

Interdepartmental Working Group

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future

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

March 9, 2016
9 A.M. – 11 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Carlos Ruiz, Public Works

- Addressing sustainability issues requires a coordinated effort among various public, private, environmental, and non-profit entities on a local and regional scale.
- The Roadmap was developed through a collaborative effort and continues to encourage collaboration in further developing and implementing the Roadmap initiatives.
- In June 2015 the Board of Supervisors revised the Countywide Environmental Sustainability Policy, providing direction and guidelines for the development of a County Sustainability Council and Los Angeles County Sustainability Framework.
- The Los Angeles County General Plan, which directly references the Roadmap, was approved by the Board of Supervisors in October 2015.
- Collaboration is the common thread among these recently adopted programs.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES TO DATE

(Meeting PowerPoint [Presentation](#))

County Operations (CO)

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works

- Discussed goals for the year which included waste assessments of County facilities, developing standards and policies for sustainable practices, establishing benchmarks for measurement, and outreach and education.
- Identified benchmarks for evaluating County purchasing practices such as developing specific standards in contracts, products, and services reflecting sustainable practices and policies, and adding performance requirements and offering demonstrations of environmentally friendly product alternatives to demonstrate performance and help encourage use. (CO Strategy 1; Initiative A, 4b)

- Paperless Office efforts were also discussed including scanning paper documents and distributing electronically and migrating procurement and contract processes into electronic systems. (CO Strategy 1, Initiative A5)
- Discussed developing methods and outreach materials for recycling and sustainability programs to quickly implement in departments through the County Department Recycling Program.
- County facilities required to comply with AB 1826 will be identified by analyzing information obtained from waste assessments, Internal Services Department's (ISD) Rubbish Hauling contract list, and the Facility Trash Hauling and Recycling Survey recently distributed to Departments. (CO Strategy 2, Initiative B)
 - Currently two Departments have participated in waste assessments. Departments interested in conducting waste assessments should contact Nilda Gemeniano.

County Unincorporated Communities (CUC)

Clark Ajwani, Public Works

- Brainstormed subcommittee goals for the year by looking at 2015 accomplishments, individual Department's goals, and determined the broad topics of organic waste and measurement.
- For organic waste, our goals focused on determining the best methods to increase education, incentives, and enforcement for compliance with AB 1826.
 - Specific goal to determine the need for and feasibility of an organic waste recycling ordinance. (CUC Strategy 1, Initiative D4)
 - Specific goal to prepare outreach materials and increase mechanisms to inform community of organic waste recycling options. (CUC Strategy 1, Initiative D)
- Another goal focused on how to enhance measurement of programs, policies, and services and their fiscal impact.
 - Specific goal to identify what is currently measured, what should be measured, and how to get that information with regards to waste management. (CUC Strategy 2, Initiative B)
 - Specific goal to determine feasibility and fiscal impact of alternative waste collection methods and source-separation vs. facility-separation. (CUC Strategy 1, Initiative C2 and Strategy 2, Initiative C)

Regional/Countywide (R/C)

Jalaine Madrid, Public Works

- Discussed various goals for the year including reaching out to the 88 cities within the County to participate at our monthly Roadmap meetings. There is opportunity for collaboration with our cities, especially where our services overlap. (R/C Strategy 1, Initiative A1, and Strategy 4, Initiative A1c)
- Enhancing communication and measuring the effectiveness of programs are also important goals. The Illegal Dumping, Tire Recycling, Smart Gardening, and School Gardening Programs could benefit from additional outreach and education.
 - Illegal Dumping – There is a need to better communicate how to properly dispose of bulky items. To measure program effectiveness, tonnages and

types of items reported through the program can be analyzed to tailor prevention efforts to those areas most likely affected and those material types most likely to be dumped. (R/C Strategy 2, Initiative A-B)

- Tire Recycling –Collection events are held throughout Los Angeles County. Tracking locations where tires are illegally dumped will help in identifying locations that would benefit from more outreach or additional events. (R/C Strategy 2, Initiative A, and Strategy 3, Initiative A)
- Smart Gardening – Workshops are held throughout Los Angeles County. Residents are notified of these events through postcards, flyers, or the CleanLA website. Using social media to reach a broader audience and track participants was suggested. (R/C Strategy 1, Initiative C)
- School Gardening – Gardens are installed in schools within Los Angeles County. Measurement would be attained by tracking the percentage of schools that continue to maintain active gardens after a certain period of time after installation. (R/C Strategy 1, Initiative C)
- Another goal is to develop a checklist or guidance document for permitting and/or zoning requirements of conversion technology facilities. Such document would be comprehensive and potentially simplify what is a normally complicated process. (R/C Strategy 3, Initiative A1, A2)

