

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL RECYCLING PROGRAM Newsletter

1st Quarter 2020  
**Roadmap to a Sustainable  
Waste Management Future**

## Food Donation and Food Waste Recycling Initiative



Los Angeles County disposes 3.5 million tons of organic waste annually and has the largest food insecure population in the country. In response to this, Public Works developed the Food Donation and Food Waste Recycling Initiative including the Food Donation and Recovery Outreach Program ([Food DROP](#)), the Commercial Food Waste

Recycling Pilot Program and the Scrape Your Plate Program. These programs focus on providing essential and nutritious food to those in need and diverting spoiled, inedible food to County Sanitation Districts facilities to be recycled into renewable electricity and fuels. Businesses and food recovery agencies are all key players in reducing food waste by recovering excess edible food and redirecting it back to the communities to feed those experiencing food insecurity.

In October 2019, the Food Donation and Food Waste Recycling Initiative was honored among the Top Ten Awards from the 33rd Annual Productivity and Quality Awards for its productivity and quality improvement efforts. The Food Donation and Food Waste Recycling Initiative also received a 2019 Merit Award from the California State Association of Counties, among 33 recipients and a total of 284 entries throughout California.

For more information on the Food Donation and Food Waste Recycling Initiative, contact Jennifer King at (626) 458-3554 or email [jlui@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:jlui@pw.lacounty.gov).

## Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ)

Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program combines recycling with economic development to fund new businesses, expand existing ones, create green jobs, and divert waste from landfills. It provides financial, technical, and marketing assistance to businesses that manufacture products from reused or recycled materials. Low fixed-interest loans are available to businesses and nonprofits that qualify. If you work with or know a business that would benefit from this program refer them to [RMDZLA.com](http://RMDZLA.com). For more information, contact Armando Aguilar at (626) 458-2516 or email [aaguilar@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:aaguilar@pw.lacounty.gov).



## Earth Day 50th Anniversary

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! While there will be fewer in-person Earth Day celebrations due to COVID-19, Departments are still encouraged to highlight sustainable programs by:

- ◆ Sharing sustainable program information and flyers through emails and this newsletter
- ◆ Encouraging employees to provide ideas to improve sustainability (e.g. bring your own reusable dishware everywhere you go)

For more information, contact Countywide Recycling Coordinator, Arlene Morales via email: [cdrp@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:cdrp@pw.lacounty.gov).



For questions or additional information,  
email: [cdrp@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:cdrp@pw.lacounty.gov)