



Overview of Solid Waste Management in 2019

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE DOCUMENT FOR UPDATING THE COUNTY'S ROADMAP TO A SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT FUTURE



December 2019
Los Angeles County Public Works

1. INTRODUCTION

On April 22, 2014, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion directing the development of a Roadmap to achieve a Sustainable Waste Management Future for the County Unincorporated Communities (CUCs). Multiple County departments participated in the Working Group responsible for developing the Roadmap. The Working Group determined that focusing solely on the unincorporated communities that are interspersed throughout the County would not be enough to encompass a truly sustainable waste management system. Therefore, Regional/Countywide and County Operations focus areas were added to the Roadmap.

On October 21, 2014, the Board adopted the Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future (Roadmap). The Roadmap lays out the general framework for the strategies and initiatives that Los Angeles can implement in three focus areas consisting of County Unincorporated Communities, Regional/Countywide, and at County Operations to decrease reliance on landfills by maximizing the recovery of products, materials, and energy from waste that would otherwise be disposed at landfills. Each focus area contains elements of four strategies to reduce waste and divert material from landfills. The strategies are: Programs and Services, Measuring Results, Facilities and Infrastructure, and Outreach and Education.

The County continues to make progress toward implementing the initiatives outlined in the Roadmap. However, there has been a major paradigm shift in the waste management industry since the Roadmap was adopted in October 2014. This change is due to the urgency to combat climate change, new recycling laws and mandates, as well as the recycling crisis triggered by China's National Sword Policy, which restricted imported recyclable materials. Public Works is updating the Roadmap to address waste management in alignment with the state of the waste industry and our recently adopted County Sustainability Plan.

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1.1 DISPOSAL REDUCTION TARGETS

The County plans to achieve the following reduction targets through potential new programs:

80% diversion from landfills by 2025

90% diversion from landfills by 2035

95%+ diversion from landfills by 2045



- ▲ Scrape Your Plate collection containers at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters in Alhambra, California.
- ▼ Collection bins in an employee breakroom at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters in Alhambra, California.



1.2 ALIGNMENT WITH COUNTY PRIORITIES

The strategies identified in the 2014 Roadmap align closely with the County's adopted plans and priorities, as well as other sustainability efforts, including:

- Los Angeles County Strategic Plan, Goal #2:
Community Support and Responsiveness
- Los Angeles County General Plan Update
- Our County: The Los Angeles County Sustainability Plan, Goal #9:
Sustainable Production and Consumption of Resources
- Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan
- Los Angeles County Public Works Strategic Plan



2. KEY DRIVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Regulatory drivers such as State legislation have a significant impact on the County's and Cities' operations and priorities.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

- Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (2006) established Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets that require many sectors including the waste industry to reduce emissions by 25 percent by 2020.
- Senate Bill (SB) 32 (2016) requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to ensure that Statewide GHG emissions are reduced to at least the 1990 emissions level by 2020 and to maintain and continue reductions thereafter.

Mandatory Commercial Recycling

- AB 341 (2011) established a Statewide goal that at least 75 percent of solid waste generated be source reduced, recycled, or composted by the year 2020, from baseline average generation in years 1990-2010.

Organics Management

- AB 1826 (2014) established targets for the reduction of organic waste by phasing in requirements for generators of specified amounts of organic waste to arrange recycling services for that material.

- AB 1594 (2014) mandates the use of green material as alternative daily cover (ADC) will no longer constitute diversion, beginning in 2020, through recycling and will instead be considered disposal in terms of measuring a jurisdiction's annual 50 percent.
- SB 1383 (2016) establishes Statewide targets to reduce organic waste landfill disposal 50 percent by the year 2020 and 75 percent by the year 2025, from a 2014 baseline, addressing short-lived climate pollutants which will soon require jurisdictions to provide organic waste collection and recycling service to every single constituent.

The County must continue to be proactive and develop innovative policies and procedures for managing waste that further reduce the County's reliance on landfills. To be sustainable, we must be able to meet our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This requires a fundamentally new approach beyond traditional waste reduction and involves placing a greater emphasis on maximizing the benefits and use of materials over disposal. This in turn transforms waste from a liability into a resource and creates a new vision to significantly reduce and someday eliminate waste.

