



The Fairmont Hotel in downtown San José sits across from Plaza de César and former site of California's first state capital.

Located at a site rich with history and innovation, The Fairmont Hotel management and staff are quickly becoming a concierge of sustainability; a recycling role model for the hospitality industry, by implementing responsible waste management practices inherent to the City of San José's Wet/Dry Program. The Fairmont Hotel is poised for a successful transition to maximum landfill diversion with minimal impact on the environment.

With over 550 rooms and four restaurants, the establishment generates a substantial amount of paper and organic waste. Prior to the Wet/Dry Program, the hotel was unable to recycle food, soiled paper, and cardboard items. These items are essential component of the organics portion of the Wet/Dry Program – and now, are not going to the landfill.

In order to achieve the best results under the Wet/Dry Program, a Republic Services recycling coordinator set-up several site-visits addressing questions and concerns unique to the operations of a large hotel to enable their success implementing the program.



Republic Services met with key staff and thoroughly assessed their waste stream and recommended service levels, procedures, and containers. At another visit, department managers were given a presentation explaining the details of the program and how their respective areas could contribute. At the final visit, training was provided and literature and stickers distributed in English and Spanish.

Today, the significant array of the waste the hotel generates, from both its rooms and restaurants, has become a valuable commodity, now, compost materials rich with organic compounds.

In a few months, The Fairmont Hotel has enthusiastically embraced the new Wet/Dry Program. The hotel conquered the challenges of implementing a large-scale process with many employees across multiple departments. Bringing everyone on board took time, patience, and the use gentle reminders about the Wet/Dry Program and its positive impact on our environment.

As evidenced by the green and blue painted wall behind the wet and dry receptacles in the employee cafeteria, The Fairmont Hotel is clearly on its way to a “greener” future.