Outreach and Education

Kathy Salama, Public Works

- Discussed goals for 2016, tracking, and measurement.
- Goals discussed included:
 - Educate businesses on Good Samaritan Food Donation Act – This goal ties in with our efforts to divert food waste from landfills and is also in line with efforts by Public Health to create a food donation program.
 - Collaborate with like-minded departments/entities – Work with existing programs/services. For example through the Workplace Programs, i.e. Wellness Program, Charitable Giving, Rideshare, events at Grand Park, etc. and other Countywide efforts where there are opportunities to reach county employees or the general public to help spread the word about the Roadmap.
 - Develop tools and resources – We are continuously updating the resources page on the Roadmap website and have begun updating some of our flyers such as the LACoMax flyer which we will share with others to use in newsletters, intranet pages, and other forms of communication to inform people about the resources the County of Los Angeles has to offer.
- Current projects discussed include:
 - Roadmap Brochure – Discussed the development of a Roadmap outreach brochure to 1) explain what the Roadmap is all about and 2) give businesses, government agencies, and residents tips on how to be more sustainable.
 - Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Surveys – The survey given at weekly HHW events is going mobile. Taking advantage of the change, the subcommittee reviewed the current questions to determine what type of data we need to collect. Such as, how often people dispose of HHW or how they found out about the event.

- General Survey – Discussed developing a general survey for residents to gain more knowledge on how much people actually know about what resources are out there for them to recycle and current legislation. The purpose of the survey is to establish a baseline so that when we do our outreach efforts we can measure to see if our efforts are working.
- County Departmental Recycling Program – Reviewed a draft document that laid out the roles/responsibilities of the County Department Recycling Coordinator and an FAQ's fact sheet to help county employees recycle in the workplace.
- Will work closely with subcommittees to develop outreach and education plans for their initiatives.

GENERAL PLAN AND COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IN RELATION TO THE ROADMAP PRESENTATION

Kristen Holdsworth, Regional Planning (Presentation starts on slide [#7](#))

- The General Plan (Plan), adopted by the Board of Supervisors in October 2015, is a long-term vision of growth and conservation for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County through 2035. It includes:
 - Guiding Principles to emphasize the concept of sustainability throughout the Plan.
 - Planning Areas Framework to facilitate the planning of all unincorporated areas through 11 identified planning areas.
 - General Elements such as land use, air quality, public services and facilities, housing, etc.
- The Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) was developed as a stand-alone component of the Air Quality Element in the Plan.
 - There is commonality between the Roadmap, the General Plan, and CCAP.
 - CCAP establishes greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets consistent with AB 32 and provides a roadmap to successfully implement GHG reduction measures.
 - Identification of reduction measures was a year-plus process of meetings with County departments and community groups.
 - There are two types of climate action plans: community and municipal.
 - The CCAP addresses emissions from unincorporated Los Angeles County communities.
 - A Municipal Climate Action Plan, headed by the Internal Services Department, focuses on reducing emissions in County facilities and operations.
 - As of the end of 2014, the County is 35% of the way towards its 2020 emissions goals.
 - Unfortunately, the emissions from Aliso Canyon will count against the County unincorporated areas, which will set the County back.
 - The General Plan and CCAP pave the way to the Roadmap's next steps: reaching out to the broader community of stakeholders, particularly the cities, and incorporating specific measurements to make sure we are on the right track.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES

Countywide Sustainability Council

Youn Sim, Public Works

- Formed in 2015, the purpose of the Council is to facilitate collaboration amongst departments already working on a variety of sustainability projects.
- The Council represents 15 County departments and is made up of 3 sub-groups:
 - Leadership Committee
 - Coordination Committee
 - Task-based Working Groups
- The Roadmap Working Group is one of the Council's task-based Working Groups.

