

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL RECYCLING PROGRAM Newsletter

First Quarter 2019

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future

Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center



Los Angeles County USC Medical Center (LAC+USC) is a world-class teaching hospital, Level I trauma center, and hub to the County-run healthcare system. The hospital serves nearly one million residents each year and employs approximately 8,000 staff. LAC+USC recently kicked off a beverage container recycling program. Eight recycling bins were strategically placed throughout the facility to introduce the program. The recyclables are collected by a non-profit organization on an as-needed basis.

Starting a recycling program at a facility with such a large footprint made up of several buildings and with numerous high traffic areas was no easy task. This effort required cooperation and communication between various County Departments and stakeholders. LAC+USC staff have been enthusiastic about taking on this new recycling program at their facility. For more information on LAC+USC's beverage container recycling program, please contact their Department Recycling Coordinator, Josefina De Alba at (323) 409-6632. To learn how to start beverage container recycling at your Department/facility, contact Arlene Morales, County Recycling Coordinator, at (626) 458-7834.

COMPOST FOOD WASTE

LA County Public Works is making food waste work for them with the help of Red Wiggler worms, nature's composters. Public Works has implemented a food composting program at their Headquarters cafeteria in Alhambra. Four worm composting bins have been installed to reduce the amount of pre-consumer food waste (coffee grinds, discarded fruit peels and vegetable shavings) created by the cafeteria.

The worms quickly convert food scraps into a rich soil amendment and fertilizer. They also produce a "worm tea" liquid that is an excellent natural fertilizer and pesticide.

This worm composting program could divert over 2,500 pounds a year of organic waste from landfills. The compost and worm tea produced helps fertilize a drought-tolerant garden on the premises.

Visit smartgardening.com for a how-to video on worm composting and a schedule of free workshops you can attend on your own time.

To help your department start a food worm compost program, contact Beverly Jones at (626) 458-3516, or email at bjones@dpw.lacounty.gov.



HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF BATTERIES

Los Angeles County has agreements with approved vendors to collect and properly manage hazardous waste, including batteries.



To learn about the contracts and vendors available to provide this service, visit LA County Internal Services Department's [website](#) or contact Tatiana Menendez, at (323) 267-2615.

If you need battery recycling bins, contact your Department Recycling Coordinator, or Arlene Morales, Departmental Recycling Coordinator, at (626) 458-7834.

When placing batteries in the battery recycling bin, tape the contacts/terminals of each battery.

For more information on Departmental Recycling, contact Arlene Morales at (626) 458-7834.



For questions or additional information regarding our programs, email us at cdrp@dpw.lacounty.gov.