

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future

Subcommittee Meeting

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra CA 91803
Conference Rooms B & C

Thursday, July 14, 2016
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Vanessa Olivas, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves.
- Noted that this was the first Roadmap meeting all Department Recycling Coordinators were invited to attend.
- Asked Departments to provide updates on any programs/projects initiated or enhanced as a result of the Roadmap to include in the Second Annual Report to the Board.

Product Life Cycle: How Green is that Product?

Panel Discussion (Slide [#3](#))

- Presentation and discussion on the lifecycle of products. A segment of the video, [“The Story of Stuff,”](#) was played for the group.
- Armando Aguilar, Public Works, spoke on the environmental costs of manufacturing, packaging & shipping, and use and reuse. Each of these steps in the product lifecycle uses up resources and creates pollution and waste.
- Christine Wong, Public Works, spoke on trash collection within the unincorporated County areas. The County currently has 21 residential franchise contracts and 7 garbage disposal districts.
 - Haulers are required to provide a three cart system and residents are required to sort their trash.
- Chris Sheppard, Public Works, discussed the County’s commercial franchise contracts. The County has 39 haulers that service the unincorporated areas. The County does not set rates, but does determine what must be accepted for recycling.
 - There is a lot of confusion amongst the public on what is recyclable and what isn’t. More standardization and education is needed.
 - Styrofoam is not on our list of recyclables. However, a meeting participant noted that Dart Container Corporation will take Styrofoam for free.

- Jalaine Madrid, Public Works, spoke on the processing of waste. Once the waste is collected, it is taken to transfer stations or material recovery facilities (MRFs) where it is sorted for recycling or taken to a landfill.
 - These facilities are often placed in urban, populated communities. They are not always popular with the public, but are very important in managing our waste.
 - A major concern is that recycling mandates have created a large supply of recyclable materials while demand for them fluctuates and foreign markets are unreliable.
 - Materials not diverted are sent to landfills. Per CalRecycle's 2016 report, Californians disposed a total of 31 million tons of waste.
 - Public Works is supportive of conversion technologies, which take post-recycled materials and convert them to renewable energy.
- Tranette Sanders, Public Works, discussed how to handle household hazardous waste (HHW).
 - The County collects hazardous waste in three ways:
 - Permanent collection centers in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, as well as our own centers.
 - Temporary collection events held in different areas of the County every weekend.
 - A program with Goodwill for electronic waste (E-waste) collection.
 - Information on battery, sharps, and used oil collection was shared with the group.
 - Reuse centers save usable cleaners, chemicals, paints etc. so they can be reused by the public again. Thousand Oaks recently opened a reuse center.
- Amy Hammes from the City of Burbank promoted a screening of the food waste documentary, "[Just Eat It](#)," at the Burbank Central Library on August 15, 2016.

Breakout Sessions

- County Unincorporated Communities – Curbside collection options to maximize material recovery
 - Key Issues (Strategy 1, Initiatives C and D)
 - High Cost of organics collection, there is a lack of political will to raise rates on customers.
 - The true cost of recycling is hidden and there is a perception that the service is free and makes money for haulers.
 - Lack of infrastructure available to process organic waste.
 - Lack of enforcement mechanisms that mandate both/either residents and/or waste haulers to participate in organics collection.
 - Recommendations
 - Increase the States Solid Waste Management Fee to \$5 - \$10 per ton in order to provide funding that could subsidize the cost of organics collection.
 - Encourage Extended Producer Responsibility to deal with packaging.
 - Encourage residents to participate in backyard composting that will be subsidized by the Cities.
 - Start charging for recycling services.
- Regional/Countywide – Overcoming obstacles; increasing the recyclables market, developing facilities to recycle locally, or convert unrecyclable packaging
 - Recycling Obstacles

