



GO GREEN INITIATIVE

2021 ENGIE MULTI-CITY INTERNSHIP REPORT

JUNE 28, 2021 - JULY 30, 2021



COMPTON - HAYWARD - MADERA - OAKLAND, CA
MENDOTA, IL

INTERNSHIP PROFILE

The Go Green Initiative's 2021 ENGIE internship marks the second annual multi-city internship program, uniting students from multiple cities to support sustainability initiatives in their hometowns.

This year's program focused on **waste reduction and diversion community outreach**.

Thirty-one interns were selected for the virtual internship, representing five cities: Compton, Hayward, Madera, and Oakland, California, as well as Mendota, Illinois. Our 2021 cohort studied waste reduction and diversion laws, regulations, and strategies to educate their communities about **recycling and composting**.

Interns met over **Zoom** for guest speaker presentations and work sessions, and also worked asynchronously in five teams.



By the end of the **4-week program**, interns had accomplished 3 deliverables to bring back to their communities:

- **Educational infographics** about waste laws and regulations
- A **social media toolkit** for World Food Day and America Recycles Day
- An **open-house presentation** delivered to prominent members of their communities



SB 1383, AB 341, AB 1826

WHAT ARE THESE LAWS?

SB 1383

- This law establishes targets to achieve a 50% reduction in level of statewide disposal of organic waste from 2014 by 2020 & a 75% reduction by 2025.
- Requires jurisdictions to manage education & outreach on organics recycling to all.
- Those who don't comply will be subject to fines.

AB 341

- This law helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Statewide mandate that aims to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts.
- Increases recycling services & recycling manufacturing facilities in California cities.

AB 1826

- This law helps to establish an organic waste recycling program.
- It is a statewide mandate that requires businesses to recycle their organic waste.
- It also requires local jurisdictions across California to put organic waste recycling programs in place in order to redirect organic waste.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit:
<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/education>
<https://www.placerita.org/2018/04/01/Commercial-Recycling>
<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycling/commercial/organics>

Infographic by Team G

HOW TO FIND YOUR CITY'S RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING INFORMATION

Step 1
Search to find your city's website

Step 2
Look for categories titled "Departments", "Government", "Services" or "Information on solid waste codes"

Step 3
Look for keywords like "Public Works" or "Municipal Utilities"

Step 4
Get involved! Look for your city's waste haul company's website. There, you should find composting and recycling programs in your area.

Step 5
Scroll to find how your city handles its waste, recycling, and composting

What can I compost?
Organic materials like leaves, grass, lumber and food scraps are compostable!

What can I recycle?
Most cans, plastic bottles, and cardboard are recyclable. Make sure that these containers do not contain toxic materials and chemicals such as motor oil, pesticides, etc. You should drop these items off at a different facility such as a used oil collection center.

Sources: CalRecycle.ca.gov, Waste Management Presentation

Infographic by Team H



Open House Presentation

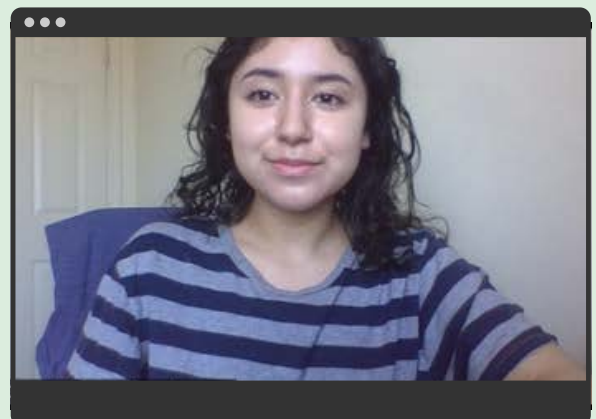
Four weeks of hard work culminated in a final presentation delivered to prominent members of interns' own communities. During this time, interns showcased their mastery of waste reduction and diversion regulations and presented shareable tools and resources they had developed throughout the program.

Interns educated audience members about waste streams and systems and the California laws and regulations that apply. They also shared knowledge about how to locate local resources specific to any community and provided access to their infographics, DIY videos, and media toolkit.

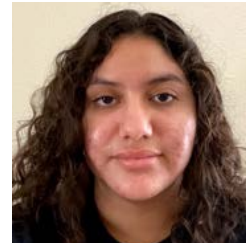
Attendees included city and school district leaders who worked together in break-out rooms to discuss implementation strategies.



[Watch final presentation here](#)



Meet our Multi-City Cohort!



Interns Represent a Wide Range of Schools:

1 Student attending UC Berkeley

12 Students from Compton, CA

- Centennial High School
- Compton Early College
- Compton High School
- Dominguez High School