2.1 CHINA NATIONAL SWORD

- For many years, the majority of the United States, the State of California, and the County of Los Angeles have heavily relied upon China to purchase recovered recyclables such as mixed paper and mixed plastics.
- In February 2017, China announced a new policy termed the “National Sword” restricting the import of 24 recyclable materials, including low-grade plastics, unsorted mixed-paper, and scrap metals beginning in January 2018.
- China will only accept recyclable materials below a strict contamination limit (0.5 percent) that may not be possible for most existing recycling facilities to achieve due to old equipment that cannot separate materials to achieve these strict limits.
- Due to the National Sword policy, prices for recyclables are dropping quickly.
- Many separated recyclables are being landfilled due to lack of markets.
- Recyclables were previously a revenue stream for waste haulers and are now an expense where haulers pay for recycling facilities to receive them.
- Increased processing costs and decreased revenue has had a significant negative financial impact on material recovery facilities, as well.
- County continues to work with the State to continue its efforts to address the need to develop sufficient statewide infrastructure and take a leadership role in the expansion of markets for recycled products.



2.2 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS

The State of California is pursuing several ambitious climate goals. AB 32 (2006), also known as the Global Warming Solutions Act, established the first statewide GHG emissions targets. AB 1826 (2014) required businesses to recycle their organic waste infrastructure to help the State achieve its GHG reduction goals. SB 32 (2016) reduced the statewide limit for GHG emissions, including emissions of short-lived climate pollutants to 40 percent below the 1990 level, to be achieved by 2030. SB 1383 required a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants to achieve a reduction in methane by 40%, hydrofluorocarbon gases by 40 percent, and anthropogenic black carbon by 50 percent below 2013 levels by 2030. In order to achieve the methane reductions, CalRecycle is required to adopt regulations to achieve a 50 percent reduction in statewide disposal of organic waste in landfills by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025, from a 2014 baseline, and to recover at least 20 percent of edible food that is currently disposed by 2025.

Organic waste disposed in landfills generates emissions of methane and other GHGs. Diverting organic waste through composting, anaerobic digestion, biomass conversion, or other processes not only reduces landfill emissions, but also creates useful products such as renewable energy, renewable fuels, and soil amendments that replace traditional fossil-based energy and fuels and synthetic fertilizer, thus eliminating the emissions from the production and use of these products. However, the complexity and lack of organic waste collection and processing infrastructure creates significant challenges to achieve the State's organic diversion goals and regulatory requirements.



