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[Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#)

## **2020 Urban Grant Program**

Deadline: [7/1/2020](#)

# **The Regents of the University of California** **Closing the Carbon Loop: Building Climate Resilience Through** **Community Composting**

Jump to: [Project Description](#) [Documents Upload](#)

**\$ 247,655.00** Requested

Submitted: [7/1/2020 9:11:24 PM \(Pacific\)](#)

### **Project Contact**

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EIN [94-6036494](#)

## **Project Description** [top](#)

### **Applicant Type**

#### **1. What type of organization is this?**

- Public Agency
- School or School District
- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Eligible organization acting as Fiscal Sponsor for another organization

#### **2. Does the application include a fiscal sponsor?**

*If the project includes a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must be the applicant.*

- YES
- NO

### **Overview**

**3. Which type of grant are you requesting?**

- Small (\$10,000 - \$39,999)
- Large (\$40,000 - \$250,000)

**4. Grant category (check all that apply)**

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture / Food Systems

**5. Type of project (check all that apply)**

- Capital improvement (Large projects only)
- Planning
- Program

**6. Project Location: Address / Neighborhood**

*What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.*

UCCE Community Composting Demonstration Site, Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave., San Jose, CA 95136

Veggielution Community Farm, 647 South King Road, San Jose, CA 95116

San Jose Conservation Corps, 1560 Berger Dr., San Jose, CA 95112

Valley Verde, 312 Gifford Ave., San Jose, CA 95125

**7. Project Location: Open Space Authority District (check all that apply)**

*A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.*

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4
- Authority District 5
- Authority District 6
- Authority District 7

**8. Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (check all that apply)**

*A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.*

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4

- ✓ Authority District 5
- ✓ Authority District 6
- ✓ Authority District 7

## 9. Project Abstract

*(Brief, 3-4 sentences)*

A partnership between four organizations, this project will create a network of community-supported composting sites, serving deep engagement communities, to intake organic waste and produce carbon-rich soil amendments. Project outcomes include increased access to compost for underserved residents, locally-based food waste management solutions, community building opportunities and strengthened climate resilience from reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and improved soil health.

## Project Planning (20 points)

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### 10. Describe the proposed project.

A challenge to closing the carbon loop in cities is having systems to collect organic waste, compost it, and distribute compost for use in urban areas at minimal cost. While Santa Clara County is a leader in curbside organic waste collection, mid-scale or community composting has yet to be implemented. However the project partners-UC Cooperative Extension, San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC), Valley Verde, and Veggielution-have infrastructure to compost at this scale. The grant would activate these sites by establishing programs to operate each as a compost hub, engaging community members to contribute food waste, participate in composting, and adopt sustainable agriculture practices.

Community compost hubs are designed to educate and engage residents in landfill waste diversion, compost production and soil health management. The hub model turns organic waste from a community liability into an asset for urban agriculture. By recycling valuable carbon resources that would otherwise produce greenhouse gases in landfills, community composting closes the carbon loop, while improving food security and supporting the local urban agricultural economy. By positioning community compost hubs to serve Deep Engagement Communities, offering job training in food waste management to young people from underserved neighborhoods, and providing free compost to community members, this system helps ensure that the benefits of climate resilience and community food production are distributed equitably.

The objectives of this project are:

1. Implement community composting programs at four locations in San Jose. At each site, we will establish a system for collecting food waste from the surrounding community and returning finished compost to the community.
  - a. Demonstrate operating models that can be easily replicated by others who wish to start their own community compost hub.
  - b. Establish a team of SJCC corps members to maintain community compost hubs during the project period and into the future.
2. Educate and provide resources for the public to participate in community composting and climate-smart soil management practices for urban agriculture.
  - a. Train 500 community members to participate in community compost hubs.
  - b. Train 180 community members to practice vermiculture, a form of composting well suited to urban living conditions, and provide worms so they can compost at home.
  - c. Create educational materials on climate resiliency through composting and urban agriculture to be shared on signs, handouts, and online.
3. Evaluate the carbon impacts of community composting.
  - a. Determine how much food waste is collected, how much compost is produced and applied, and how many community members are engaged.

b. Use a citizen science approach to collect data on the use of climate-smart soil management practices in urban agriculture and project the amount of soil carbon sequestered and greenhouse gases reduced by urban farms and gardens using compost.

