

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future Working Group Meeting

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

Wednesday, October 11, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Vanessa Olivas, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves.
- Attendees were informed that the Roadmap Annual Report was being finalized and would be filed by October 19, 2017.
- The meeting was conducted as a group discussion. Instead of having the usual breakout sessions, the group will have an opportunity to hear about the new Public Works' food waste recycling program implemented in the HQ's cafeteria followed by a tour to see the new signage and look of the waste and recycling receptacles.

Bring Your Own ("BYO") Campaign

Vanessa Olivas, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#3](#))

- The Bring Your Own (BYO) campaign has three new flyers encouraging people to bring their own utensils and containers during work and leisure time. Flyers for BYO at Play and BYO at Work were presented to the group.
- Radio advertisements for the BYO campaign in English and Spanish have been created as part of a media campaign. The English ad was broadcast in August and September, generating over 9 million impressions, which includes social media. The ads were played for the group.
- Vanessa Olivas participated in Facebook Live segments with radio station José 103.1 FM, where listeners were educated about the BYO program, tips on reusables were shared and questions were answered.
 - Examples of some of the tips that were shared include using reusable water bottles, mason jars as keepsakes at parties, and investing in reusable tablecloths instead of using disposable plastic tablecloths.
- The BYO flyers will be shared with other County departments so they can share them with their staff.

Discussion:

- Public Works will work on making the BYO flyers customizable so other departments can make them applicable to their own needs.
- Several non-profits have created a “Rethink the Drink” campaign to reduce the use of plastic bottles, there may be an opportunity for collaboration.
- Last year our beverage container recycling campaign with the Los Angeles Dodgers highlighted the huge amount of money in the form of CRV buried in landfills.

Interior Removal Specialist, Inc. (IRS Demo) Tour Summary

Armando Aguilar, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#8](#))

- On September 7th and 13th, members of the working group had an opportunity to tour Interior Removal Specialist Inc.’s (IRS) facility in South Gate, CA. The company was founded in 1994 by Carlos Herrera and specializes in commercial interior renovation and demolition.
- They are the only commercial interior demolition contractor that offers demolition, hauling and recycling services completely in-house. Unlike most contractors, they strive to recycle and reuse as many materials as possible from their projects.
- They have a large 130,000 sq. ft. warehouse full of furniture and equipment left over from their demolition jobs. These items are made available to various non-profits and charities free of charge. Some examples of those who have benefited from donations of items they have acquired include:
 - Churches and chapels in Mexico (building materials)
 - An orphanage in Romania (industrial kitchen)
 - Schools and shelters in the LA area (various items)
 - Local film and theatre students who are building sets
- IRS has a construction and demolition facility that is permitted to receive 3,000 tons of material per day. Anything that can be recycled or reused is diverted from landfills, including drywall, which most contractors do not bother recycling. Since gypsum in drywall can be used as a soil amendment the drywall they receive is reused in agriculture.
- Most contractors will recycle the easy materials such as wood, metals, cardboard and concrete and trash the rest. IRS takes items that would otherwise be discarded such as carpet, drywall and ceiling tile and recycles them, bringing their recycling rate to 79% of all materials, while most contractors recycle about 36%.
- IRS’s diversion rate is third-party certified, unlike most other recyclers, who self-report their own rates.

Discussion of Food Waste Recycling Implementation at Public Works

Clark Ajwani and Kawsar Vazifdar, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#12](#))

- An overview of the legislation that is driving food waste recycling in the County was provided to the group. Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826) requires commercial entities, including County facilities, generating over a certain threshold of organic waste to sign up for organic recycling services, while Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) requires California to reduce organic waste disposal by 50% from 2014 levels by 2020 and 75% by 2025.
- There are about 100 County facilities contracting for waste hauling services through Internal Services Department (ISD) that are required to comply with AB 1826. Letters have been sent to all County Departments’ Facility Managers to notify them of the

requirements of AB 1826. There are additional County facilities not contracting for waste hauling services through ISD that are also likely required to comply with AB 1826.

- A summary of key waste management laws will be added to the Roadmap website to make it easy for members to educate staff at their home departments.
- The organic waste that must be recycled under AB 1826 requirements includes food waste, green waste, and food-soiled paper. However, some haulers have restrictions on the types of organic waste they will pick up. For example, Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility, where Public Works' food waste goes, will only accept source-separated food waste, so green waste must be recycled separately.
- Public Works is here to help all Departments set up their own food waste recycling program at their facilities.
- Public Works' cafeteria previously only had two types of waste bins, a trash bin and a beverage container recycling bin. For the new program, we added bins for food waste only.
- Outreach materials were developed to inform employees of the new program. The outreach materials have two main points to communicate; how to separate and discard food waste, and why it is important to recycle food waste.
 - An important part of the success of the program is having clear signage. At Public Works' cafeteria, signage is color-coded and pictures show what goes in each bin to make it as easy as possible.
 - The food waste recycling program will start at the cafeteria and will eventually be expanded to Public Works breakrooms and conference rooms.
- Clear plastic bags were chosen for the cafeteria bins so that it is easier to see if employees are disposing of their food waste correctly. If the bins have a lot of contamination, staff will know to do a better job of communicating the message to employees.
- The distinction between compostable and digestible materials was discussed. Compostable materials such as food soiled paper are good for the environment if they are sent to a compost facility, but may be landfilled if they are sent to an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility because they cannot be processed through AD.
- There are additional ways to recycle organic waste, such as worm composting, small-scale AD, and in-vessel aerobic composters.
- In addition to food waste, green waste must also be recycled per AB 1826. County departments should include language in their future landscaping contracts to ensure their green waste is being recycled. Public Works will provide a template for contract language that can be included in landscaping contracts.
- Other departments will be able to use the knowledge and outreach materials from Public Works and the cost of implementing their programs should be lower.
 - The group was advised that adding a new dumpster to haul organic waste will raise costs in the short term. There will be a reduction in solid waste due to separating organic waste and implementing other waste reduction policies, such as using reusables, which will reduce the cost for solid waste hauling and overall costs in the long term.

Walkthrough of Public Works New Food/Beverage Recycling Counter

- Attendees were given a walkthrough tour of Public Works' food waste, beverage container, and trash recycling and disposal counter on the day that the food waste collection program launched, prior to the kickoff event.

Next Working Group Meeting – Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Participants

Name	Department
Frank Estrada	Animal Care and Control
Grace Ramirez Gaston	Arts Commission
Rita Kampalath	CEO
Tim Frost	Children & Family Services
Jessica Mireles	Consumer & Business Affairs
John Allen	CSSD
William Simmons	DPSS
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner - Coroner
Sergio Bravo	Mental Health
Alex Mena	Parks & Recreation
Marisela Alderete	Probation
Monica Galimberti	Public Health
Narine Meschyan	Public Health
Kathy Salama	Public Works
Lupe Carrillo	Public Works - PDD
Carmen Izaguirre-Gomez	Regional Planning
Soyeon Choi	Regional Planning
Habib Kharrat	Sanitation Districts
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts
Sam Pedroza	Sanitation Districts
Gregory Nelson	Sheriff
Angelica Gunderson	Public Works - EPD
Armando Aguilar	Public Works - EPD
Ben Cortez	Public Works - EPD
Clark Ajwani	Public Works - EPD
Eve T. Lopez	Public Works - EPD
Kawsar Vazifdar	Public Works - EPD
Kimberly Lyman	Public Works - EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works - EPD
Tranette Sanders	Public Works - EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works - EPD