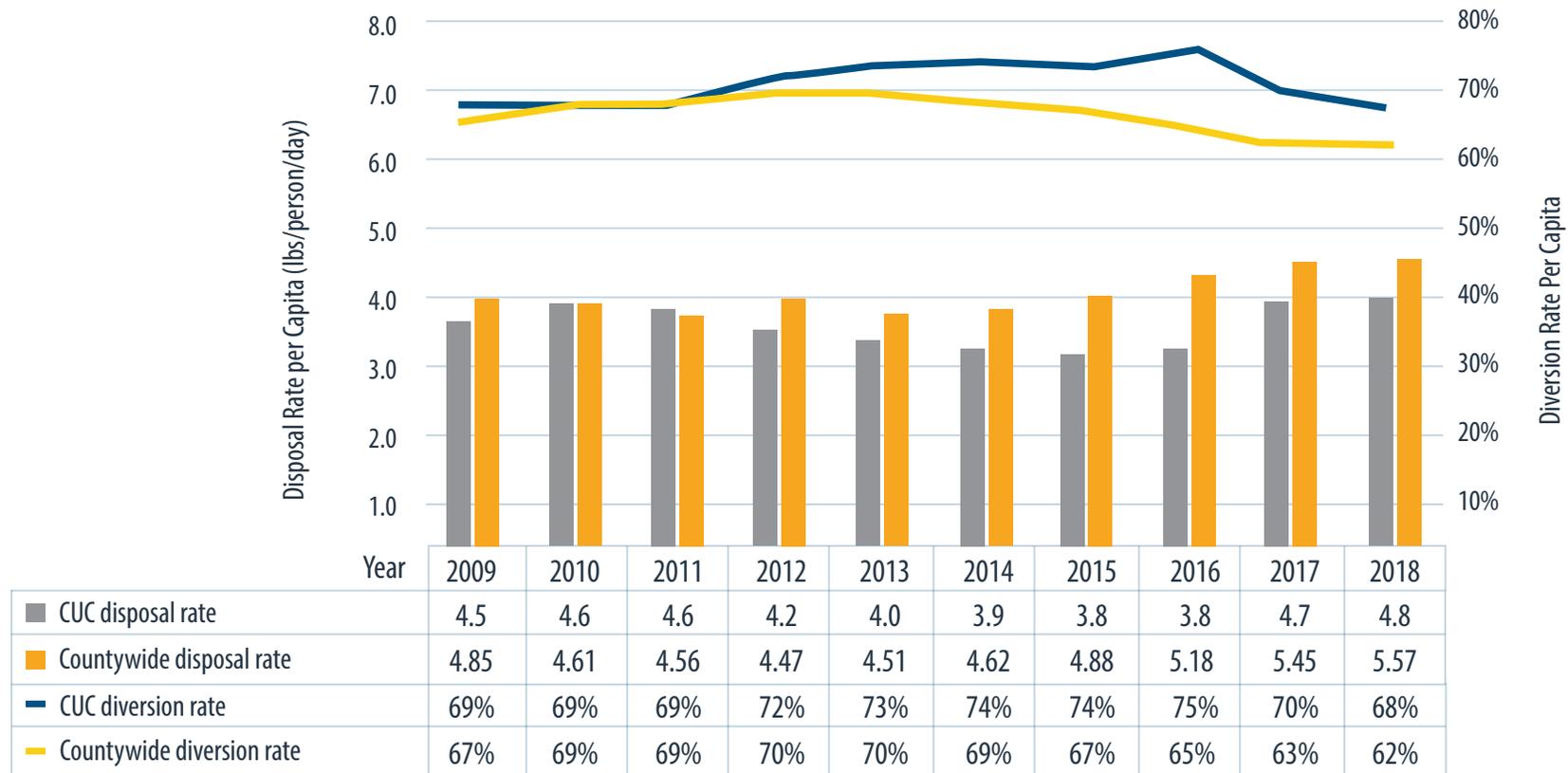
CR&R Anaerobic Digestion Facility in Perris, California.

3. STATE OF WASTE IN 2019

There are more than 10.3 million people who live in Los Angeles County including more than 1 million people in the CUCs. There are 125 CUCs spread over more than 2,650 square miles (65 percent of the County’s area).

FIGURE 1: DISPOSAL AND DIVERSION RATE PER CAPITA

Countywide vs. County Unincorporated Communities 2009-2018



The diversion rate decreased in 2017 due to an improved economy which resulted in higher waste generation and continued to decrease in 2018 due to China’s restrictions on imported recyclables.

FIGURE 2: COMPONENTS OF THE WASTE STREAM



3.1 WASTE GENERATION AND LANDFILL DIVERSION

As explained in the previous section regarding key drivers for sustainable waste management, the reduction in diversion rates is due to some significant challenges impacting the overall solid waste management system. However, the continued implementation of Roadmap initiatives in the next few years, such as organic waste recycling and proposed revisions to the construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance, will help the County continue to make strides toward achievement of the Roadmap goal of 80 percent diversion by 2025.



FIGURE 2: COMPONENTS OF THE WASTE STREAM



3.2 WASTE COMPOSITION

To determine the composition of the disposed waste stream, CalRecycle completed a statewide waste characterization study in 2014. FIGURE 2 shows the components of the waste stream going to landfills in 2014. The study shows that organic waste, construction and demolition debris, and paper are the 3 most abundant material types being disposed. CalRecycle completed a new statewide waste characterization study which will be available in December 2019.

The County launched a three-year waste characterization study in August 2019 to update information on the types and quantities of materials in the CUCs' waste stream. The findings of the study will help Public Works assess the effectiveness of existing diversion programs and recommend options for increasing the reduction and diversion of materials from the waste stream.

