



DATE: September 10, 2020

TO: Programs and Administration Committee
Planning Committee/Recycling Board

FROM: Jeanne Nader, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Community Based Outreach Project – Partnering with Urban Farms

SUMMARY

StopWaste is partnering with urban farms across Alameda County to implement carbon farming and soil building practices on their sites, and to conduct outreach with the greater community on building healthy soil with compost and mulch. At the September 10 committee meetings, staff will provide a summary of strategies and resources, including current examples of efforts underway with our urban farm partners.

DISCUSSION

StopWaste’s Community Based Outreach Project has educated and engaged community based organizations and community leaders over the last three years on the food cycle (how to get the most out of food, sort food waste properly, and use and/or make compost to grow more food). Strategies for working with urban farms include soil testing for levels of carbon sequestration, workshops designed to enable information to ripple out into the community, grants, and more.

Through the StopWaste Environmental Educator Training (SWEET), Community Outreach Grants and partnerships with urban farms, our work has shifted over time to a train-the-trainer model to more effectively bring this information to residents and organizations. Our urban farm partners are uniquely positioned to support this model, as they have deep connections in the community through their work with food donation partners and food insecure communities. They also serve as living models for urban carbon farming practices, which residents and cities can easily replicate.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.