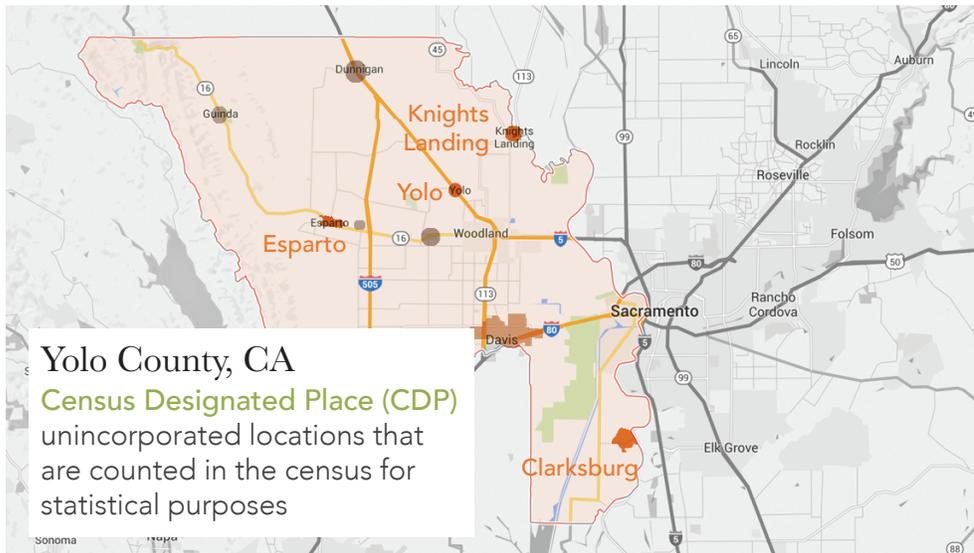


Organic Waste Management in Yolo County CDPs

Executive Summary



We, Team Peels, are a group of eight UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems students working with the Yolo County Central Landfill to aid in its efforts to reduce and better manage the food waste produced in the county.



We have an opportunity to research and develop a solution to educate and incentivize the residents and businesses of Yolo County, specifically those within CDPs to reduce and properly manage their waste.

Project Overview

Within Yolo County, 176,976 tons of waste were collected last year, with 40,700 tons being organics waste. Organic waste in landfills creates an immense amount of embodied losses in water and nutrients. We worked closely with Marissa Juhler, the Yolo Landfill Waste Reduction and Sustainability Manager, to bring about the establishment of organic waste programs in rural communities of Yolo County to address this issue.

Through background research and community surveying, we assisted with the implementation of an organic waste collection pilot program in Clarksburg.

With this, we developed a survey framework to gauge interest in other communities for a program similar to that piloting in Clarksburg. To make our process, findings, and surveying and educational resources most accessible, we designed a website to document the entirety of our project. We intend for this website to act as a resource for Yolo County residents, policy makers, and any others interested in community-level organic waste management. In conjunction with recommendations that came out of this project, we aim for our work to aid continued efforts to establish programs and policy to deal with organic waste.

Project Process

Stage 1

Research & Planning

- Understand Client Perspective
- Collaborate on Survey
- Design Educational Materials
- Expand CDP Focus

Stage 2

Implementation

- Design Survey Awareness Poster
- Distribute Surveys
- Call Clarksburg Residents as Follow-Up
- Organize & Analyze Data
- Design Website

Now

Comprehensive Analysis

- Redistribute Surveys
- Organize & Analyze Data
- Pass Along Results

Project Findings

In collaborating with Marissa, we developed a survey to gauge household interest in an organic waste management program in Clarksburg. We are currently in the process of distributing a similar survey to residents of Yolo, Esparto, and Knights Landing. Ultimately, we aim to provide policy makers and community leaders with enough information to implement an organic waste program in other rural communities.



Are the residents of Clarksburg, a CDP of Yolo County, CA, interested in bringing an organic waste program in their community?

49 out of 150 total households answered our survey

88% of households are in support of an organics waste program

What additional materials would you want?

- 70% Biodegradable Bags
- 49% In-Home Compost Pails
- 37% Sticker Labels
- 23% Community Event
- 21% Hotline

Are you able to downsize your existing waste bin?

- 68% Yes
- 28% No

12% of households are not in favor of an organics waste program

What are your concerns?

- 50% Cost
- 17% Not Enough Material

Additional Concerns?

Regardless of support.

- 6% Frequency of Pick-Up
- 4% Presence of Animals/Bugs

Recommendations for Implenting an Organic Waste Program

1 ♥♥♥♥ \$\$\$

Utilize Mailers & Follow-Up Phone Calls

Utilize mailers followed by phone calls when surveying residents. The mailers should include a letter outlining the logistics of the program as well as graphics showing what goes in each bin. Follow up phone calls should be made two weeks after the mailers are sent out.

2 ♥♥♥♥ \$\$\$

Provide Additional Program Materials

Provide residents options for materials in addition to the waste bin such as biodegradable bags, in-home compost pails, explanatory sticker labels, and a recycling hotline.

3 TBD \$\$\$

Explore Education & Outreach

Explore education and outreach opportunities in your community. This may include a community event centered around organic waste. There is potential for program support to increase if you work within the community to educate residents on organic waste basics, as well as their potential change in routine.

4 ♥♥♥♥ \$\$\$

Understand Costs & Benefits

Complete a cost-benefit analysis to further explore your program. How does support for your program change with the inclusion of additional materials? This information can be used to gauge resident responsiveness to potential increases in program cost.

- ♥ = Social Impact
The impact on resident support
- \$ = Monetary Cost
The estimated financial cost

For more information please visit yoloorganicwaste.com