- Availability of recycling programs Countywide (some Departments only have paper recycling available to them), battery recycling is sporadic.
 - Lack of education regarding recycling options from waste haulers both at home (particularly with multi-family units) and in the office. (Strategy 4, Initiative A1)
 - A discussion took place regarding home recycling availability from various waste haulers.
 - Varied from no recycling at all to a 3 bin system
 - Same company could have different recycling practices for different cities/types of residents
 - Example: Athens – Altadena: Separate recycling bins; Temple City: No recycling bins
 - Packaging
 - Many products are unrecyclable, due to layers of mixed material when manufactured.
 - Too much packaging is used for shipping, particularly due to huge increase in online shopping.
 - Solutions
 - Work with manufacturers to change the way things are packaged (Strategy 1, Initiative A3.b)
 - Potential ordinance
 - Create PSAs that reach more people to help educate them.
 - Increase composting, both at home and in the workplace where available.
- **County Operations – County’s purchasing power: contract language to reduce waste generated**
 - Packaging
 - Buy in bulk - larger orders have a lower per item cost (Strategy 1, Initiative A1)
 - Have products delivered in minimal packaging, made of reusable, recycled-content, or recyclable materials while still providing adequate protection and timely delivery methods. (Strategy 1, Initiative A1)
 - Research into alternative methods to securely and efficiently provide condiments at County facilities instead of placing individual packets. (Strategy 1, Initiative A6.b)
 - Research cost savings/other impacts in switching from paying vendor to haul waste to include spec language in supply purchasing contract to provide take-back of catalog products that generate h/e-waste, paperboard waste, foam packaging waste, etc. (Strategy 2, Initiative B3)
 - Office supply vendors - electronics, batteries, cleaning supplies, paper, cardboard, foam packaging
 - Electronic supply vendors - electronics, batteries, foam packaging
 - Paper supply vendor - paper, cardboard
 - Janitorial supply vendor - cleaning supplies, bins/carts
 - For new contracts and renewals of facilities services, have contractors provide/maintain 1 trash bin per group of workstations, and only provide mini trash bins as needed. (Strategy 2, Initiative B3)
 - Increase sustainability of purchased products through staff outreach by Recycling Coordinators.
 - Proper use of recycling bins and trash bins. (Strategy 4, Initiative B1)

- Reusing supplies - paper, physical file folders and binders. (Strategy 4, Initiative B1)
 - Staff events - distribute functional & reusable giveaways. (Strategy 4, Initiative A1)
 - Train department facilities maintenance & ISD janitorial staffs – on how to maintain community trash bins instead of individual trash bins before the practice is implemented. (Strategy 4, Initiative B3)
- **Outreach and Education – Changing purchasing habits: Where does that go after use?**
 - Sustainability Flyer
 - In review for distribution
 - “Bring Your Own” Campaign
 - Discussed next steps to develop the Bring Your Own (BYO) Countywide campaign.
 - BYO flyer for County Departments is being reviewed/updated.
 - BYO Campaign can incorporate some fun contests, i.e. ugly mug/plate contest.
 - How do we change purchasing habits?
 - Purchase with the end in mind
 - Policies
 - Outreach and Education
 - Purchase giveaways that are functional and reusable that can also promote our BYO Campaign.
 - Open Discussion
 - Purchasing recycling bin and trash can combo
 - Recycling bin is bigger than the trash can thereby encouraging more recycling than trashing.
 - Installing hydration stations to encourage the use of reusable water bottles instead of disposable water bottles.

Next Steps and Open Discussion

- A representative from each subcommittee provided a brief summary of their subcommittee’s discussions.

Next Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

County Operations	
Maral Tashjian	Beaches & Harbors
Beda Sasis	DPSS
Wendy Mercado	Internal Services
Michelle Holstein	Probation
Fabiola Carrillo	Regional Planning
Cesar Sevilla	Registrar Recorder/County Clerk
Mike Kosoyan	Registrar Recorder/County Clerk
Richard Sigur	Sheriff

Outreach and Education	
Scott Hunter	ACWM
Michael Thacker	Algalita
Amy Hammes	City of Burbank
Leigh Behrens	Long Beach DPW
Bernadette Garcia-Silva	Public Health
Dorcas Hanson Lugo	Public Health
Monica Galimberti	Public Health
Diana Lee	Public Works - EPD

County Operations - Continued	
Mike Jones	Treasurer and Tax Collector
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works - EPD

Outreach and Education - Continued	
Theresa Hernandez	Public Works - EPD
Tranette Sanders	Public Works - EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works - EPD

Regional/Countywide	
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner-Coroner
Sergio Bravo	Mental Health
Armando Aguilar	Public Works - EPD
Carlos Slythe	Public Works - EPD
Jalaine Madrid	Public Works - EPD
Mackenzie Domann	Public Works - EPD
Trishena Robinson	Public Works - EPD

County Unincorporated Communities	
Marge Santos	CEO
Mike Wiederkehr	City of Glendale
Kristen Holdsworth	Regional Planning
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts
Chris Sheppard	Public Works - EPD
Christine Wong	Public Works - EPD
Suk Chong	Public Works - EPD