3.3 ORGANICS

As shown in FIGURE 2, organics are the largest component of the disposed waste stream and, therefore, offer the biggest opportunity to achieve increased diversion rates. The County is working with local charities to provide businesses a food donation option through the Food Donation and Recovery Outreach Program (Food DROP). Public Works has connected businesses located in CUCs with local food pantries to start donating their food and provides technical assistance for those that may be experiencing challenges during the donation process.

In 2019, Public Works launched “A Day Without Hunger”, a multi-faceted campaign to reduce the disposal of edible food and connect food recovery entities with businesses with excess food to feed hungry people. A series of food distribution and community outreach and education engagement events were held throughout the County resulting in food distribution to over 800 families, equivalent to approximately 52,000 pounds of food.

The campaign and events raise awareness of food insecurity in the County, support the Homelessness Initiative efforts, educate residents about the value of food and encourage food donation instead of disposal. Public Works is also piloting residential and commercial food waste collection programs, which will become mandatory on January 1, 2022, per SB 1383. In addition, Public Works is working with organic waste facility developers to promote the siting of organics recycling facilities in the CUCs, in the Region/ County, and at County facilities.



3.4 ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping is a growing problem not only in the County but across the State with no simple solution. Public Works is leading a Working Group consisting of multiple County Departments focused on developing and implementing solutions to address illegal dumping. Factors contributing to illegal dumping include but are not limited to high disposal costs, a lack of enforcement, and a lack of awareness of how and where to properly dispose of waste.

In unincorporated Antelope Valley, the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force was formed in April 1996. The Task Force coordinates illegal dumping prevention programs for unincorporated Antelope Valley residents (free mattress recycling collection events and bi-annual Free Disposal Day events at Lancaster Landfill where residents may take up to one ton of unwanted, household discards) and for all County residents (free tire recycling collection events). Various Town Councils and community groups coordinate community cleanup events throughout the year including desert cleanups and education on the proper disposal of unwanted items and how to report illegal dumping.



3.5 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE/ ELECTRONIC WASTE

The Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste (HHW/E-Waste) Program offers convenient opportunities for residents to properly dispose of their HHW/E-Waste by hosting more than 60 temporary events and supporting 2 permanent centers where these materials are accepted free of charge. Through Countywide programs and City of Los Angeles' Safe Centers, in Fiscal Year 2018-19, more than 10,382 tons of HHW/E-Waste were collected. Of the total HHW/E-Waste collected by the County, over 70 percent were recycled and the remainder properly disposed of at a hazardous waste facility. Due to the nature of some material (flammable liquids, sharps waste, pharmaceuticals, etc.), not all items are able to be recycled. Some materials are at the end of their lifespan and, therefore, must be disposed of safely (incineration, neutralization, etc.).

3.6 POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES

The Board has passed policies and/or adopted ordinances to:

- Restrict the use of expanded polystyrene at County facilities.
- Ban plastic bags from the CUCs.
- Manage construction and demolition materials to maximize their diversion from disposal.
- Restrict straws from being automatically provided by food-serving establishments in the CUCs.

The SB 1383 regulations will require local jurisdictions to adopt ordinances or other mechanisms to implement and enforce mandatory organic waste collection and recycling services for all residents, businesses, and other organic waste generators and mandatory edible food donation practices for large commercial food generators. The above referenced policies, regulations, and ordinances are expected to continue to raise public awareness and guide residents and businesses to reduce the amount of unnecessary waste that end up in landfills.

On October 15, 2019, the Board passed a motion to develop a draft ordinance that would reduce the use of single-use plastics (SUPs) in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The main goals of the ordinance will be to prioritize source reduction, promote reusable items and develop an approach for business and consumer education around source reduction.

The directives of the motion include:

- A study to be conducted by UCLA that will investigate the amount of plastic in the waste stream, the impacts related to various SUPs in addition to providing economic alternatives to businesses.
- Stakeholder engagement to evaluate the results of the study and provide input in the development of an ordinance.