### **11. Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.**

1. Community compost programs delivered
  - a. Community compost program protocols established to meet the unique needs of each site (months 0-6)
  - b. Additional composting supplies purchased and installed (months 0-6)
  - c. SJCC community compost hub maintenance crew established and trained (month 0-6)
  - d. SJCC Corpsmembers hold weekly open hours at each site, when the public can drop off food waste and learn about the management of the compost system (months 6-36)
  - e. Recruit and train initial members of community compost hub, 20 per site, for the pilot year of program operation (months 6-18)
  - f. Recruit and train additional members of community compost hub, increasing amount of compost produced and distributed (months 18-36)
  
2. New educational materials on community composting and climate resilience created.
  - a. Educational signage about community composting and climate resilience in urban agriculture are completed and installed at the four sites (months 12-18)
  - b. Factsheets about community composting and climate resilience in urban agriculture are completed and are available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese (months 12-18)
  - c. Two workshops per year on community composting are held at each of the four sites (total of 24 workshops) reaching 500 community members, of which 20% will be youth (months 6-36).
  - d. In addition, six workshops are held specifically on vermicomposting, reaching a total of 180 residents. Vermicompost systems at community compost hub sites will produce worms that participants can take home to begin their own vermicompost systems (months 6-36).
  
3. Analysis of carbon impacts of community composting and application of compost in urban agriculture
  - a. Design citizen science project and develop data collection form (months 0-6)
  - b. Recruit participants (months 0-6)
  - c. Citizen scientists begin data collection, including baseline soil samples (months 6-18)
  - d. Citizen scientists continue to collect data, including annual soil samples (months 18-36)
  - e. Projection of how much soil carbon stored at participating sites and projected over different scenarios (rate of adoption and land use) in the OSA service area (months 30-36)
  - f. Ongoing evaluation of amount of food waste collected, quantity and quality of compost created, and number of community members engaged (months 6-36)

### **12. Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.**

No. At each community compost hub site, compost systems are already in place or have already received approval. Both the UCCE Compost Education Program and Veggievolution have already installed solar-powered aerated compost systems at their respective sites at Martial Cottle Park and Emma Prusch Park. The site at Martial Cottle Park also has a state-of-the-art vermiculture compost system. Valley Verde already has a composting system at their farm site in downtown San Jose. Additional materials, including a vermicomposter similar to that at Martial Cottle Park, will complement their existing compost system and will be fully moveable, so they can be relocated when Valley Verde changes sites after their Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone contract ends. San Jose Conservation Corps will build an aerated static pile compost system in summer 2020 and it is anticipated that SJCC will begin operating the system in early fall 2020. The funding for SJCC's compost system was provided through California's Proposition 68, California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.

### **13. What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.**

The community compost programs implemented during the grant period will continue to operate after the grant period has ended. If they secure additional funding, the San Jose Conservation Corps will have developed a training program and crew of corpsmembers that can maintain community compost hubs throughout the OSA service area, as the program model piloted through this project is replicated and expanded. It is our hope that documenting the climate resilience benefits of community compost hubs—both food waste diverted from the landfill and carbon stored in the soil after compost application at agricultural sites—will help demonstrate the value of these sites for future funding proposals. In addition, SB 1383, the short-lived climate pollutants law, mandates reductions in organic waste disposal and will be a driver of increased demand for composting capacity at the municipal, community, and home levels.

If additional funding is not secured, the community compost hubs can be run by a team of volunteers. Once the operating procedures have been established and tested and community members are engaged in community composting, program management functions could be turned over to volunteers. In the final project year, we will prepare to transition management of the program to volunteers in the UCCE Compost Education Program or community volunteers as necessary.

#### **14. Describe the project's readiness for implementation.**

This project is ready for implementation. Both the Composting Education Program (CEP) and Veggielution have already installed solar-powered, aerated compost systems. Currently, these systems operate using the organic inputs available on site, but neither operates at maximum capacity. This project will utilize this existing infrastructure to its full potential by integrating these sites with the surrounding community—collecting food waste and returning finished compost to people in the area. The SJCC hub will be built this summer and it is expected to begin operating in Fall 2020.

The CEP, which has extensive experience designing and implementing compost systems, will be ready immediately to begin tailoring community compost hub operating procedures to the unique needs and circumstances of each partner site. The SJCC is also prepared to support this project from the outset of the grant period. SJCC already operates a job training program focused on recycling and designed to rapidly deploy teams of Corpsmembers to take on new projects. SJCC is prepared to identify, train, and deploy senior Corpsmembers to support this project within weeks of the grant's execution. Within the first six months of the grant, we will have finalized plans for operating the community compost hub programs, established the SJCC compost hub crew, installed additional materials to make sites at Valley Verde and Veggielution fully functional, and will be ready to begin programming at all four sites.

