

Employee Spotlight: *The Green Kitchen Myth Buster* – Marlena Gallegos

– By Cindy Giuliani, Business License Division



Marlena Gallegos has been with the City of San Rafael since 2008. She's a committed carpooler who works upstairs in City Hall with Community Development and has been the go-to person for years regarding all things kitchen. Ever since she can remember, she has been looking for solutions to reduce waste, save money, and has been a proponent of change for the greater good.

Some of the projects she's helped implement in the last few years include a transition from paper products to biodegradable products, and finally to reusable dishes and silverware; she set up recycling stations in the kitchen; and in support of City Hall becoming a Certified Green Business, she exchanged harsh cleaning products with environmentally preferred products. Perhaps her most impressive gift to the City Hall office kitchen is a set of her very own dishtowels that she brings home to wash.

When asked if she had any suggestions for keeping a low maintenance AND green kitchen, Marlena said that it's key to remember the bigger picture and be flexible. She says when everyone pitches in, it's easy to accomplish any goal and there are often unintended benefits.

Thanks for your support in achieving the City's sustainability goals, Marlena!

Love,
Your Employee Green Team