3.7 INFRASTRUCTURE

Existing Material Recovery Facilities and Transfer Stations within the County continue to receive, screen, sort, market and transport recyclable materials from both residential and commercial customers to remanufacturing facilities typically located outside of the County or State. As contamination standards become more stringent, more robust sorting and processing infrastructure is needed.

The County has inadequate Countywide infrastructure to manage organic waste to achieve the goals established by SB 1383. According to CalRecycle, the County has the largest shortfall in Countywide organic waste recycling infrastructure of any County in the State of California. The County will need an estimated 2 to 3.5 million tons per year of additional organic waste recycling infrastructure, which may require capital investment of approximately \$500M to \$1B Countywide. However, organic waste is comprised of many different material types such as food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that are not always able to be managed together due to facility processing restrictions creating further challenges.

One way to address some of these challenges is with Conversion Technologies (CTs). CTs refer to a wide array of state-of-the-art technologies capable of converting unrecyclable solid waste into useful products, such as green fuels and renewable energy, in an environmentally beneficial way. These technologies may be thermal, chemical, biological, mechanical, or a combination of processes, but do not include incineration (waste combustion). They present a real opportunity to address the County's solid waste problems head on and bring Southern California significantly closer to a zero-waste future.

In order to continue to meet the recycling goals in place, additional local organics infrastructure (including CTs within the County) is needed to process materials locally. On October 15, 2019, the Board adopted a motion to pursue sponsorship of California State legislation that requires the legislature to provide dedicated funding for advanced materials recovery and organic waste processing as well as increase loans made available through the State's Recycling Market Development Zone program. The County is pursuing this legislation in order to increase the local infrastructure necessary to meet the waste diversion targets of the 2014 Roadmap.



4. 2014 ROADMAP STRUCTURE

The 2014 Roadmap is organized into three focus areas: CUCs; Regional/ Countywide; and County Operations. Within these focus areas, a general framework is laid out for the strategies and initiatives the County will implement to reduce waste and maximize the recovery of products, materials, and energy from waste that would otherwise be disposed in landfills.

4.1 STRATEGIES

Each focus area contains elements of four strategies to reduce waste and divert material from landfills. The strategies are:

- Programs and Services
- Measuring Results
- Facilities and Infrastructure
- Outreach and Education

4.2 INITIATIVES, PROGRAM AND POLICY OPTIONS

Under each of the strategies, specific initiatives and program and policy options were identified and will be evaluated over the next several months for modifications or enhancements. The initiatives include a mix of upstream activities that keep materials out of the waste stream entirely and downstream activities that manage materials that are presently being landfilled.





COUNTY UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES

- Recover Organics, including Food Scraps and Edible Food, to Highest and Best Uses
 - ▶ Collaborate with waste haulers to develop collection and diversion programs in compliance with SB 1383 as well as promote the donation of edible food from businesses to nonprofit food redistribution organizations.
- Support the development of organics processing infrastructure
 - ▶ Identify potential sites for new or expanded infrastructure, establish a streamlined permitting process, remove land use barriers, and provide feedstock agreements to facilitate the development of facilities.
- Maximize Diversion of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris
 - ▶ Revise the County's C&D debris ordinance to increase diversion requirements from 50 percent to 70 percent for mixed debris and 100 percent for asphalt and concrete.
- Advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
 - ▶ Explore the feasibility of establishing a County EPR ordinance for hard to handle materials, such as electronics and batteries.
- Assess the Disposed Waste Stream
 - ▶ Conduct regular Waste Characterization Studies for CUCs (all sectors) at 5 to 10 year intervals to target disposed materials for waste reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery.

REGIONAL/COUNTYWIDE

- Collaborate with the jurisdictions in the County to coordinate efforts for waste reduction, reuse and recycling, and the associated outreach and education efforts
 - ▶ Develop a Regional/Countywide approach that sends a consistent message for sustainable materials management.
- Support the Development of Organics Processing Infrastructure
 - ▶ Evaluate options to encourage the development of local organics diversion facilities, including composting, anaerobic digestion, chipping/grinding operations, and other technologies that reduce landfill disposal to facilitate compliance with SB 1383.
- Enhance HHW/E-Waste Management
 - ▶ Increase number of permanent collection centers.
- Support Development of Conversion Technologies
 - ▶ Identify sites, conduct feasibility analyses, establish a streamlined permitting process, remove land use barriers, and provide incentives, such as feedstock agreements to facilitate development of facilities.

