

Solari Plaza: Optimizing Waste Management



Solari Plaza Case Study

Solari Plaza, a diverse complex comprising 14,000 square feet of professional services and dining establishments catering to the residents of San José's Seven Trees Village, underwent a review in January following a routine visit by Jasmine Parrish, a Sustainability Advisor. This visit was prompted by a request from the property manager to complete a free, comprehensive waste audit. This audit ensured that waste management services were appropriately aligned with current regulations.

Prior to the audit, the tenants at Solari Plaza were serviced with a 4-cubic yard Dry waste dumpster collected five times a week and a 4-cubic yard Customized recycling dumpster collected four times a week. Dry waste is classified as material that is recyclable and landfill waste. Customized waste bins are for pure recycling material only and should not contain non-recyclable waste, such as landfill waste and organics. The audit revealed deficiencies in waste sorting practices and highlighted the need for adjustments to meet state regulations, specifically organics sorting rules under Senate Bill 1383.

The audit findings indicated that the businesses did not have proper waste sorting, which led to several recommended changes. These changes included a reduction in Dry waste collection by 70% and the introduction of 6 cubic yards of "Wet" or organic food waste collection on a weekly basis. Implementing these changes ensured compliance with state regulations and resulted in a rate increase of less than 1%, demonstrating an efficient adjustment with minimal financial impact.

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