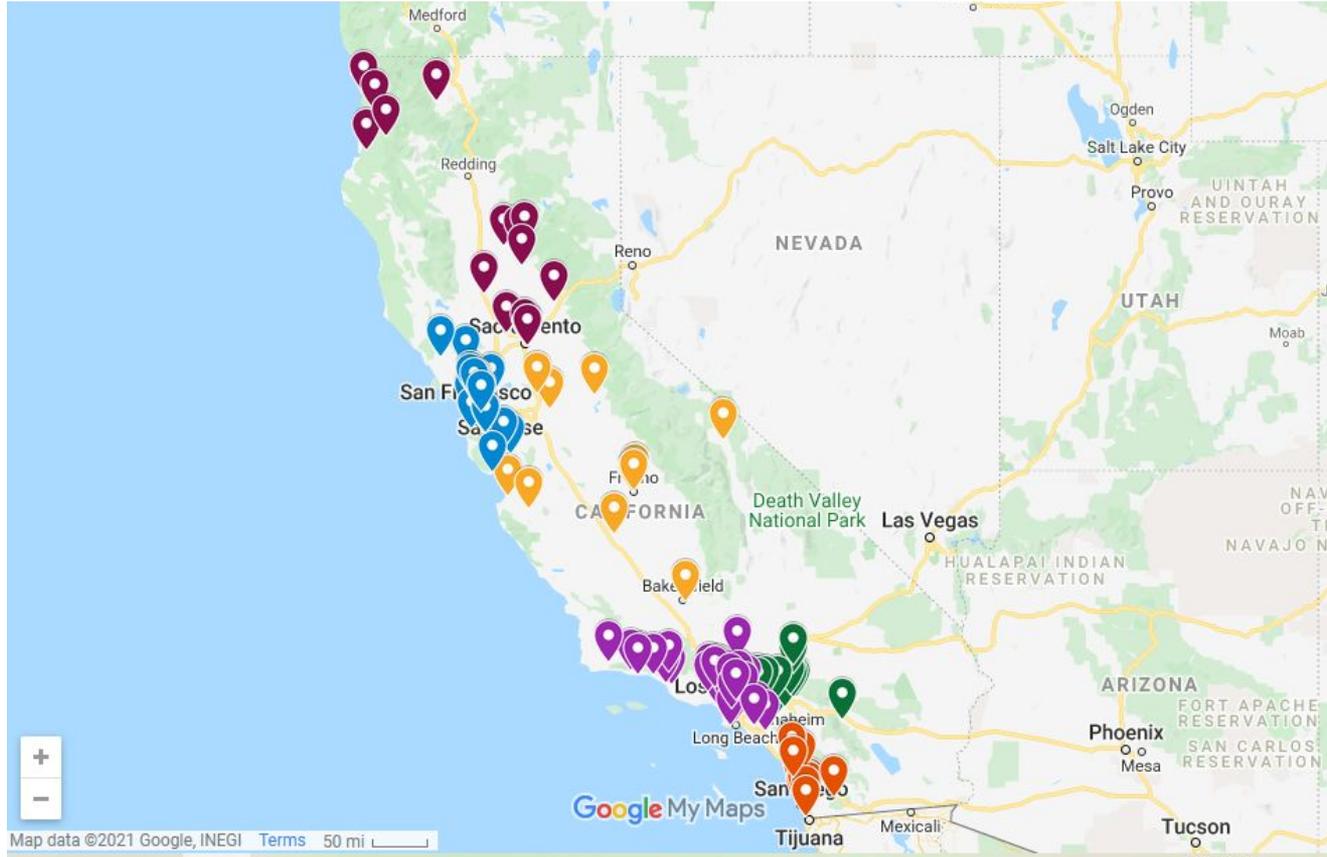
- **Overwhelming CCGS Program Interest**
  - 138 unique applications received & reviewed for 171 sites
  - 104 orgs and 134 sites recommended for support: Bay Area (7 orgs/10 sites), Central California (5 orgs/5 sites) & Northern California (9 orgs/ 11 sites) regions, Inland Empire (26 orgs/29 sites), 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