Food Donation Program

Bernadet Garcia-Silva, Public Health

- A steering committee was formed, which includes food recovery organizations, to move this Program forward.
- Public Health is working on educating businesses and the community. Most businesses do not know how to donate food.
- A food safety certification program is being developed by Public Health to help break down trust barriers.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Maurice Pantoja, Public Health

- The revised draft of the pharmaceutical take-back ordinance is scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors on March 29, 2016.
- The ordinance has received strong support from 28 cities, 3 state senators and various environmental, health, and community groups.
- If passed, the ordinance would go into effect in unincorporated areas of the County. Cities would be able to adopt the ordinance through a resolution.
- Costs will be financed by the industry; pharmacies will be voluntary participants, but must provide information on how to properly dispose drugs and sharps.
- If the industry cannot provide sites with collection bins, they must supplement with mail-back programs and take-back events.

ISD Facility Level Survey

Susana Ortega, Internal Services

- The objective of a Facility level survey is to identify County facilities that will be required to meet the recycling requirements of AB 341 and organic waste recycling requirements of AB 1826.
- To date, 112 surveys have been returned. ISD is hoping to at least triple that number in the next few weeks.
- Responses from the survey will be used to create an analysis of container size versus pick-up frequency. Some facilities have daily pick-ups. The analysis will show if it is more efficient to increase container size and reduce pick-ups or vice versa.

Organics Collection

Saro Toutounjian, Public Works

- Prior to implementing a full scale program, Public Works decided to conduct a pilot organic collection program to evaluate collection methods and services.
- The Program is joint effort between Public Works, the County Sanitation Districts and contracted/franchise waste haulers.
- Two pilot programs: One for businesses in the Garbage Disposal Districts (GDDs) (Belvedere and Firestone) and the other within the commercial franchise areas.
- 12 month program, collection began in October 2015 in GDDs and is targeted for April 2016 for commercial franchise.
- 68 businesses are participating in the GDD program with approximately 5 tons being collected per week and taken to Puente Hills MRF.
- The Program includes site visits, training, separate collection of materials and follow up visits.

Below is the response promised during the meeting regarding the type of establishments participating in the Food Collection Program:

GDD Pilot Food Collection Program/Study - Breakdown of Customers

Belvedere Garbage Disposal District

<i>Property Type</i>	<i>Number of Customers</i>
Restaurant (Sit down)	16
Market	5
Bakery	4
Donut Shop	1
Total	26

Firestone Garbage Disposal District

<i>Property Type</i>	<i>Number of Customers</i>
Restaurant (Sit down)	12
Market	19
Bakery	4
Donut shop	5
Ice cream shop	2
Total	42

OPEN DISCUSSION

Coby Skye, Public Works

- A comprehensive list identifying all County facilities that will have to meet the requirements of AB 1826 is being developed.
- Reviewed the goals for 2016 established by each Subcommittee.
- Coby asked for questions and comments from the Working Group:
 - How will departments be notified that their facilities must comply? We are exploring how to handle outreach. Possibilities include letters from the Chief Executive Office, the ISD survey, FAQs, flyers, handouts etc.
 - Do we know the in-County capacity to process organic waste? Yes, a recent law required each County to development an assessment for processing organic waste, which is currently being developed.
 - Which businesses will the food donation program focus on? In Orange County, the program focused on private businesses and school districts.

NEXT STEPS

- Next Working Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 8, 2016.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Department
Scott Hunter	ACWM
Frank Estrada	Animal Care and Control
Carlos Zimmerman	Beaches & Harbors
Amy Hammes	City of Burbank
Candelaria Rodarte	Internal Services
Dennis Morelos	Internal Services
Lois Giron	Internal Services
Susana Ortega	Internal Services
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner - Coroner
Changmii Bae	Parks & Recreation
Bernadet Garcia-Silva	Public Health
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo	Public Health
Gerry Villalobos	Public Health
James Dragan	Public Health
Lucy MacDonald	Public Health
Maurice Pantoja	Public Health
Monica Galimberti	Public Health
Youn Sim	Public Works - DES
Arlene Morales	Public Works - EPD
Armando C. Aguilar	Public Works - EPD

Name	Department
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Clark Ajwani	Public Works - EPD
Coby Skye	Public Works - EPD
Jalaine Madrid	Public Works - EPD
Kathy Salama	Public Works - EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works - EPD
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Steve Milewski	Public Works - EPD
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Vanessa A. Olivas	Public Works - EPD
Bella Hernandez	Public Works - PDD
Lupe Carrillo	Public Works - PDD
Connie Chung	Regional Planning
Kristen Holdsworth	Regional Planning
Soyeon Choi	Regional Planning
Habib Kharrat	Sanitation Districts
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts
Gregory Nelson	Sheriff