COUNTY OPERATIONS

- Evaluate County Purchasing Practices
 - ▶ Identify new purchasing practices that reduce waste, promote reuse, promote use of recycled materials, and potentially save money.
- Assess Waste Management Practices
 - ▶ Ensure County facilities are leading by example by reducing the amount of waste they generate and maximizing the recycling and recovery of materials.
- Facilitate Development of Organics Processing Infrastructure at County Facilities
 - ▶ Establish guidelines for County facilities that are food waste generators to compost, digest or otherwise process organics onsite where feasible.



5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The County is focused on implementing the following short-term and long-term Roadmap Initiatives:

SHORT-TERM INITIATIVES

Address Organic Waste

- Expand organic waste collection pilot programs to determine and implement the most efficient and effective options throughout County Unincorporated areas.
 - ▶ Expand the existing commercial food waste collection pilot to include more businesses.
 - ▶ Implement new pilot organic waste collection programs in the residential and commercial sectors.

Promote Extended Producer Responsibility Policies

- Support EPR and related policies through State legislation:
 - ▶ Several proposed bills are in second year of 2-year legislative cycle and will be reconsidered in 2020, including legislation related to single-use plastics, batteries, tobacco, and other challenging waste streams.
- Establish local policies/ordinances:
 - ▶ Requiring single-use items, such as utensils be recyclable or compostable.
 - ▶ Banning environmentally problematic items, such as expanded polystyrene.
 - ▶ Promoting reusable items, particularly for food service ware.
 - ▶ Establish programs for problematic or hazardous products, such as tobacco, electronics, and batteries.

Plan and Promote Advanced Infrastructure

- Sponsor legislation and take local actions to address the following:
 - ▶ Investing in enhanced recycling infrastructure (e.g., robotic and optical sorters) to reduce contamination.
 - ▶ Promoting and incentivizing In-State remanufacturing to expand markets for recovered recycled materials.
 - ▶ Removing barriers to the development of conversion technologies capable of converting post-recycled and residual waste into renewable energy, fuels, and other beneficial products.

Pursue Regional Collaboration

- Collaborate with the cities to ensure coordinated outreach and infrastructure planning, including workshops to share information and best practices on how to comply with state laws.

Build on Existing Programs

- Expand Food Donation Recovery and Outreach Program (Food DROP).
- Expand Illegal Dumping Prevention Program to include increased cleanup activities, outreach, and enforcement.
- Revise the existing Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Ordinance to increase minimum recycling threshold, expand reporting requirements to better track C&D debris generation, recycling and disposal, and deter illegal dumping.

- Assist County departments with complying with organics laws.
- Enhance Smart Gardening Program to promote small-scale composting, sustainable landscape practices, and electrification of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment currently used at County departments.
- Develop Household Hazardous Waste Reuse/Materials Exchange Program.
- Educate residents on recycling to reduce contamination.

LONG-TERM INITIATIVES

Comply with Organic Waste Regulations

- Ensure that County unincorporated areas and County Departments comply with SB 1383 regulations by:
 - ▶ Developing ordinances required by SB 1383 to, among other things, impose mandatory minimum penalties on all organic waste generators - including residents, businesses, self-haulers, and waste haulers - for violations of the regulations.
 - ▶ Requiring County facilities and/or County contracted waste haulers to purchase products made from recovered organic waste, such as compost, transportation fuel, electricity, heat, or RNG.
 - ▶ Implementing flow control to commit collected waste to facilities that process organic waste, enabling facilities to be financially viable.

Transition from Non-Exclusive to Exclusive Commercial Franchise System

- An exclusive commercial franchise system would provide improved oversight, monitoring, and waste collection services; and the tools necessary to comply with SB 1383.
- This requires Board approval.

