

# SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



Summer 2009

Volume 59

## Update on the Southern California Conversion Technology Demonstration Project

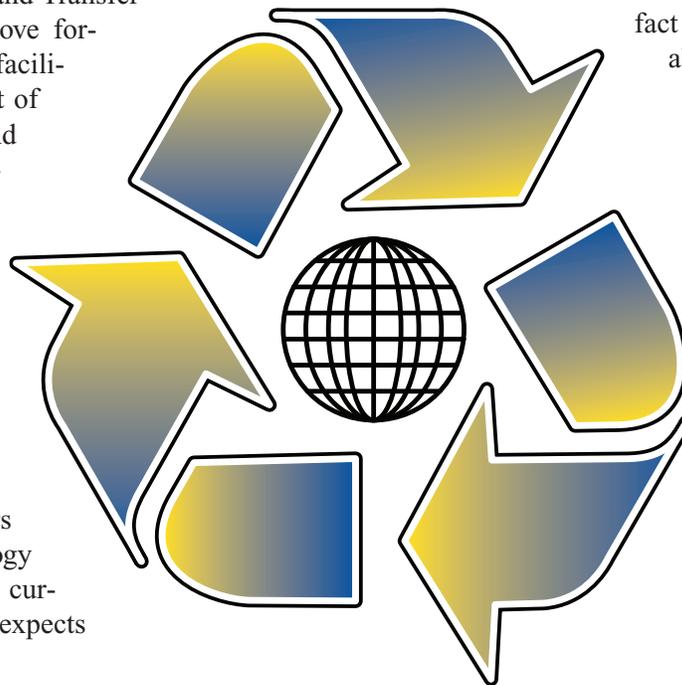
For over a decade, the County of Los Angeles (County) and the Task Force supported conversion technologies for their ability to convert post-recycled residual solid waste into useful products, green fuels, and renewable energy. Together, the County and the Task Force's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee are developing these technologies in Southern California through a phased approach.

Phase I consists of preliminary evaluations of a number of technologies and potential host sites. Phase II focuses on closely evaluating top-ranking technologies and sites for development of a demonstration facility in Southern California. Four technology companies and three Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Stations were selected to move forward to Phase II. Phase III facilitates permitting, procurement of funding, facility design, and construction of the demonstration project. Phase IV focuses on soliciting and evaluating sites for potential development of full-scale conversion technology facilities exclusively in the County.

The County received and reviewed site-specific offers from the top-ranking technology companies. Negotiations are currently underway. The County expects

to submit an official project recommendation to the Board of Supervisors early this summer. Concurrently with project recommendations to the Board, the County will recommend an environmental consultant to assist in Phases III and IV.

With the passing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, many new funding opportunities were announced or are in the pipeline for "shovel-ready" renewable energy projects such as conversion technologies. The County is coordinating efforts to secure funding for the demonstration projects, but also potential commercial County of Los Angeles based projects.



The County compiled an environmental fact sheet to summarize publicly available data regarding conversion technologies. To view the fact sheet and other conversion technology information, visit [www.SoCalConversion.org](http://www.SoCalConversion.org).

If your city is considering conversion technologies as a prospective waste management option and would like more information, contact Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-4946 M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**JOIN THE TEAM:** If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste*, please contact **Vanessa Lopez** at 626-458-6563, or [vlopez@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:vlopez@dpw.lacounty.gov). Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you want to be involved or to contribute, please join the Subcommittee!

## Safe & Secure Collection Event: Medicines, Documents, and E-Waste

On Saturday, April 25, 2009, the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and City of Santa Clarita (City) teamed up to host a Safe & Secure event at the College of the Canyons. The free event provided Santa Clarita residents an opportunity to drop off electronic waste for recycling, medications for destruction, and personal documents for shredding and recycling. The event also educated residents about the importance of properly disposing items that could put them at risk for identity theft (documents, e-waste) or get into the hands of children (medication).

Over 800 cars took part in the event in a six hour period. In total, 1,600 boxes of personal documents were dropped off, shredded, and recycled. Ninety-six large pallets of televisions, monitors, computer processors, and other electronic waste totaling over 50,000 pounds were collected for recycling. Over 33 large cartons of old medication were collected and destroyed through the Sheriff's Central Property Unit.

The City and the Sheriff's Department were very pleased with the success of this event and are planning to host another event in October 2009. Mayor Frank Ferry of the City of Santa Clarita stated that this event is great for the community because it reduces the chance of identity theft, limits opportunities for improper medication usage, and recycles a large amount of e-waste and paper in only a few hours.

If you have questions regarding the City of Santa Clarita's Safe & Secure event, contact Mark Patti, Project Development Coordinator, at (661) 286-4098.

## Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station Planned in City of Irwindale

The City of Irwindale Community Redevelopment Agency (Agency) is working with Athens Services to develop a state-of-the-art 323,000 square foot Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station (MRF/TS) on a 17-acre site owned by the Agency located at the intersection of Live Oak Avenue and Arrow Highway. The proposed project consists of the MRF/TS with a processing capacity of 6,000 tons per day and a Fueling Facility/Convenience Store.

The City retained a consultant to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to assess impacts of the project on the following issues: aesthetics; air quality/odors; greenhouse gases; geology and soils; hydrology and water quality; and traffic, land use, and planning. The draft EIR is anticipated to be ready for public review and comment by August 2009. For questions, contact Ray Hamada, City Planning Department, at (626) 430-2208.



## County of Los Angeles Announces 1.7 Million Pounds of Electronic Waste Collected and Recycled

In 2008, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in concert with the County Sanitation District hosted over 60 Household Hazardous/E-Waste (HHW/E) collection events and collected over 1,700,000 pounds of electronic waste. One hundred percent of the electronic waste collected is recycled.

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management Program is a mechanism to properly manage HHW such as auto fluids, paint, chemical cleaners, lawn care products, medicines, beauty products, universal waste, sharps, and electronic waste for all Los Angeles County residents. The HHW Program consists of free, weekly, mobile HHW/E collection events and one permanent collection center in the Antelope Valley.

For more information, contact Armine Kesablian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-3548, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.



# SINGLE USE BAG REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program (Program) was adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors on January 22, 2008. The Program is a collaboration among stores, environmental groups, bag manufacturers, local government, and the public.

The goal is to reduce litter and waste generated from single use bags through initiatives such as promoting reusable bags, recycling plastic and paper bags, and expanding anti-litter campaigns.

## BAG FACTS

- ◆ Each year, about six billion plastic bags are used in Los Angeles County. Only about 5 percent of these bags are recycled.
- ◆ When plastic bags are littered, they enter the ocean and harm marine life.
- ◆ Each year, the County spends over \$18 million on cleanup, enforcement, and litter prevention.
- ◆ Paper bags are not the most environmentally preferred alternative because of the amount of energy and water used to manufacture them.
- ◆ By taking your reusable bags to stores, you can conserve natural resources and reduce the potential for litter.



- ◆ Recycle. Return any extra plastic bags to the grocery store and place them in the plastic bag recycling bin.

## SINGLE USE BAG TIPS

- ◆ Refuse. Don't accept any unnecessary plastic or paper bags for large items, such as jugs of milk or juice, or small items that can be easily carried or placed in another bag.
- ◆ Reuse. Plastic bags can be reused for lining trash cans, disposing of pet waste, and in other practical ways.
- ◆ Responsibility. When using plastic bags to dispose of trash, remember to tie the handles shut before placing them into the trash bin. This will keep contents from spilling out, and prevent bags from becoming airborne and ending up on streets, in waterways, open spaces, or the ocean.

## REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR REUSABLE BAGS

- ◆ Place your reusable bags by the door, near your car keys, or with your store coupons.
- ◆ Jot a reminder down on your shopping list.
- ◆ Keep some reusable bags in the car, or near your bicycle.
- ◆ Put a note on the refrigerator.
- ◆ Have some reusable bags at the office.
- ◆ Take reusable bags to grocery stores, the mall, and on all other shopping excursions.

For more information, contact Emiko Thompson at (626) 458-3521, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. or [ethomp@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:ethomp@dpw.lacounty.gov).



Household Hazardous waste can be taken to any of these locations. Electronic waste is also accepted. Call 1-800-98-TOXIC or 1 (888) CLEAN-LA for more information.

**Gaffey Street Collection Center**

1400 N. Gaffey St.  
San Pedro, CA 90021  
*Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

**Hyperion Treatment Plant**

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B  
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293  
*Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

**Washington Boulevard Collection Center**

2649 E. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90023  
*Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Under construction through July 2009.)*

**Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center**

11025 Randall St.  
Sun Valley, CA 91352  
*Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

**UCLA Location**

550 Charles E. Young Dr.  
West Los Angeles, CA 90095  
*Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

**Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center**

4600 Colorado Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
*Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

**Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center**

**Antelope Valley Public Landfill**  
1200 West City Ranch Rd.  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
*Open 1st and 3rd Saturday each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

# What's Up?

**HHW ROUNDUPS** are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at **1 (888) CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about City of Los Angeles events, call **1 (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