### **Project Budget (15 points)**

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#### **15. Budget Summary - Grant Request**

*This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.*

<input type="text" value="34124"/>	Grant request: Personnel
<input type="text" value="190000"/>	Grant request: Contracted Services
<input type="text" value="3480"/>	Grant request: Supplies / Materials
<input type="text" value="13734"/>	Grant request: Other Direct Costs
<input type="text" value="6317"/>	Grant request: Indirect Costs
<input type="text" value="247,655.00"/>	<b>TOTAL</b>

#### **16. Budget Summary - Matching Funds**

*This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload*

tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

Total Matching Funds

**TOTAL**

## 17. Budget Narrative

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

Personnel. Project manager, Lucy Diekmann, will direct the project, oversee citizen science research, and manage the budget and grant. She will work 0.05FTE equaling \$17,691 of in-kind match.

Staff research associate, Cole Smith, will work 0.15FTE on the project. At \$48.06/hr, he will receive \$34,124. He will develop community compost hub operating protocols, develop educational materials, consult with partners, organize composting workshops, and coordinate CEP volunteers to perform site maintenance.

Contracted Services. SJCC will train and deploy a team of 2 corpsmembers to maintain all 4 compost sites during the grant period (2,438 hours total @ \$40.40/hr). The crew will maintain productive composting operations at 4 sites, staff weekly public open hours, maintain tools and site cleanliness, lead volunteer workdays, support the distribution and application of finished compost, and ensure all sites remain vector and odor-free. SJCC will install interpretative signage at its site (\$1505).

Veggielution will operate a community compost hub. They will expand their composting equipment (\$18,000 for additional system), oversee maintenance of compost hub with SJCC (\$3000 for storage shed and tools), do community outreach (\$5000 for stipends for Eastside Grown Fellows to do community outreach and organizing), staff compost workshops, consult on the development of educational materials to ensure cultural relevance, and install interpretive signage (\$1500). Over 3 years they will receive total payroll expenses of \$7500 for their Environmental Education Manager, \$5000 for Farm Manager, and \$5000 for Community Engagement Manager.

Valley Verde will operate a community compost hub. They will expand their existing equipment (a vermicomposter @ \$12,000 and food waste pulverizer @ \$7000), oversee maintenance of compost hub with SJCC (\$500 for food waste collection supplies), do community outreach (\$1000 in incentives for community members), staff compost workshops, consult on the development of educational materials to ensure cultural relevance, and install interpretive signage (\$1500). Over 3 years, their Greenhouse Manager will receive \$13,000 and their Home Garden Program Manager \$10,000 to fulfill these responsibilities.

Supplies and Materials. Workshop supplies, including handouts, at \$16/workshop for 30 workshops = \$480. Materials to support CEP site operation, including AV equipment for outdoor teaching, a chipper, and reinforcing receiving bays at \$3000.

Other Direct Costs. Translation of 2 factsheets into Spanish and Vietnamese @ 12 hours/document (4 x 12 = 48 hrs). 48 hrs x \$65.30/hr = \$3134.

Analysis of 75 soils samples x \$75 = \$5625 and 12 compost samples x \$329 = \$4188 for a total of \$9813. Travel to 4 compost sites for delivery of workshops and project coordination is requested at \$787 (1368 miles @ \$0.575/mile).

Indirect Costs. Nonprofit administrative indirect cost rate of 5% on eligible direct costs (\$126,388) = \$6317.

## Project Goals (15 points)

### 18. Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

In the US, wasted food is the greatest contributor to landfills, where it decomposes and releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas. At the same time, soils are a critical source and sink of carbon. Within cities, much

of our food waste is trucked away to landfills, while many urban gardeners and farmers purchase compost as an input to improve the health and fertility of their soil. This project aims to close that loop—turning food waste into an asset that enriches urban soils—through the creation of four community compost hub programs in San Jose. These programs will make it simple for residents to bring their food waste to a community compost hub, where it will be recycled, and to pick up finished compost that can be applied to farms or gardens. Community compost hubs help to build climate-resilient urban communities by providing both the training and the physical and organizational infrastructure needed for residents to reduce the amount of food going into landfills, while adding carbon to the soil through the application of locally produced compost. By producing a valuable soil amendment, compost hubs help to support the local urban agricultural economy and contribute to food security in urban neighborhoods.

