



Building Sustainable Habits Early

In the heart of San Jose's Rainbow neighborhood, Magic Flowers Preschool rethought its waste management program to model environmental responsibility and comply with California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383.

Opportunity:

Initially, the preschool was serviced with a 96-gallon Customized cart and a 1-cubic-yard Dry waste bin. This meant the organic waste they generated was being incorrectly disposed of in their Dry bin and sent to a landfill. To align services with daily needs and state regulations for organic separation, the preschool partnered with Christina, their Republic Services Sustainability Advisor, for a comprehensive waste audit.

Solution:

The audit revealed an opportunity to right-size service levels and improve diversion. As a result, the property reduced Dry waste service to a 96-gallon cart and added a 96-gallon Wet cart.

Perhaps most importantly, the transition created a valuable teaching opportunity for the preschool's approximately 80 students. By engaging children in simple activities like separating recyclables from food scraps, Magic Flowers is instilling lifelong habits of environmental stewardship.

Takeaway:

With the right support and a willingness to adapt, compliance and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand and even serve as powerful lessons for the community's youngest learners.



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Sustainability in Action