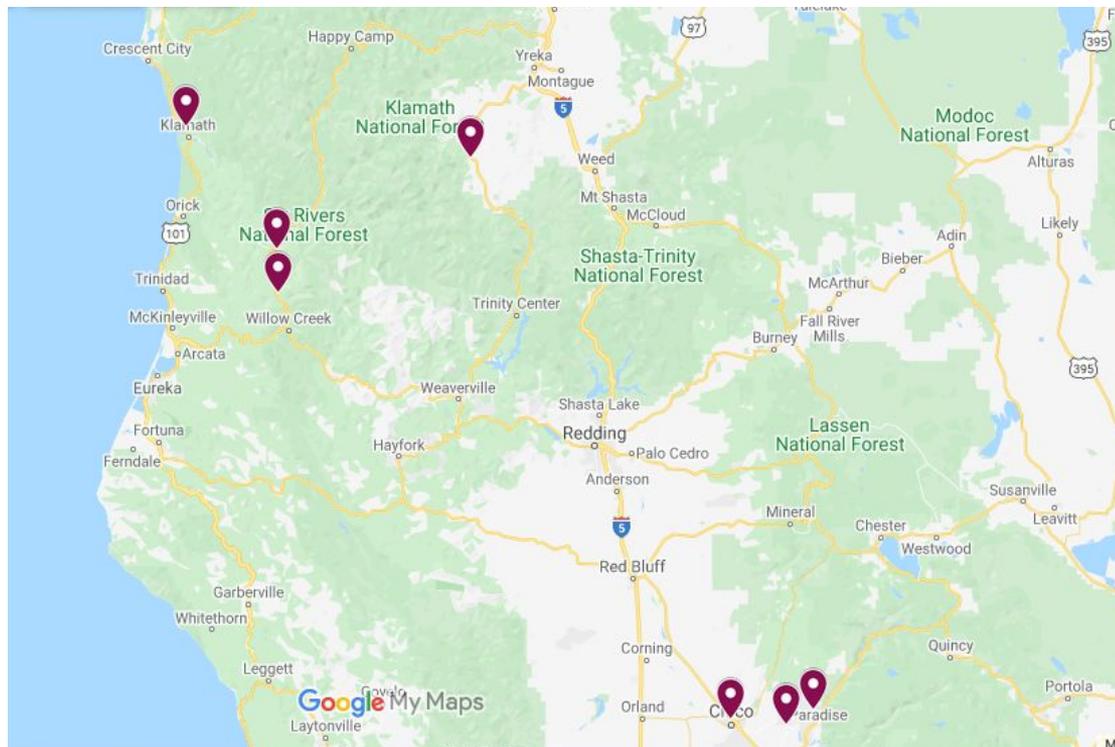


# CACCC

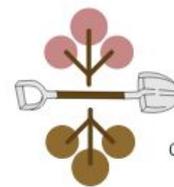
California Alliance for Community Composting



