


## **THE IMPORTANCE OF**

# Community (& Backyard) Scale Composting and Regenerative Practices in Urban Environments

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- 
- A photograph of a garden. In the foreground, two striped pumpkins (one green and black, one yellow and black) are resting on a bed of straw. Behind them are various green plants, including leafy greens and what appears to be a tomato plant with some red fruit. The background is filled with more dense green foliage.
- 1. What is Community Composting**
  - 2. Benefits to Urban Environment**
  - 3. **New!** Threats to CC - (Big Waste)**
  - 4. Useful Regenerative Practices**

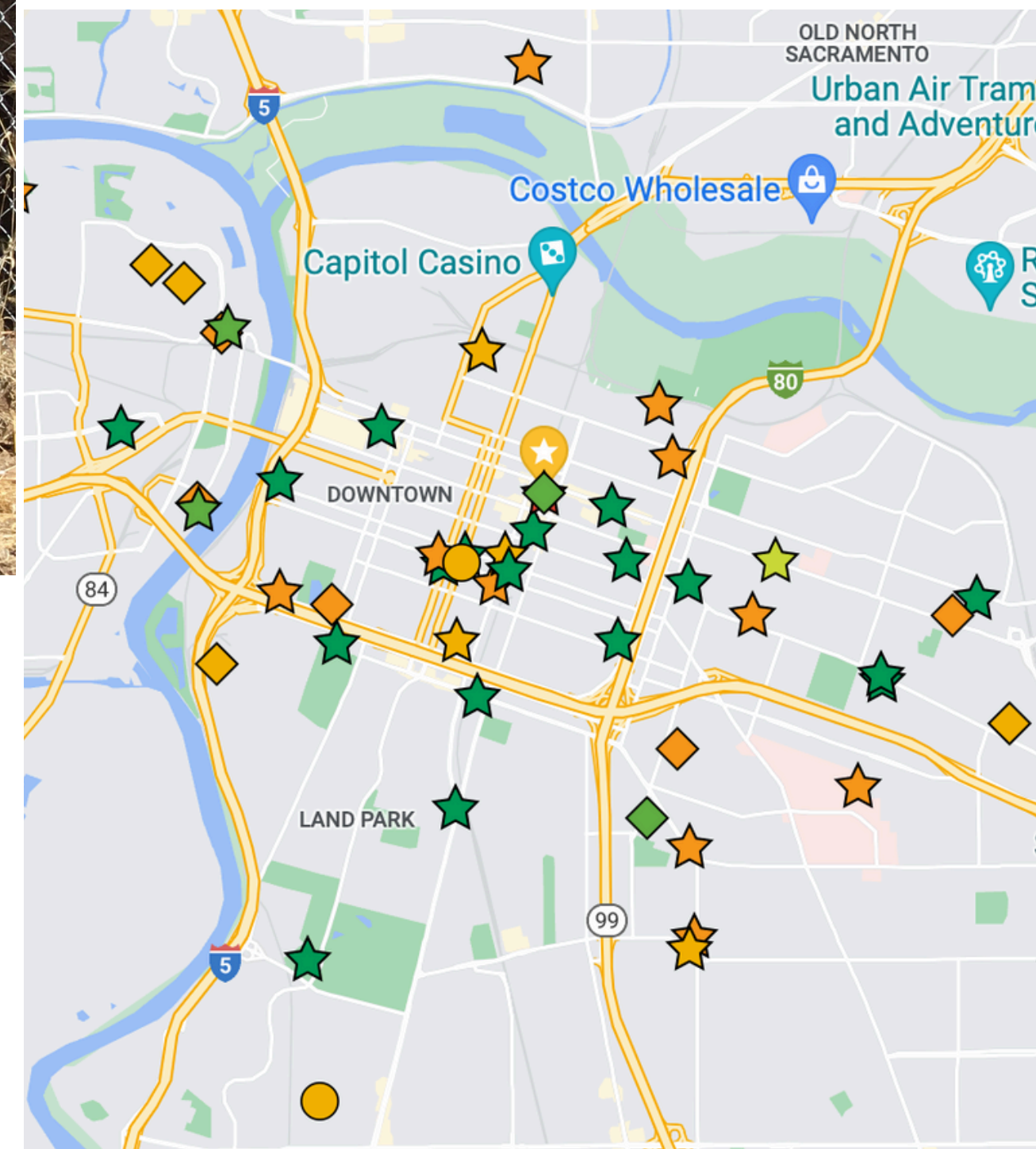


- 1.9 million lbs diverted to local soils.
- 25 + Farm-to-Fork Restaurants,
- Midtown Farmers Market, Residential

