



### Greening Preschools Program Background

- The Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council (ECEPC) is a commission established by the state housed at the Alameda County General Services Agency. It is focused on improving the quality, affordability and accessibility of preschool and child care. The Council also focuses on critical needs, like Green Child Care.
- Child care providers are uniquely positioned to influence the habits of young children that they carry with them for their lifetime. Additionally, green child care programs can save much needed money and natural resources by adopting green practices such as recycling.
- With 4Cs of Alameda County, the Planning Council initiated 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot) work in 2011, through a Stop Waste grant to research child care program recycling potential and interest and divert 50 tons of waste from being sent to the landfill.
  - It surpassed initial goals, with direct service changes in several programs and training reaching 43 preschools and 166 teachers in preschools serving 8,626 children.
  - This project also helped us determine that about 70% of a typical preschool program’s waste stream is reusable, recyclable or compostable—consisting of paper towels and tableware.
- In 2012, the Altamont Educational Advisory Board:
  - Allowed the ECEPC to intensify Greening Preschools work by funding a fulltime intern through the Climate Corps Bay Area fellowship program which provides qualified, motivated, and committed interns to work on emissions reductions and climate resiliency projects for 10 months at an affordable rate.
  - Jessica Jetter supported the diversion of 170 tons of waste through direct work with 15 centers.
- In 2013, a grant from Stop Waste funded the second year of Climate Corps. In addition to diverting waste and working with children, Kimberly Hazard helped write a grant to create a new part-time green child care consulting position to develop and manage the next phase of the Greening Preschools Program—the Green Child Care Ambassadors Project. The Ambassadors Project sustains 4Rs implementation and moves beyond recycling into upstream waste reduction and environmental health.
- Alameda County is leading the nation in this important work! The Greening Preschools Program is unique in providing in-depth, hands-on technical assistance to child care providers to promote sustainability and environmental health with materials, curriculum, training and connections to available resources.

