

Waste Wise Business Spotlight

Caleruega Hall,
Dominican University
100 Magnolia Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901



Secret to Success:

- Collaborative effort between Dominican University, Epicurean Group and Marin Sanitary Service

Major Gains:

- Currently diverting almost 2 tons of organic waste from landfill/week

To start the school year with sustainability in mind, Dominican University introduced **composting in Caleruega Dining Hall**. Dominican faculty members, Alice Cochran, M.Ed., and John Duvall, Ph.D., were instrumental in orchestrating a collaborative effort to launch the compost program this past August. In recent years multiple factors lined up for Dominican to kick start their efforts including a state composting bill (**AB 1826**), a **student research project**, support from the faculty/staff Sustainability Committee, and a willing partner in the **Epicurean Group**, Dominican's food service provider.

Epicurean Group, students, faculty and staff at Dominican, and Marin Sanitary Service were all **active players** in implementing Dominican's composting program. Now instead of 4 landfill bins, there are **4 compost bins** and just **one small landfill** container adjacent to the bins! Over 100 students pledged to start composting prior to its launch, and the staff and students who eat at Caleruega are happy with the change and have adjusted to the new system.

Since starting this program, Dominican has diverted almost **2 tons of material per week** from going to the landfill. Because of their efforts, the Caleruega Dining Hall was able to reduce their landfill bin by 25% and is looking for more ways to reduce their waste.

For more info & other Waste Wise Spotlights visit:
CityofSanRafael.org/Green-Business-Highlights/



Saving Money and the Environment by Being Waste-Wise

How to Begin a Composting Program

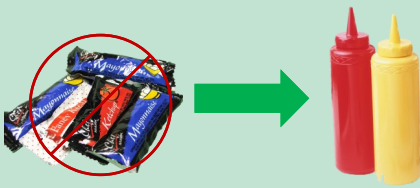
- Work with your food service provider and other staff to identify issues and opportunities
- Engage interested diners to help champion the effort
- Contact Marin Sanitary Service to do an assessment and set up composting service
- Get the right bins that work for you, your staff, your space, & how much organic waste you produce
- Use proper signage with images and color coordinate bins
- Train your staff well



Advice for Your Business

Implementing a compost program in large institutions will require thorough planning with a number of stakeholders. However, once implemented, the changes will feel more routine, you may even start having monetary savings **and** it will benefit the environment.

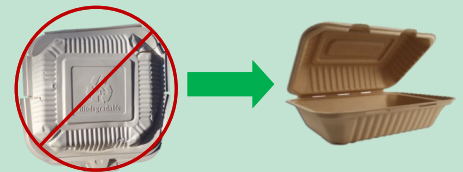
How to Reduce Waste



Replace single-serve packets with bulk containers for condiments and seasonings.



Clear signage with pictures on waste bins help customers know which items can be composted.



Avoid “compostable plastic” or “biodegradable plastic” often do not break down at composting



For more information go to: CityofSanRafael.org/Green-Business-Highlights/MarinSanitaryService.com also has a wealth of resources that can help ensure your commercial recycling & composting programs are a success!