Low-income communities are the most impacted by the effects of climate change. They are also the most likely to experience obstacles to healthy food access and food security. This project helps to address both these issues by engaging members of underserved populations in activities to increase their communities' climate resiliency while contributing to the sustainability of local food production. The compost hubs at Veggielution (located in a Deep Engagement Community) and Valley Verde will focus on engaging, training, and providing free compost to members of underserved communities. Maintaining soil health over time can be a challenge for low-income farmers and gardeners because of the expense of purchasing inputs or the difficulty of picking up and transporting materials. Moreover, not all municipalities offer free compost giveaways and the frequency of these giveaways can be sporadic depending on the city. Small to mid-scale community composting presents an innovative solution for increasing communities' access to compost. Because these sites are located within urban areas, they can often be reached by walking, riding a bike, or taking a bus. To address barriers associated with the cost of purchasing compost, compost produced at project sites will be free for participating community volunteers. Recognizing that not all residents are able to use compost at home due to lack of green space, compost hub sites will also serve as spaces for community members to engage with the process of producing and using compost. This will help to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable organic waste management and the benefits of composting, and may be impactful for youth or residents with limited access to environmental education.

### 19. How does this project serve the community?

*These metrics are required for all projects. Project-specific metrics can be added under Question 20 below. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL that will not be used.*

680	Number of people served
100	Number of youth served (under 18 years)
30	Number of programs provided
810.00	<b>TOTAL</b>

### 20. In what other ways does the project serve the community? Please list the project-specific goals (both social and environmental).

*Please list any additional goals and how they will be measured (e.g. surveys, field measurements, attendance sheets, etc.).*

Environmental goals:

Divert more than 36 tons of food waste from landfills.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improved organic waste diversion.

Create more than 10 tons of high-quality and safe compost to be used for local urban agriculture.

Increase soil carbon stocks and other ecosystem services, such as increased water holding capacity, from compost application.

To measure progress, each site will track the amount of food waste collected and the quantity of compost produced. Laboratory analysis of compost will indicate the quality and safety of the finished product. Our citizen science project, which will include analyzing soil samples, will reveal how much soil carbon is being stored at urban agricultural sites and will project greenhouse gas emissions avoided, using the USDA COMET Planner tool.

**Social goals:**

Increase community food security by providing a free, high-quality soil amendment to maintain soil fertility. Increase participants' awareness of and participation in recycling of household food waste. Social benefits will be assessed in the citizen science project. Using an established framework, we will ask citizen scientists to report on various attributes of food security. Participating farmers will be asked to record the quantity of compost applied to their sites and any savings from reducing their compost purchases. Workshop participants will be asked to complete evaluations that include changes in knowledge and intent to change behavior.

**Impact (15 points)**

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**21. Describe the lasting impact of the project.**

This project will provide lasting public benefit by:

**Diverting Food Waste:** According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, Californians throw away nearly 6 million tons of food scraps each year. When disposed of in landfills, food scraps and other organic waste produce methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. By discarding organics in landfills, vital nutrients and water contained in those scraps are lost. Additionally, transporting organics to either landfills or commercial composting facilities burns fossil fuels. For these reasons, the State established SB1383, which aims to achieve a 75% reduction of landfilled organic waste by 2025 and advocates for alternative waste management solutions such as composting. Our project will model a unique solution that diverts and recycles organic waste locally.

**Improving Urban Soil Health and Climate Resilience:** By transforming food waste into compost and applying it to Santa Clara Valley's urban soils, this project will help enhance soil health and store carbon. The resulting ecological impacts for agriculture include increased soil water retention leading to improved crop drought tolerance, improved nutrient cycling for plant and soil microbial life, filtration of toxins and increased biodiversity related to soil life. All compost produced at each hub will be used for urban farms and gardens, as well as distributed to families in need for home use.

**Provide Vulnerable Youth With Job Training Opportunities:** In the East Side of San Jose, where the UCCE and SJCC offices are located, there is a critical need for impactful job training. Twenty-seven percent of residents in this area have not attained their high school diploma compared to 16% of residents for the whole city. Our project will provide high-quality compost site operations training, including feedstock intake and processing, compost monitoring and quality assurance, and final product evaluation and marketing. These skills will prepare corpsmembers to be eligible to take the US Composting Council's Compost Operations Manager exam.