- July 11      **Artesia** - Artesia City Yard, 18803 Corby Ave.
- July 11      **Norwalk** - Cerritos College, (Stadium Parking Lot "C-1"), 11110 Alondra Blvd.
- July 25      **La Puente** - La Puente Park, 501 N. Glendora Ave.
- July 25      **La Habra Heights** - Hacienda Park, Hacienda Blvd. and Encanada Dr.
- August 8     **Whittier** - Rio Hondo College (Parking Lot A), 3600 Workman Mill Rd.
- August 8     **Burbank** - Burbank Fire Department Training Center, 1845 Ontario St.
- Sept. 19     **Glendale** - Glendale City Streets, 780 Flower St.
- Sept. 26     **Carson** - Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (West Maintenance Building Parking Lot), 24501 South Figueroa St.
- Sept. 26     **Huntington Park** - Huntington Park City Yard, 6900 Bissell St.
- Oct. 3        **Beverly Hills & West Hollywood** - Beverly Hills City Streets, Foothill Rd. between Alden Dr. & West 3rd St.
- Oct. 17      **South El Monte** - South El Monte Community Center (Parking Lot), 1415 Santa Anita Ave.
- Oct. 31      **Unincorporated South Whittier** - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, STAR Training Center, 11515 South Colima Rd.

## TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

Aug 20  
Sept 17  
Oct 15

All meetings are scheduled at 1 p.m. in Conference Room C.

For information, call Benjamin Cortez at 626-458-2536, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking for up-to-date information about the Task Force?

Visit [www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org) where you can find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.

## County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Honors Five Winners of the 2009 Green Leadership Award Program

On April 21, 2009, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors presented five Green Leadership Awards recognizing outstanding efforts and innovative strategies to enhance environmental sustainability in Los Angeles County (County).

The Green Leadership Award Program (Program) was created in April 2008 to honor residents, communities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, professional and trade associations, and government entities in the County for their commendable energy conservation and environmental preservation projects and activities. The Program is administered by the County's Chief Executive Office.

Projects eligible for this award include those related to transportation, energy and water, sustainability, outreach, and education. Some of the factors considered in the selection process are impact, innovation, collaboration, financial viability, measurability, and outreach.

### The five Award recipients for 2009 were:

#### Interior Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling

The Interior Removal Specialist, Inc., located in South Gate, recovers interior demolition debris from the waste stream for reuse and recycling. For example, gypsum drywall is collected and used as a soil amendment, and manufactured lumber is also salvaged for use as fuel at Waste to Energy facilities. Discarded but usable materials such as furniture, carpet squares, and fixtures are donated to orphanages, churches, or nonprofit organizations. The company is proud of diverting over 80% of the materials brought to their facility.

#### Planet Pals "Trash Free Tuesdays"

Every Tuesday, students at Grand View Elementary School in the City of Manhattan Beach take their lunches in compartmentalized reusable lunchboxes in order to make every Tuesday "Trash Free." To supplement this effort, the School also implemented composting and recycling. The program was created by moms who wanted to raise environmental awareness and stewardship among the students. Since the inception of the program, the School has gone from generating 40 bags of trash per day to a record low of only half a bag for over 650 students.

#### Citizens for a Cleaner City

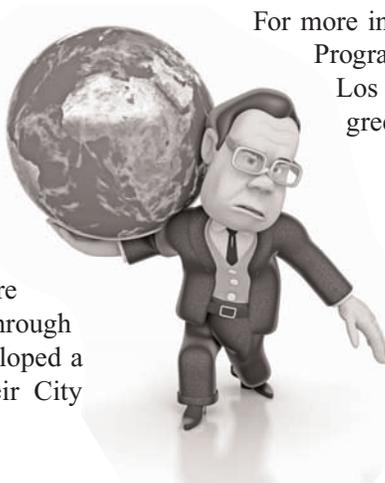
In response to the encouragement and support from their Mayor, the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association instituted a hands-on community clean-up program in their City. City residents between the ages of six and 85 volunteer their time twice a month on Saturdays to clean-up litter and debris in highly visible areas such as entrances to the City, railroad set backs, and wide medians. More than two-tons of trash and debris were collected through this program since 2006, and participants have developed a unified sense of community pride in keeping their City clean.

#### City of Monrovia Environmental Accords

The City of Monrovia adopted the Monrovia Environmental Accords which entails twenty-one innovative actions that support environmental sustainability. The City's "Green Team" implemented numerous improvements such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps at City facilities; installing cool roofs at their Police Department and Historic Museum; installing programmable thermostats at several facilities; retrofitting traffic signals to LED; installing waterless urinals in City facilities; adopting a Low Emission Vehicle Acquisition Policy; building an energy-efficient library; and much more.

#### City of Pasadena On-Line Green Training Project

Through an interactive Internet-based design, the City of Pasadena's full-time employees participated in an online Green Training Program. The Program outlines the City's commitment and goals in the areas of energy, waste reduction, urban design, transportation, environmental health, and water conservation, and provides tips for living and working green. The training is a component of the City's 2006 Green City Action Plan to address global warming.



For more information about the Green Leadership Program, contact Ruth Wong of the County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office, at [greenleadership@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:greenleadership@ceo.lacounty.gov).

