

# Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future

## Working Group County Operations Subcommittee Meeting

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

Wednesday, February 20, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed, and participants introduced themselves.

#### **Recap of Previous Subcommittee Meeting (October 2018)**

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works

- A presentation was given on the accomplishments of the subcommittee during the previous Roadmap year, including the Public Works Pilot Mobile Organics Collection Program and the new County Facility Ancillary Services Master Agreement (FASMA) contracts with waste haulers.
- Priority tasks for the new Roadmap year:
  - County Operations
    - Vendor takeback
    - Green purchasing
    - Implement recycling programs at facility level
  - Countywide
    - Waste prevention and source reduction
    - Local green business and market development at County facilities
- There was a discussion on implementing diversion programs and strategic practices for partnerships to reduce their costs.
- There was also a discussion on considering departmental evaluations of purchasing policies and practices and on recycling toner cartridges through the County Surplus Program.

#### **County Recycling Updates**

Kawsar Vazifdar, Public Works

- **Plastic Straw/Stirrer Ordinance**
  - The recently adopted ordinance restricts food service businesses within Los Angeles County unincorporated areas and County facilities from automatically providing single-use plastic straws and stirrers to customers.
  - Single-use plastic straws and stirrers may only be provided to customers upon request.

- The Plastic Straw and Stirrer Ordinance also prohibits making single-use plastic straws and stirrers available to customers from a self-serve dispenser.
- Entities who violate the ordinance will be fined \$25 per day, not to exceed an annual total of \$300.
- The ordinance will be enforced by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Division as part of the routine inspection and compliance investigation of food service businesses.
- The subcommittee was informed that outreach materials for this ordinance are still being finalized for final approval by the Board.
- **Organic Waste Website for County Facilities**
  - Public Works has launched a new County website to help County facilities comply with AB 1826, as well as to prepare for SB 1383.
  - SB 1383 will require that all organic waste generators have organic waste recycling service, including residential lots, effective 2022.
  - The new Organics Waste website can be found at: [dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/organics/](http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/organics/).
  - The meeting attendees were informed that they can find the 2018 Memo to County Departments about the Mandatory Organic Waste Recycling Bill 1826, Organics Fact Sheet, and a list of Impacted County Facilities on the Organics Waste website.

## **Departmental Recycling Recent Case Studies**

Arlene Morales, Public Works

- The Subcommittee was reminded about the County Department Recycling Program Quarterly Newsletter and asked that every Recycling Coordinator distribute the newsletter throughout their department.
- The Subcommittee was informed about the different types of recycling bins available for batteries, paper, beverage, and cardboard, and to contact their Recycling Coordinator if they are needed.
- The Subcommittee was asked to be cautious about contamination in the paper and cardboard recycling bins. If paper/cardboard is wet, damp, or stained with food it will cause contamination.
- New Beverage Container Recycling programs have been implemented at the following County locations:
  - LAC+USC Medical Center
    - This facility has more than 8,000 employees.
    - In 2018, 87 pounds of beverage containers were recycled.
  - Department of Public Social Services El Monte District Office
    - This facility has more than 500 employees.
    - Between 2016 and 2018, they annually recycled an average of 884 pounds of containers.
  - Parks and Recreation (Belvedere Park and City Terrace Park)
    - At Belvedere Park there are beverage container recycling bins in the Aquatic Center and throughout the park.
    - LA Conservation Corps will monitor recycling bins and pick-up recyclables.
    - City Terrace Park will offer beverage container recycling bins in the future.

## **ISD Recycling Contracts**

Ted Lo, Internal Services Department (ISD)

- A presentation was given on the various waste diversion contracts executed by ISD.
- Attendees were informed on misconceptions about mattress recycling. Due to possible cross-contamination with new mattresses, current vendors, Bob Barker Company and Mattress Makers, do not pick-up used mattresses.
  - The Subcommittee was asked if they knew what the procedure was for getting rid of old mattresses. The County partners with the non-profit organization Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) to collect used mattresses from residents in the Antelope Valley.
  - Bye Bye Mattress, a program of MRC, was developed to help residents, businesses, and institutions find locations to drop off old mattresses at no-cost at participating collection sites or recycling facilities. Public Works will further research options for County facilities to also recycle used mattresses.
- The County currently holds contracts with Kramar Iron and Metals and Victory Ground Support for scrap metal. The vendor will pick-up the metal and pay the County depending on the weight collected.
- The current County vendors for Universal/Hazardous Waste Removal and Hauling are North State Environmental and Sun Environmental Engineering Services. The Subcommittee was informed that Public Works can provide departments with battery collection bins free-of-charge upon request and that vendors can provide containers for the collected universal/hazardous waste. It is each facility's responsibility to arrange for vendor payment and pickup of the containers once they are filled.
- There is currently no vendor for the landscaping service category in FASMA.
  - County departments are welcome to provide leads on companies to recommend for requesting bids.

## **Departments' Waste Reduction Initiatives and Roadblocks – Open Forum**

- The Subcommittee was asked to share what initiatives they have implemented to reduce and recycle waste at their departments.
  - Beaches and Harbors is informally implementing new initiatives to reduce waste in their workplace by reducing single-use plastic food and beverage containers during office gatherings and by providing foods that do not require utensils.
  - Public Works' Environmental Programs Division has placed shared community trash cans for employees in designated areas to reduce the amount of plastic trash liners thrown away each day.
- There was a discussion about the challenges of recycling polyvinyl chloride (PVC), since there is not a big market for such material.
- The next Subcommittee meeting will focus on rethinking purchasing habits and avoiding materials that are difficult to recycle.

## Meeting Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
Maral Tashjian	Beaches & Harbors
Lena Wiegand	CalRecycle
Will Simmons	Department of Public Social Services
Candy Rodarte	Internal Services
Eric Carlos	Internal Services
Ted Lo	Internal Services
Sergio Bravo	Mental Health
Chris Sheppard	Public Works- SPSO
Tera Haramoto	Public Works- SPSO
Carmen Izaguirre-Gomez	Regional Planning
Oscar Chica	Regional Planning
Anna Petrosyan	RR/CC
Armando Aguilar	Public Works- EPD
Francisca Mandujano	Public Works- EPD
Jason Jones	Public Works- EPD
Kawsar Vazifdar	Public Works- EPD
Kimberly Lyman	Public Works- EPD
Nam Doam	Public Works- EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works- EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works- EPD
Vanessa Gutierrez	Public Works- EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works- EPD
William Moreno	Public Works- EPD