Establish Exclusive Residential Franchises and/or Garbage Disposal Districts in the Antelope Valley

- Transition from existing open market system and establish exclusive residential franchise(s) and/or garbage disposal district(s) to increase the service level provided to the residents, better address illegal dumping and other service issues in the Antelope Valley and provide the tools necessary to comply with SB 1383.
- This requires Board approval.

Benchmark Programs

- Conduct comprehensive waste characterization studies every 5 years to measure shifts in disposal and recycling behaviors.
- Engage stakeholder, including routine surveys to measure the effectiveness of our programs and services as well as our outreach and education efforts.



5.2 BOARD ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Public Works has identified priority items related to the 2014 Roadmap that will require Board action within the next 2 years as well as key initiatives for which the Working Group will prioritize the development of more detailed implementation plans. (Tables 1 and 2)

TABLE 1: PLANNED SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD ACTIONS

Project	Description	Focus Area
Green Zones Ordinance	Ordinance focuses on promoting environmental justice and encompasses multiple components, including zoning code amendments to address recycling and solid waste facilities.	County Unincorporated Communities
SB 1383 Enforcement Ordinance(s)	One or more ordinances or other enforceable mechanisms required by the SB 1383 regulations requiring all organic waste generators, (including residents, businesses, and self-haulers) and waste haulers to comply with the regulatory requirements. The regulations will include mandatory minimum penalties for non-compliance.	County Unincorporated Communities and County Operations
Revised Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Ordinance	Ordinance to increase diversion requirements from 50 percent to 70 percent for mixed C&D and 100 percent for asphalt and concrete.	County Unincorporated Communities and County Operations
Zero Waste Research and Planning Services Contract	Contract for consultant services to conduct advanced solid waste research and planning to achieve zero waste.	County Unincorporated Communities, Regional/Countywide, and County Operations
Countywide Siting Element Local/County Adoption	Release of the Final Draft Countywide Siting Element and its Environmental Impact Report for local adoption (88 cities). Public hearing for final approval of the Countywide Siting Element and its Certified Environmental Impact Report.	Regional/Countywide

TABLE 2: PRIORITY SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Project	Description	Focus Area
Household Hazardous Waste	Work with cities, solid waste facilities, and other stakeholders to increase the number of permanent collection centers in the County.	Regional/Countywide
Organics Management Plan	Collaborate with waste haulers to develop organics collection and diversion programs in County Unincorporated Communities and evaluate options to encourage the development of local organics diversion facilities, including composting, anaerobic digestion, and chipping/grinding operations, to assist the County Unincorporated Communities with SB 1383 compliance. The plan will also evaluate the best uses for recovered organics and will include a food donation option for food service businesses to recover excess edible food for human consumption.	County Unincorporated Communities
Conversion Technology	Establish a streamlined and coordinated County permitting process for essential waste management facilities that are environmentally safe and technically feasible located in County Unincorporated Communities, throughout the Region/County, and at County facilities. Sponsor and support legislation to encourage the development of conversion technologies and build a coalition of organizations.	County Unincorporated Communities, Regional/Countrywide, and County Operations
Enhanced County Departments Recycling	Collaborate with County departments to improve recycling programs, facilitate coordination, and develop employee recycling programs, including organics recycling in County operations.	County Operations
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	Determine the feasibility of establishing EPR ordinances for materials, such as single-use foodware, expanded polystyrene, tobacco, electronics, and batteries, while ensuring collected items are properly managed in accordance with Federal, State and local laws using environmentally sound practices.	County Unincorporated Communities and County Operations
Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Ordinance	Work with stakeholders and County departments to make revisions to the C&D Ordinance, develop policies for recovering C&D debris from County projects, and take other steps to divert C&D debris from disposal.	County Unincorporated Communities and County Operations