3 Students from Hayward, CA

- Hayward High school

3 Students from Oakland, CA

- Skyline High School

10 Students from Madera, CA

2 Student from Mendota, IL



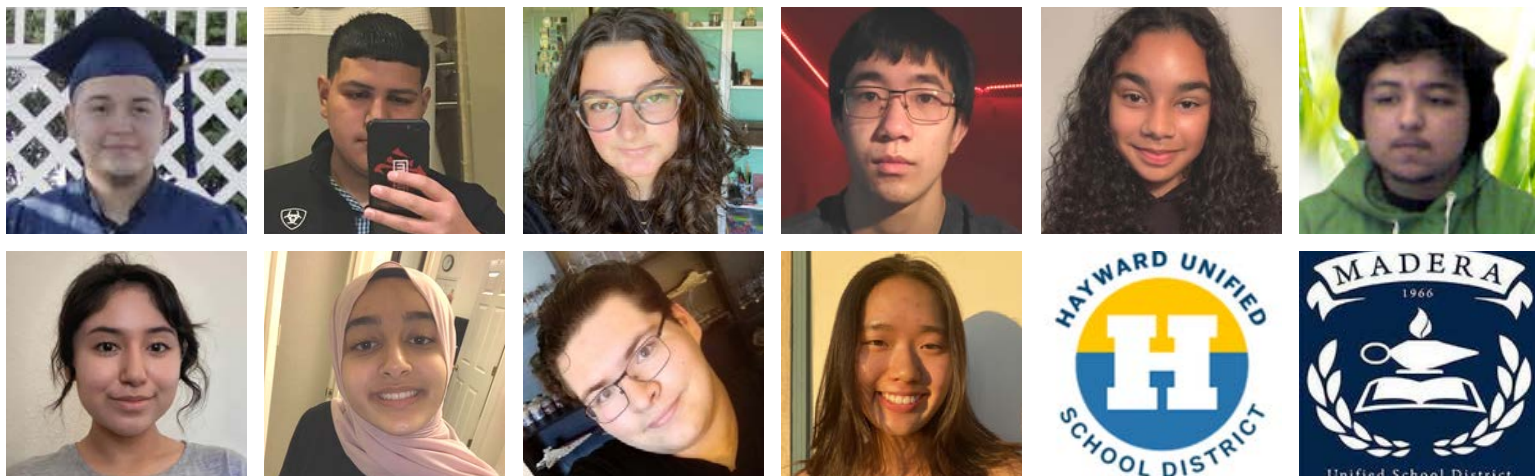
31 *high school and
college interns*

5 *hometowns*

\$29,428.79
in intern salary

\$1,087.68
in scholarships





Knowledge-based and professional skills

During our 4-week program, interns were trained in targeted professional and knowledge-based skills.

Professional skills included:

- Creating and delivering professional, targeted presentations for key stakeholders
- Communicating difficult information clearly and concisely
- Designing effective and engaging marketing materials using tools such as Canva

Knowledge skills included:

- Effectively articulating sorting rules and procedures
- Understanding waste systems and their broader impacts on water and air quality in our communities
- Developing applied working knowledge of state waste laws such as SB 1383



Interns produced DIY videos to integrate into their media campaign.

Passion Projects Collaboration

As has become tradition in our program, interns had the opportunity to dedicate some time to a Passion Project. Interns formed teams based on shared interest and presented a brief overview of an important environmental issue.

This year, Multi-City ENGIE interns and Pleasanton GGI Interns met virtually to pursue their passion projects together. Jointly, the teams created **11 presentations** on topics including biodiversity loss, drought and water supply, climate change, and environmental justice.



Food deserts presentation



Guest Speaker Highlights

Multi-City ENGIE interns interacted with a number of notable guest speakers, who shared their **environmental expertise, industry knowledge, and personal career journeys.**

CalRecycle

Organics Management Unit & Schools Team

In the first week of their program, our interns met with two teams from CalRecycle: the Organics Management Unit and the Schools Team. Speakers included Environmental Scientists Curie Canuela, Victoria Ngo, and Esmeralda Alvarado.

Presenters shared insights into laws and regulations governing waste in California, as well as enforcement processes and recycling and compost systems infrastructure across the state. They also discussed their experience supporting outreach and compliance at schools and the varying environmental justices challenges they encounter.



Waste Management

Tianna Nourot, Senior Environmental Protection Manager

In the second week of programming, interns were joined by Tianna Nourot, a Senior Environmental Protection Manager with Waste Management. Tiana reviewed landfill and transfer station sustainability and discussed site specifics of landfill operations in California and Illinois.



Los Angeles County Public Works

Coby Skye, Assistant Deputy Director

Final guest speaker of the program, Coby Skye, Division Head of Environmental Programs Division at Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, provided a panel discussion on L.A. County's role in enforcing state waste regulations and inspecting landfills.



A Word From Our Interns



"My confidence in the field of environmentalism is definitely stronger. I now have a greater understanding in a wide variety of fields including marketing, public relations and policy, and environmental sciences. I am thankful to meet a diverse group of individuals who I will hopefully see throughout my career."
- **Giovanni Prudente**

"The best part of the internship was the professional and personal growth I noticed. During this internship, I furthered my organizational skills and leadership skills, as well as my time management skills. Before this internship, I wasn't as comfortable and used to collaborating with different people in a fast-paced environment. Now, however, I have more experience and have seen such a positive change and growth in myself. It was a great opportunity and I would do it over again! I've grown so much professionally and as a person thanks to this experience." - **Noely Recinos**



"The most beneficial portion of my experience during this internship was the team leadership. As the team lead, I was able to practice and organize more tasks which showed me that I love to lead and help other people! The one thing I would changed about the internship is the length of it--I would love if it had lasted longer!" - **Katherine Ramirez**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR!



"Every part of the internship was a great learning experience and it was all extremely valuable. I would like to personally thank ENGIE for collaborating with my community. In Madera, we do not really have opportunities to be a part of a big project such as the Go Green Initiative. But thanks to ENGIE, I was able to accomplish something amazing and be a part of this internship.
- **Fatima Gonzalez**

"One of my favorite moments during the internship was realizing how much we've all improved not only in our work ethic but our communication and teamwork skills. This experience will help me with my teamwork abilities and public speaking skills going forward. I will remember all the tips that our staff and guest speakers had suggested in improving my abilities to the fullest. I appreciate this opportunity and would love to do it again!"
- **Stephanie Urbina**



To learn about the Go Green Initiative's
internship programs visit:
gogreeninitiative.org



Let's stay in touch!