- 20+ Community gardens, urban farms, schools, private residences.
- Decentralized Network, Low tech.

**We want your food scraps!**

ESTABLISHED 2001  
**SELLAND'S**  
MARKET - CAFE





# 2015 Year of Soils

- Marin-Carbon Project
- United Nations - Year of Soils
- NYC Community Compost Report
- France 4 per 1000
- Regenerative Agricultural Techniques  
Kiss the Ground • Austin's Compost Peddlers

## Community Composting is a movement to keep food scraps local.

- Institute for Local Self-Reliance ILSR.org  
NYC, Atlanta, Cleveland, Austin, Florida
- CACC - CA Alliance for Community Composting  
LA Compost, Inika San Diego, Paradise, etc



# Community/Backyard Composting

1) “Highest and Best” Use

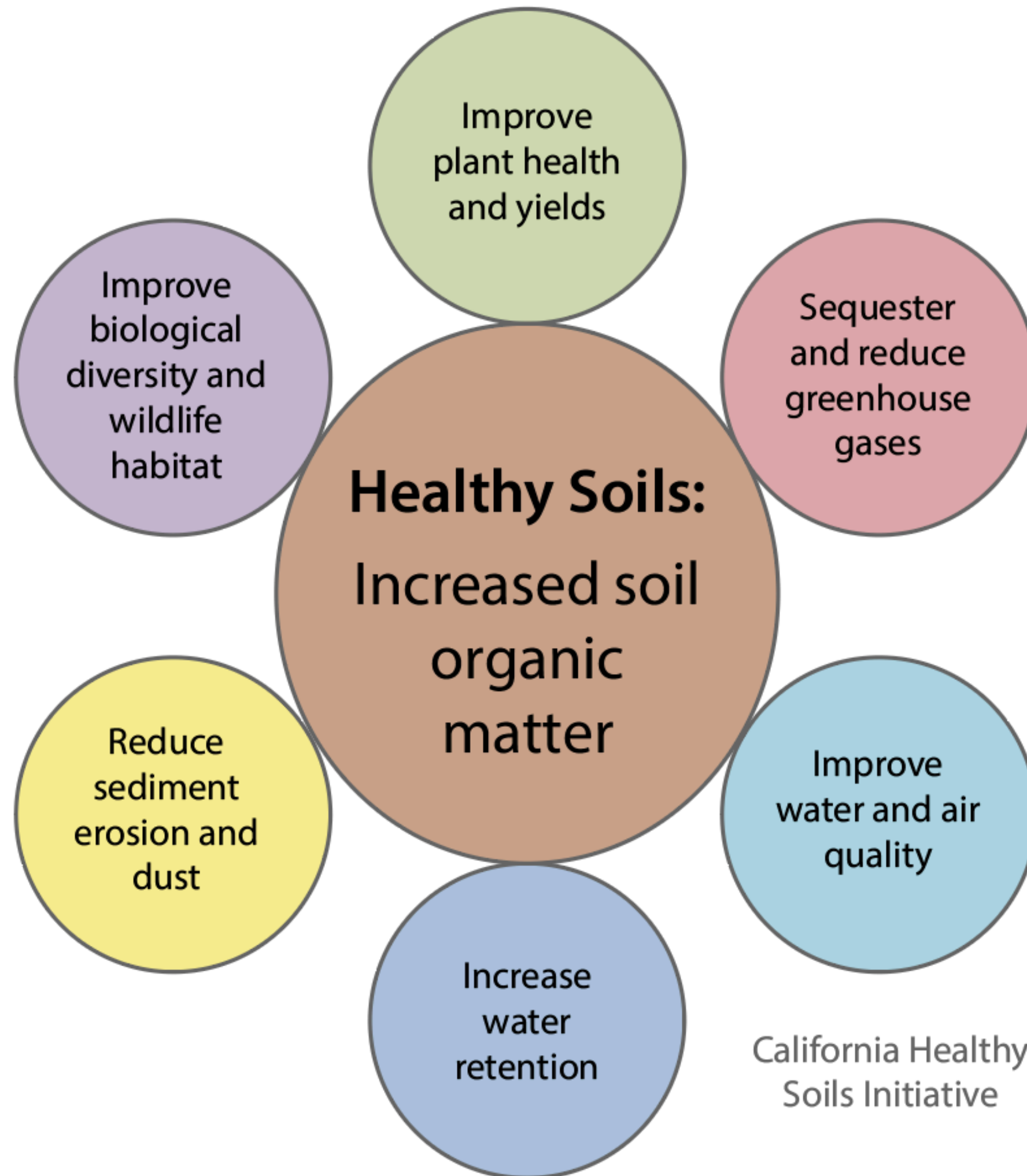
2) Not just eliminate greenhouse gases.

