



Alameda County Green Child Care

Natalie Lessa

Climate Corps Bay Area

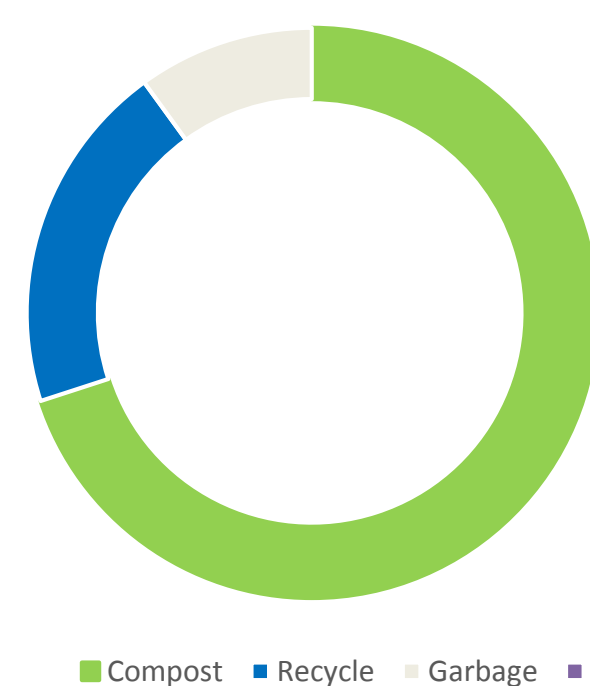
Waste Diversion & RRRR Education

Project 1: Waste Diversion Initiative

Alameda County has an aggressive goal of diverting 90% of recyclable and compostable waste from the landfill. Research shows that 70% of an Alameda County's child care (preschool) facility is divertible. The Green Child Care program has a goal to increase waste diversion rates by 1 ton in 2015.

Child care centers are located on school or church campuses that have recycle and compost dumpsters but they aren't included in the usage. Other centers have their own facility without the correct dumpsters. The program helps them get in compliance and avoid fines as well as get included with waste diversion.

Child Care Waste Stream



Project 2: Teaching Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot



Training staff and educating preschool age children (ages 2 to 5) is a huge part of the Green Child Care Program. Staff in the early care and education field are often times underfunded and lack resources. This program helps get them the materials and knowledge they need to engage in RRRR in the classroom. By bringing awareness to the importance of reduce, reuse, recycle and rot, hopefully these young children will grow up to be the next stewards of sustainability.

Outcomes

Project 1: Waste Diversion Initiative

- Conducted 25 waste audits
- Established multi-beneficial relationships with more than 30 new facilities
- Diverted over 25 tons of waste from the Altamont Landfill

Project 2: Teaching Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot

- Trained 190 teachers in in-depth group meetings
- Educated over 800 preschool age students
- Conducted 50 classroom presentations
- Created promotional material and monthly newsletters



Professional Development Skills

Presenter at California State University, Chico This Way to Sustainability Conference

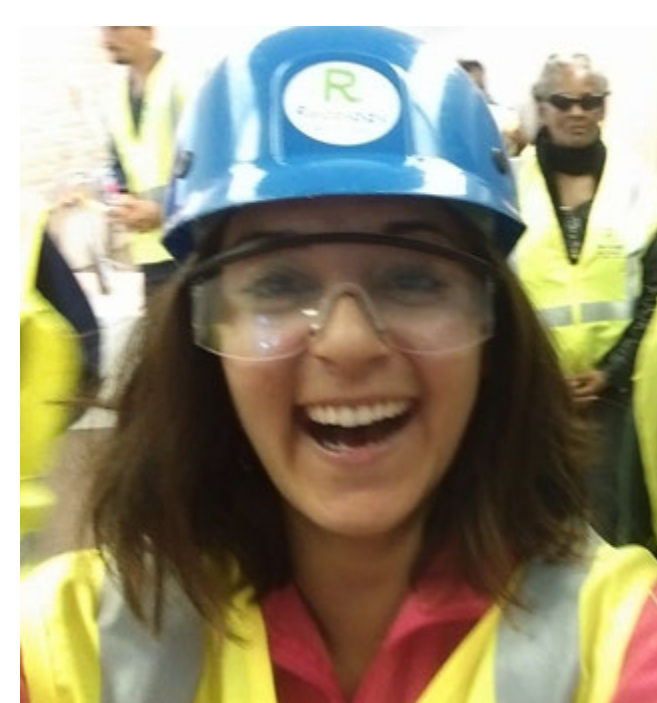
Spoke on a panel about behavior change in the classroom

Guest lecturer at Skyline Community College

Spoke about climate change and it's effects on developed versus developing countries' food, water and resources

Conference attendee at NCRA'S Recycling Update, Arthur Boone's 101 to Recycling, Green California Conference, Latino's and Conservation at the Common Wealth Club, Alameda County Excel Training and monthly climate leadership trainings

Natalie Lessa is a proud Chico State alumna with five years of experience working in the environmental industry as an educator, outreach coordinator and communications consultant. Her expertise is in waste diversion, team leadership and public speaking. Lessa will be relocating to the Sacramento area in pursuit of an environmental career in project management, event planning and/or program coordination.



Acknowledgements:

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