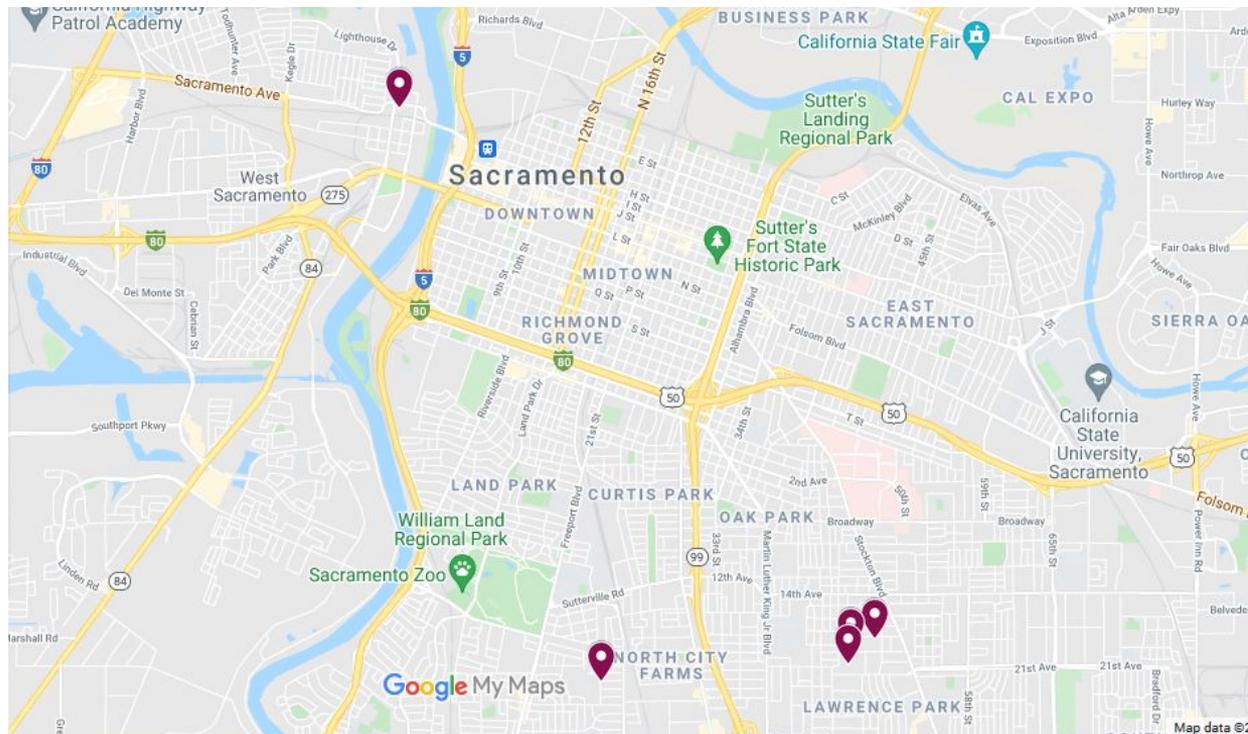
# Northern California Selected Sites



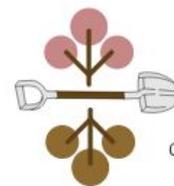
# Sacramento Area Selected Sites



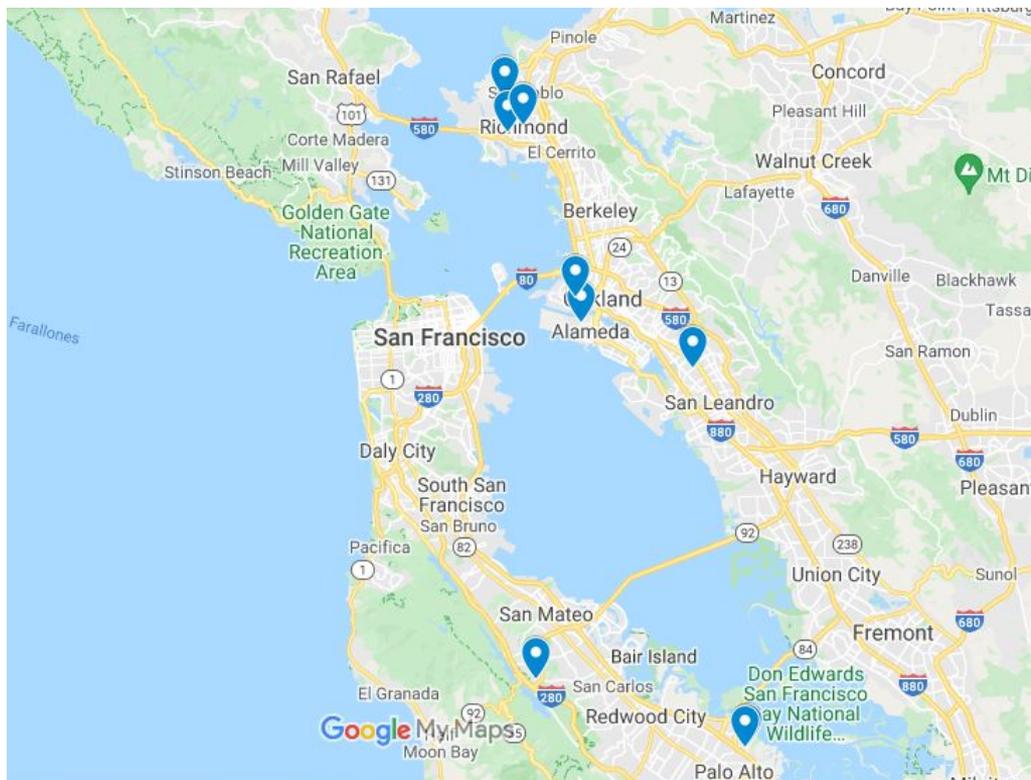
**CACC**  
California Alliance for Community Composting