Regenerate our City  
Grow food, build climate-resilience,

3) Strategy: Increase SOM,  
Soil Organic Matter (Carbon)



# Healthy Soils



Feed Soil Life



An aerial photograph of a city street, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings. The street is paved with asphalt and has a red curb on the left side. The buildings are mostly multi-story structures with various colors and architectural styles. The overall scene is a dense urban environment.

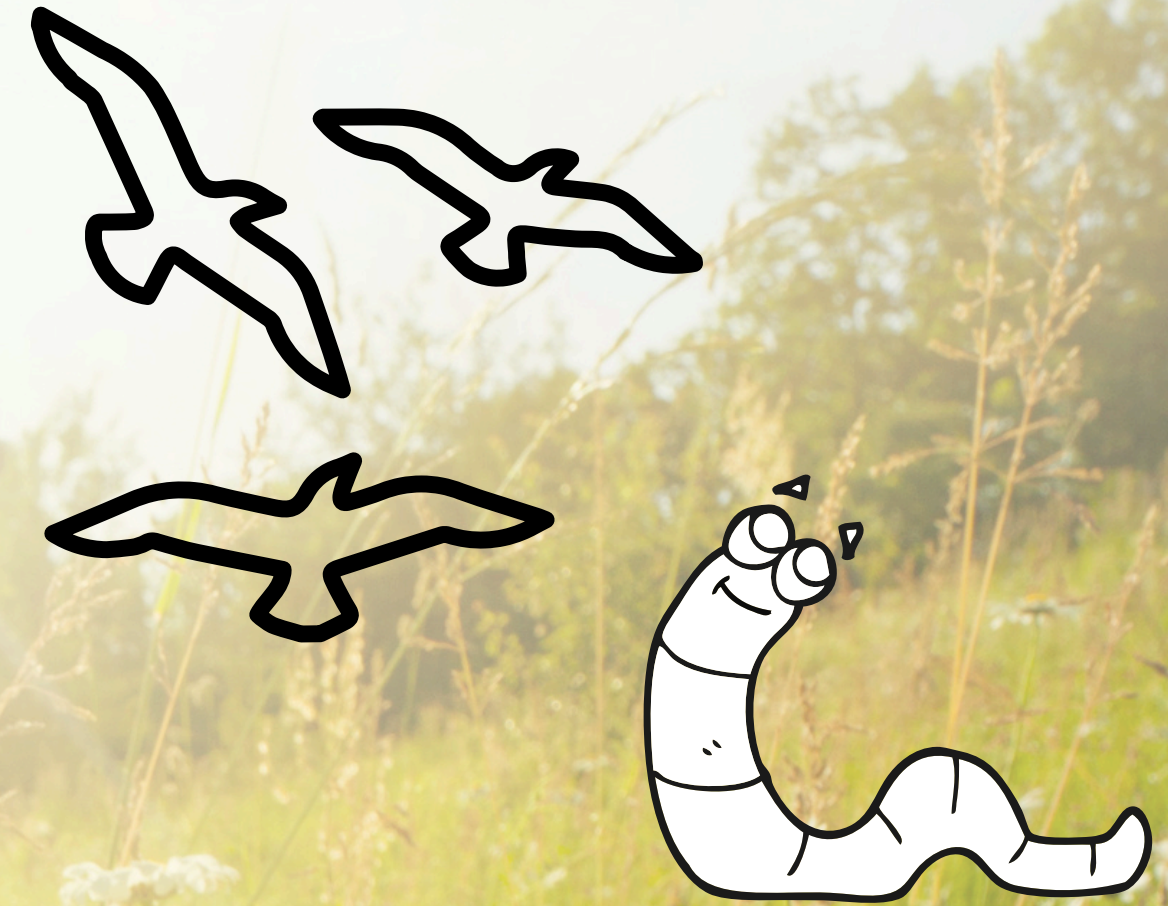
# Urban Soils are the Foundation of Healthy Communities