**Formalize a Replicable Model and Grow a Larger Network:** Project partners plan to use this grant to test and verify the impacts of community composting hubs by measuring both social and environmental benefits with respect to access to resources, increased food security, community network building, soil health improvements and carbon sequestration as well as greenhouse gas reductions. Ultimately, we aim to replicate this operation across a broader network of sites within the region. When combined, these decentralized, community-scale operations will have a substantial, lasting impact. After the network is established, we will provide partners with strategies for long-term sustainability of each site such as ongoing grant development or on-site fundraisers.

**Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)**

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**22. Describe the community support and/or community engagement process.**

*Please submit letters using the Documents Upload tab.*

The UCCE Santa Clara Composting Education Program (CEP) enjoys wide support for the programs it

delivers to residents. The foundation for a Santa Clara County Community Composting Network was laid 3 years ago with the support of Valley Water and the 11th Hour Project. In 2017, the CEP established the Marital Cottle Park community composting demonstration site, which is maintained by 5 Master Composter volunteers with open community workdays. Since then, 3 additional community composting sites have been added to the network, all in partnership with local organizations such as the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, Ann Sobrato High School, and Veggielution.

Throughout the grant period, the community engagement process will involve active outreach to community members living around the hubs and served by partner organizations. We will leverage existing community relationships to invite residents from low-income neighborhoods to participate in the hubs. Workshops and educational materials will be translated into Spanish and Vietnamese to increase accessibility for Santa Clara County's multilingual population. Each hub participant will receive a marked food waste bucket to take home with instructions about allowed items, collect food waste and then return it to the site. Participants will then have the option to participate directly in the processing and composting of the materials. We will also regularly notify the public about project developments.

## Leadership & Innovation (10 points)

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### **23. Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.**

*If there are project partners, please upload partner letters on the Documents Upload tab.*

This project encourages collaboration and employs innovative strategies as follows:

**Fostering Collaboration & Partnership:** This project will foster partnership and collaboration between the Compost Education Program, Veggielution, Valley Verde, and the San Jose Conservation Corps. By combining each organizations' strengths, the impact of the community composting hub network is amplified.

**Positioning Santa Clara County as a Leader on Food Waste Management & Community Composting:** SB1383, the short-lived climate pollutants law, aims to achieve a 75% reduction in disposal of organic waste statewide by 2025 and will increase pressure on local jurisdictions to develop new models for increasing participation in composting and other waste reduction strategies. One innovative tool for enhancing organic waste management is community composting. We believe that by building a network of community composting hubs, we can increase public understanding of, support for, and participation in community composting and organics diversion. Our replicable model for closed-loop, community-scale composting operations can help achieve the goals of diverting waste from landfills and investing in soil health.

**Promoting Youth Leadership in the Fields of Conservation & Composting:** By creating an opportunity for paid job training in the field of composting and soil health management, this collaborative of partners will train and launch the next generation of food waste management professionals.

## Organizational Capacity (15 points)

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### **24. Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.**

*If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the Fiscal Sponsor and the sponsored organization.*

UCCE has been providing compost training in Santa Clara County for nearly 30 years. Since 2015, the Composting Education Program (CEP) has successfully taught over 3000 Santa Clara County residents at 185 Composting Basics workshops, attended 100+ community events, and visited nearly 100 schools. In the past two years, the CEP has also successfully established three community composting sites throughout Santa Clara County, coordinating with leaders from different organizations to design, permit and install all sites. These sites have served as locations for hands-on workshops, community workdays and volunteer service hours. Furthermore, CEP has developed a training on community composting that covers mid-scale-composting technologies, site management and community composting best practices.

Cole Smith, staff research associate, has extensive experience delivering science-based public outreach and education. Over the past five years he has successfully recruited and trained over 75 Master Composter volunteers, who have delivered composting education through direct engagement to over 5000 K-12 students and 1200 area residents. In addition to providing overall project management, project manager, Lucy Diekmann, UCCE's urban agriculture and food systems advisor, brings experience developing and carrying out citizen science projects. Most recently, she recruited 86 community volunteers to record how much produce they harvested from their gardens for a participatory study of food security in Santa Clara County.

SJCC's portion of the project will be overseen by its Zero Waste & Recycling Director, Louise Bruce, who has a substantial background in community composting and organic waste management in urban contexts. She devoted her early career to advancing composting and organic waste recycling in New York City, as a key climate change intervention. Louise oversaw the NYC Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) organics programs, including the implementation of the nation's largest municipal food and yard waste recycling program, which now serves 3.5 million residents. During her tenure with DSNY, she also created and implemented the inaugural NYC Food Waste Fair, developed an updated curriculum for the NYC Master Composter Program and grew the City's community composting and food scrap drop-off operations.

