

Trash Talk

Know your Trash to Manage your Trash

October 2017



CCC Sacramento Crew at building 002 Jesse Unruh in Sacramento

Young people are getting involved with solving California's waste problem. The Department of General Services (DGS) partnered with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to contract CodeGreen Solutions to lead a training in October 2017 on how to perform waste audits of state buildings.

Corpsmembers—young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25—sign up for a year of paid service to the State of California. During their year of service, Corpsmembers work on environmental projects and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Through this work, they gain skills and experience that lead to meaningful careers. In fact, Sue Ingle, one of the CalRecycle representatives in attendance, was herself an alumni of the CCC program.

At a time when waste generation per capita in California has increased for the fourth consecutive year (CalRecycle, Feb 2016), the State of California is determined to turn this trend around by reducing waste production and diverting more waste from landfills. Reducing the amount of waste going to landfills has many positive environmental outcomes, including protecting wildlife and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The waste audit training builds on the CCC's tradition of service and provides DGS with helpful reports that inform strategies for waste reduction. These strategies help achieve the Governor's integrated goals of LEED Certification for State buildings (B-18-12), waste reduction (AB 341, Chesbro, Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011), and organics recycling implementation (AB 1826, Chesbro, Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014).

So what is a waste audit? A waste audit characterizes waste streams for a specific building, determines effectiveness of the building's current waste management and recycling program, and identifies opportunities to improve diversion rates and reduce waste at the source. The training broadens the CCC's traditional scope of work and equips Corpsmembers with the skills used in California's growing waste management sector, as the State works towards a goal to reduce waste by 75 percent by 2020 through source reduction and diversion from landfills.

Just one week after receiving the training, the Corpsmembers had already audited the following state buildings in Oakland: 010 Department of Rehab building, 002 Jesse Unruh Building, 003 Library and Courts Building, 51-54 East End Complex, and 602 Elihu Harris.

It is CCC's intention to deploy the training to crews in Los Angeles as well for



Training in Sacramento: CCC Sacramento Crew; Rachel Siska, CCC Supervisor; Matt Henigan, Deputy Secretary of Sustainability, State of CA; Robert Fregosi, CodeGreen; Jonathon Prock, DGS.

CODEGREEN



Training in Sacramento: Patricia Lee, Principal, CodeGreen Solutions; Robert Sofio, FMD, DGS; Jonathon Murry, Custodial Supervisor III, DGS; Jonathon Prock, OBMI, DGS; Matt Henigan, Deputy Secretary of Sustainability, Government Ops.



CCC San Jose & Sacramento Crew at building 602 Elihu Harris in Oakland

[CodeGreen Solutions](#), the firm that delivered the training, is an innovations-focused sustainability and energy management firm contracted by the State of California's Department of General Services to provide turnkey LEED Certification services for state buildings in accordance with Governor's Executive Order B-18-12.

As an example of how impactful a waste audit can be, CodeGreen Solutions was able to reduce waste going to landfill from their own office space from 46 percent to over 90percent after implementing strategies developed from the in-depth waste audit they performed at their office.

(<https://gresb.com/rethinking-waste-management-at-codegreen-solutions/>)

The waste audits that these Corpmembers perform help meet Green Building Action Plan requirements by contributing points towards LEED Certification and providing useful information to meet the AB 341 goals. These audits are cost effective for DGS and provide useful experience and training to the CCC crews. These Corpmembers are qualified, hardworking, and ready to go!