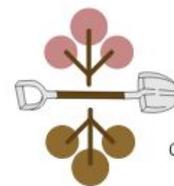
# Bay Area Selected Sites



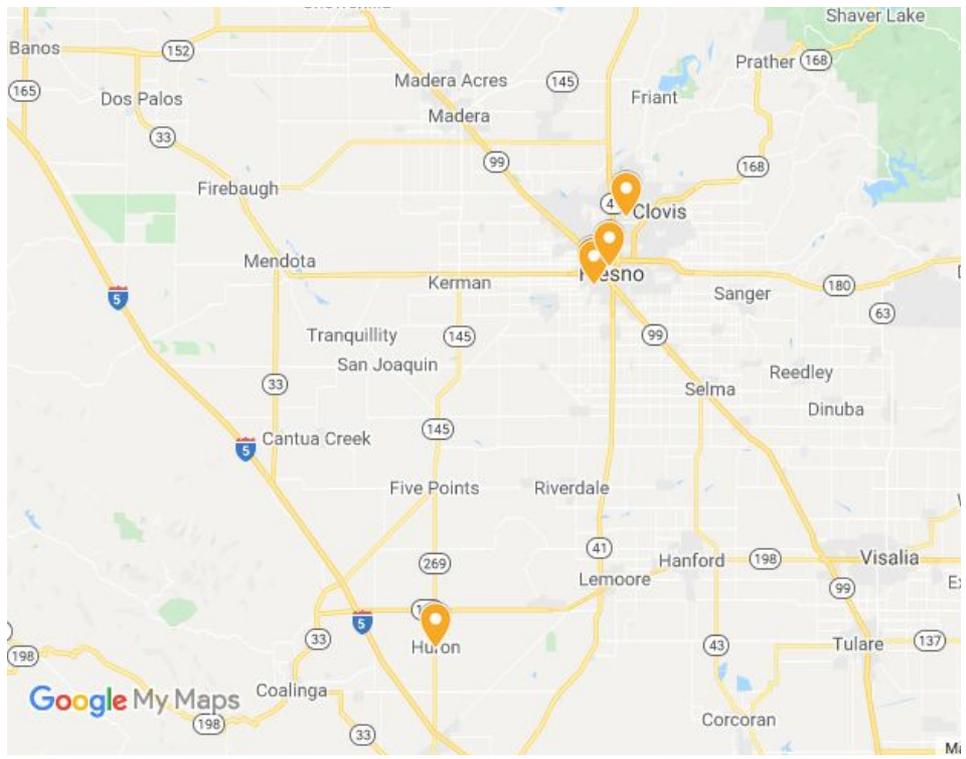
**CACC**  
California Alliance for Community Composting



# Central California Selected Sites



**CACC**  
California Alliance for Community Composting

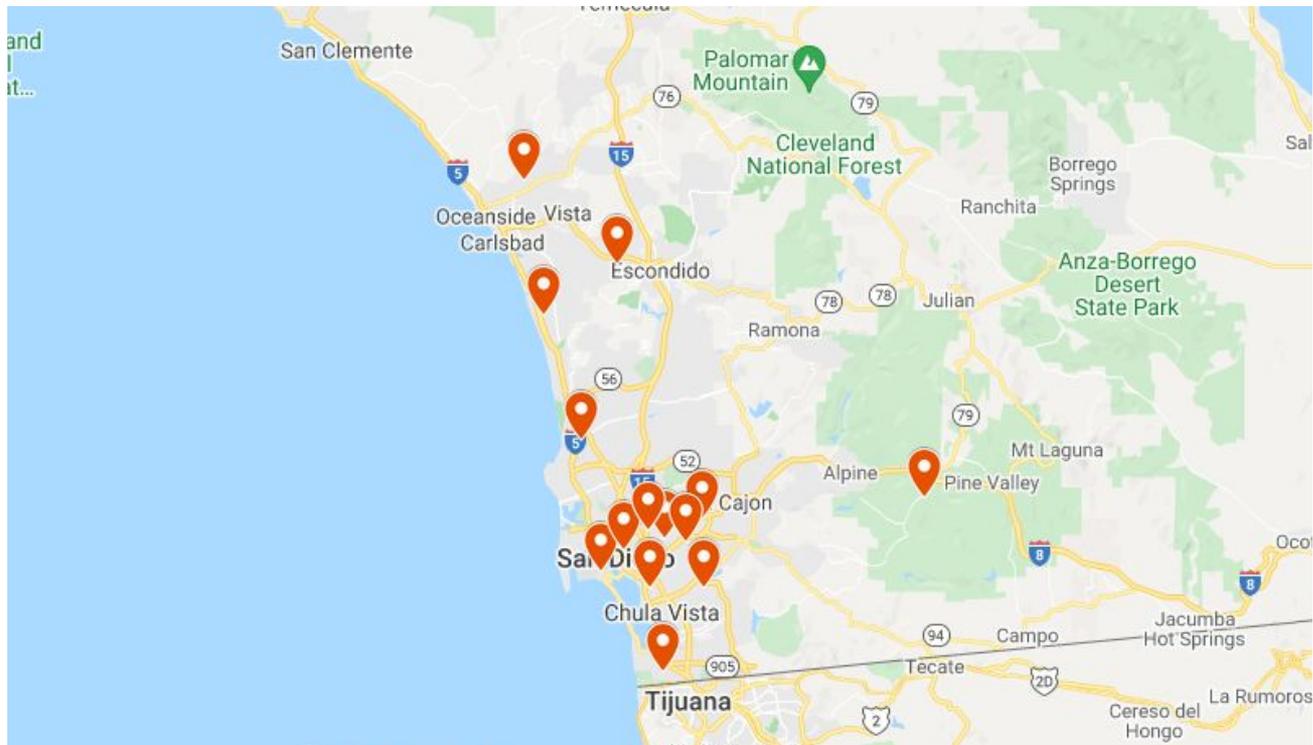


# Los Angeles Area Selected Sites





# San Diego Selected Sites



## 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 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - 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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