Both Valley Verde and Veggielution have deep relationships with and knowledge of communities throughout San Jose. They also have extensive experience in community engagement and environmental and agricultural education with low-income, culturally diverse residents. Past and ongoing successes include Veggielution's Eastside Grown and Eastside Connect program and Valley Verde's Home Gardening Program, Super Jardineros Program, and their community greenhouse, where they grow thousands of culturally preferred seedlings. Veggielution serves more than 4,000 individuals annually, placing particular focus on residents of the Mayfair neighborhood.

## **BONUS POINTS: Underserved Communities (10 points)**

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### **25. Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within a Deep Engagement Community (DEC).**

*This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A." A map of the DECs can be found by clicking on "Apply" at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>.*

Through the partnership with Veggielution, Valley Verde, and SJCC, this project actively seeks to engage residents of underserved communities in building climate resilience, engaging in environmental stewardship, and improving access to healthy food. Veggielution's community compost hub in Emma Prusch Park is located in a Deep Engagement Community and their extensive engagement with the East San Jose community will facilitate connecting this community resource to people in the area. While their sites are located just outside the boundaries of Deep Engagement Community areas, both Valley Verde and SJCC are focused on providing opportunities for underserved communities.

Additionally, this grant will allow SJCC to provide compost operations training and leadership opportunities for corpsmembers as described in previous responses. Roughly 90% of corpsmembers are low or very low-income young adults and 30-45% of corpsmembers are homeless or housing insecure. The first step of the SJCC 'earn and learn' model is to assess and stabilize corpsmembers with support services and a job that includes workforce education, training and a connection with a career upon graduation. corpsmembers are also co-enrolled in SJCC's charter high school to complete their diploma which will enable them to earn roughly \$400K more over their working career than if they did not have a diploma. This project will create additional corpsmember work and leadership opportunities.

## BONUS POINTS: Community Building (10 points)

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### 26. Describe how this project actively encourages community building by engaging or accommodating local residents in novel and creative ways.

*This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."*

A community composting program represents a novel way to engage residents in environmental stewardship and with others in their communities. The hub provides a community space for residents to come together to learn about and participate in community composting.

Through the citizen science component of the project, residents also have the opportunity to participate in scientific research and generate new information about the ways in which community composting and climate-smart agricultural practices contribute to climate resilience locally, a topic of great concern and interest for many.

Finally, by training SJCC corpsmembers in composting and soil health management, this project prepares young adults from disadvantaged communities for stable, environmental careers as the next generation of food waste management professionals.

## BONUS POINTS: Climate Resilience (5 points)

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### 27. How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience?

*This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."*

This project's contributions to climate resilience are twofold: first, by diverting food waste from landfills it avoids greenhouse gas emissions, and second, by creating compost it adds to soil carbon stocks. Through monitoring at each community compost hub and with the data collected by citizen scientists, we will be able to measure or estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions and soil carbon associated with the project.

Through training and hands-on experience, participants in the project will build their knowledge of and skills to participate in organic waste diversion and community composting. In addition, the educational materials created to support the project, such as interpretative signs and factsheets, will provide information about the connections between community composting, climate-smart agricultural practices, and climate resilience. These resources will be available for partners to use in their programming and for the general public, who may use them during site visits, workshops, or online. We expect that these educational resources will raise awareness about climate resilience associated with community composting and climate-smart practices in local agriculture.

## Documents Upload [top](#)

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### Documents Requested \*

[Financial Statement](#)

[Project Budget](#)

[download template](#)

[Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement](#)

### Required? Attached Documents \*

✓ [UC Full Financial Report 2018-19](#)

[IRS Determination Letter](#)

[W-9 Form](#)

[Department budget](#)

✓ [Project Budget](#)

[download template](#)

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[Site Control Documentation](#)

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[CEQA Compliance Certification Form](#)

[download template](#)

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[Letters of Support](#)

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[Project Partner Letters](#)

[Valley Verde Partner Letter](#)

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[Veggielution Partner Letter](#)

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[SJCC Partner Letter](#)

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[UCCE Institutional Support Letter](#)

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[Maps and Site Plans](#)

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[Photographs](#)

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[Other](#)

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