



Waste Education & Reduction

County of Alameda

Climate Corps 16-17

The Green Child Care Program

4R's Education & Outreach

- Trained teachers, staff, and children from an annual record number of **36 preschools** in Alameda County in our 4R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot) educational program
- Developed outreach materials, published a monthly newsletter, produced a promotional music video, and presented at 10 workshops and conferences about the Green Child Care Program

Program Expansion & Partnerships

- Developed new preschool curriculum on plastic pollution in the ocean
- Re-visited 15 old sites and developed a 4R's retention program
- Partnered with Cascadia Consulting Group and StopWaste to introduce composting and recycling into 9 Oakland Head Start preschools
- Served 15 Oakland Unified School District Child Development Centers

Waste Diversion

- Provided bins and waste sorting trainings to new program sites to increase compliance with the County's Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance
- Conducted waste audits to determine waste diversion rates before and after program completion

Evaluation

- Developed a new pre and post questionnaire for children and staff to quantifiably measure waste sorting knowledge retention



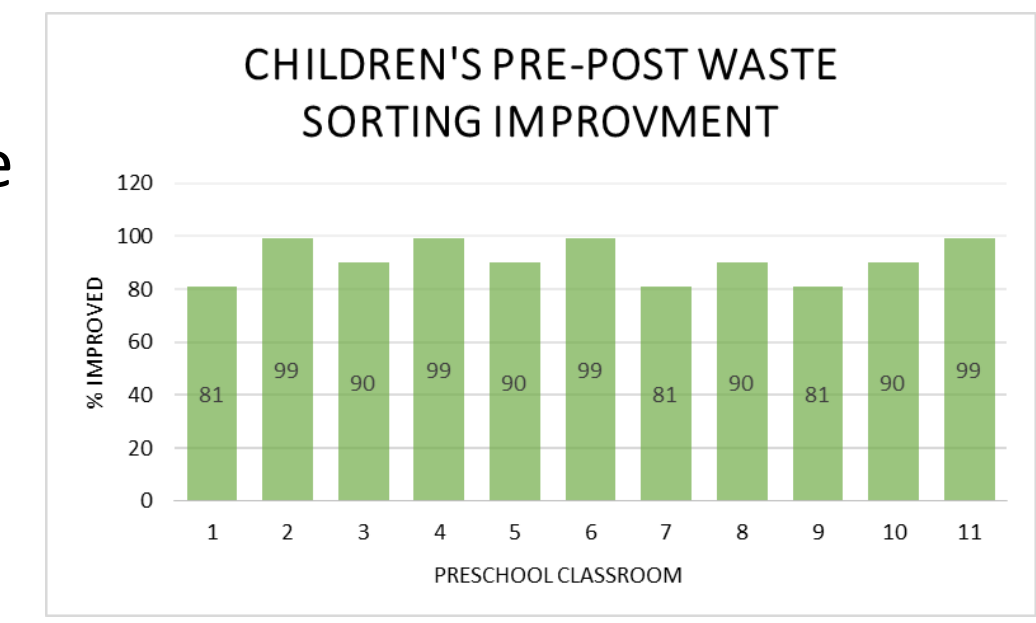
Results & Outcomes

4R's Education & Outreach

- Taught over 1800 students & trained 300 teachers
- Conducted 112 classroom presentations

Evaluation

Students from 11 different classrooms participated in a pre and post lesson waste sorting quiz. Every classroom improved their score by 81% or higher after their classroom lesson.



Waste Diversion

227 tons of waste diverted from the landfill

300 tons of CO2 diverted from the atmosphere

Lessons Learned

Successful Strategies

- Shadowed StopWaste classroom lessons and interviewed child development experts to inform educational strategies for program development
- Designed post-lesson curriculum to enable teachers and students to reinforce the new practice of waste sorting in the classroom
- Developed 4R's Pledges and Rocky Certifications to motivate and congratulate sites

Recommendations for Improvement

- Continue to re-visit old sites to analyze progress and document barriers
- Design more comprehensive post-lesson curriculum, set up green teams to sustain classroom waste sorting, and encourage parent involvement to ensure successful behavioral change

Alisa Rose Healy

Alisa is a Tufts University Alumni with 5 years experience in environmental education. She hopes to continue promoting zero waste and nature connection as an educator, community outreach coordinator, and project manager and aspires to pursue an MBA in Sustainable Management.



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