5.3 EXISTING PROGRAMS

TABLE 3: EXISTING WASTE REDUCTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Project	Description
Battery Program	Provides residents with convenient outlets to dispose of household batteries at designated County Libraries.
Commercial and Institutional Recycling Program Contract	Performs research and consultation regarding waste reduction and recycling practices for businesses, residences, large venues, schools, and other institutions as well as County agencies. Also, will assist in the development of implementation plans and outreach.
County Green Building Program	In 2008 Los Angeles County adopted the Green Building Program, which included Drought-Tolerant Landscaping, Green Building, and Low Impact Development Ordinances, and created an Implementation Task Force and Technical Manual.
Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris Ordinance	The County's C&D Ordinance requires projects in the unincorporated areas to recycle or reuse 50 percent of the debris generated, thereby increasing the diversion of construction and demolition debris from disposal facilities.
County Building LEED Certifications	Since 2008 new County buildings, of 10,000 sf or more, have achieved Silver Certification or higher under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Since January 2010, all capital projects must also comply with the California Green Building Standards Code requiring projects meet minimum waste diversion, energy efficiency and potable water use standards.
Expanded Polystyrene Food Container Policy for County Operations	The Board of Supervisors adopted a policy to prohibit the use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) food packaging at all County operations, including restricting the purchase and use of all EPS food containers at County facilities, offices, County-managed concessions, and commercial food and beverage suppliers at County-permitted or sponsored events.
Conversion Technology Program	Promotes development of fully operational conversion technology facilities in the County to promote alternatives to landfills.

TABLE 3: EXISTING WASTE REDUCTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Project	Description
Green Purchasing Policy	A procurement policy for the purchase of recyclable materials and recycled-content products, which encourages manufacturers and vendors to reduce environmental impacts in production and distribution.
Beverage Container Recycling Program	A program developed to increase beverage container recycling by providing recycling bins for multi-family dwellings within unincorporated areas of the County and County facilities with high-traffic areas accessible to employees and the visiting public. The program also includes a comprehensive education and outreach campaign to increase recycling by residents and employees.
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program	Provides residents with a convenient outlet to dispose of their HHW at a permanent center or collection event in various communities throughout the County. These events provide residents with a free means to dispose of their toxic, poisonous, corrosive, flammable, and combustible household items, as well as electronic waste.
Food Donation & Recovery Outreach Program (Food DROP)	Provides resources to all food service businesses operating in CUCs to safely donate their excess edible food to feed people in need in Los Angeles County.
Smart Businesses Recycling Program	Provides businesses, multi-family property owners, and schools within CUCs with resources and consultation to assist them in achieving greater sustainability by establishing or expanding on their existing recycling practices. Assist local businesses in the County unincorporated areas with implementation of the Mandatory Commercial Recycling Law (AB 341), Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling Law (AB 1826), and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Law (SB 1383).
Los Angeles County Materials Exchange Program (LACoMAX)	Designed to divert usable materials from disposal. Serves as an electronic marketplace where parties can exchange materials at no cost. Users of this on-line service can post or search listings of a wide variety of available and wanted materials.

TABLE 3: EXISTING WASTE REDUCTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Project	Description
Plastic Straw Ordinance	An ordinance prohibiting businesses within the CUCs and County facilities that sell food and/or beverages from automatically providing single-use plastic and plastic stirrers to customers or making these items available to customers from a self-serve dispenser.
Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ)	Combines recycling with economic development to fuel new businesses, expand existing businesses, create jobs, and divert waste from landfills. It also provides business and technical assistance, product marketing, and financial assistance to businesses that manufacture a recycled-content product or process materials for recycling.
Sharps Program	Provides residents with options for safe and convenient disposal of sharps waste at 21 drop boxes located at Sheriff’s stations throughout Los Angeles County. Drop off is available 24 hours a day.
Smart Gardening	Offers free workshops to all County residents so they can learn about backyard composting, worm composting, grass recycling, water-wise gardening, and fire-wise gardening.
Waste Characterization Implementation Plan	Conduct regular Waste Characterization Studies for unincorporated communities (all sectors) at 5– to 10- year intervals to determine material types being disposed of which could ultimately be recycled. The plan will include a methodology, schedule, and budget to conduct waste generation and disposal surveys at County operations.
Youth Education	Programs that reach out to elementary and secondary school students to teach them about helping the environment and encourages them to make a difference in their local environment by creating campus eco-projects. It also provides development training and personalized support for school teachers including a resource guide.



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