## **ADDRESSING:**

- **Flood**
  - **Drought**
  - **Urban Heat Index**  
**Trees/Greenspaces**
  - **Food/ Medicine**  
**Food Deserts**
  - **Eco-System Biodiversity**
  - **Water Run-off into River**
  - **Clean Air**
- 
- **Concrete and Pavement: impermeable surfaces in urban environments**

# Regenerative

In terms of Carbon, Organic Matter, and Life



## "Regenerative"

We cannot sustain our current conditions, but must build them up.

In terms of Carbon

## Regenerative Ag Practices

A new paradigm of farming and land management that seeks to emulate nature.

## Regenerative Matter

Compost has regenerative potential. 5 lbs of compost can potentially generate hundreds of lbs of carbon.



# Threats to Community Composting

(foreshadowing BIG WASTE)

- Education (value of compost)
- GRAS w/Atlas Disposal
- “Farm-to-Fork-to-Fuel  
Capital” • ReSoil took back on  
bikes



# BIG WASTE



- SB1383 - State Mandate
  - Lost 90% residential collections
  - Fight to keep restaurant contracts
  - Other Cities not allowed (LA, SF, SD)
- Waste Management/Republic Services
- Bio-fuel (CNG) for trucks, energy
- Infrastructure & Profit Motive
- Mediated relationship to nature. Experts, technology, industry ex. San Francisco (Recology). No CC.

# BIG WASTE



## Municipal Solutions

- Municipal Compost
  - FREE! 4 yards.
  - Contamination: plastics, PFAS, wood chips. Not Recology (SF)
- Municipal Organics Collections
  - Dedicated to Bio Fuels
  - Republic - new Sacramento organics transfer station. Investment in Digester (BP)

# What can be Done?

- Keep our food scraps out of the bins of BIG WASTE.  
Sow them into the ground.

## Regenerative Practices

- Keep feeding the soil.
- Cover and protect the soil.
- Don't disturb the soil and its worm life.
- Cover crops and Perennials.
- Capture water from rooftops into soil



# Our Role

**Our food scraps are the regenerative matter that we need to build a climate resiliency.**

- Soil Stewards
- Practicing the art of Soil Husbandry
- Microherders

**Make our landscapes a carbon sink.  
Grow foods, medicines, pollinator  
gardens, greenspaces & trees.**

- No desert landscapes, rocks or xeriscapes.
- Regenerative - full of life, water, growth



~ Douglas Tallamy

All together we can do this...  
each with just a small patch  
of soil (and/or food scraps.)

We can embed carbon into  
Sacramento soils to create climate-  
resilient landscapes and  
regenerative communities.

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California Alliance for Community Composting  
[CACC.org](http://CACC.org)



Thank You!