## County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Rewards Do-It-Yourselfers for Recycling Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters at Collection Events

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) rewarded Do-It-Yourselfers (DIYers) with auto related promotional items when they recycled their used motor oil and oil filters at our free collection events held during the Spring.

Public Works held four used motor oil collection events in the cities of Torrance, Monterey Park, and in the unincorporated areas of Rowland Heights and East Los Angeles. Over 500 residents participated in the collection events where approximately 1,740 gallons of used motor oil and 540 oil filters were collected for recycling.



In exchange for recycling, DIYers received a free oil and filter container, oil funnel, and shop towel. KFWB and Univision radio stations were also on-site to help promote the Torrance and East Los Angeles events to their listeners.

For additional information on the Countywide Used Motor Oil Program, contact Edna Gandarilla at (626) 458-6536 or [eganda@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:eganda@dpw.lacounty.gov).



## School Recycling Program Earns Waste Management and Manhattan Beach National Partnership Award

Waste Management and the City of Manhattan Beach received the 2009 “outstanding award” for public/private partnerships from the Mayors’ Business Council, a division of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The partnership included key policy stakeholders, Waste Management, the City of Manhattan Beach, Manhattan Beach Unified School District and Planet Pals, a parent volunteer group, whose goal is to improve environmental programs at the district’s seven public schools.

Launched in November 2007, the partnership set out to enhance recycling programs, increase recycling, reduce waste, and educate students and school staff about sustainability. Waste Management performed a comprehensive district-wide waste audit and discovered numerous ways to increase recycling and reduce waste. The company audited seven schools, including five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school.

The Mayors Business Council established the public/private partnership awards to encourage businesses and cities to work together to improve local communities. Criteria included: improvement in delivery of services, replicability, sustainability, cost savings, creative approach, benefits to both public and private partners, economic and business benefits, and measurable results.

“Through this partnership, we are educating tomorrow’s leaders about the importance of responsible environmental protection, which, in itself, is invaluable,” said Manhattan Beach Mayor Richard Montgomery.

For additional information, contact Vickie Wippel, Waste Management, at (310) 984-4501.

# Free Community Cleanup Services

As part of the County of Los Angeles' (County) efforts to reduce illegal dumping, several landfills within the County are required to provide free dump days and free disposal programs.

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, eligible residents of the Antelope Valley were provided an opportunity to dispose of up to one-ton of trash at the Lancaster Landfill for free. Residents can also drop-off one bulky item and up to four waste tires per year at the landfill. Bulky items include household furniture, furnishings, mattresses, or appliances, including white goods (washers, dryers, stoves, etc.). The next free dump day is scheduled for October 2009.

In addition, Chiquita Canyon Landfill hosted quarterly clean-up days for Val Verde residents on March 7 and June 6. The next clean-up days are scheduled on September 5 and December 5, 2009.



The Sunshine Canyon Landfill will soon start conducting semi-annual free dump days to encourage adjacent County unincorporated area residents to properly dispose of waste they generate. Similar to the Lancaster Landfill, the campaign consists of a day when residents may bring up to one-ton of trash to the landfill for free disposal. The landfill will also accept one bulky item and up to four tires delivered to the landfill per residence per year.

To reduce litter, residents must tarp all loads before visiting the landfills.

For more information about free dump days and free disposal programs, contact James Benken, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-2520, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



## California Integrated Waste Management Board Lead Agency in AB 32 Scoping Plan Recycling/Solid Waste Recommendations

On September 27, 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. This landmark law requires California to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE) to 1990 levels by 2020. As the lead agency for AB 32 implementation, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) developed a Scoping Plan (Plan) that identifies which sectors must reduce emissions and by how much in order to reach the State's GHGE reduction goal. The Plan was developed for guidance and formulates specific strategies for how these reductions are achieved.

The ARB adopted the Plan in December 2008. Among the seventy-two recommendations in the Plan, there were several suggestions regarding solid waste, recycling, reducing methane at landfills, increasing composting usage, anaerobic digestion, mandatory commercial recycling, extended producer responsibility, and environmentally preferable purchasing. The Task Force sent letters to ARB in July and October 2008, indicating the need for a full lifecycle analysis on all recycling activities since the bulk of California's recyclables are shipped overseas. The Task Force emphasized the importance of estab-

lishing local recycling markets and conversion technologies if we want to accurately reduce GHGE. Copies of the correspondence are available at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/tf/>.

State agencies are responsible for developing regulations based on the Plan's recommendations. As such, the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) is taking steps to begin the rulemaking process on several measures described above. The Task Force is opposed to mandatory commercial recycling and will monitor this process and all related legislation. Stakeholders are urged to participate. For more information on this process, visit the Waste Board's climate change webpage at <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/climate/>.

The Waste Board is hosting the following workshop:

Informal Workshop on Mandatory Commercial Recycling  
Thursday, August 6, 2009, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
South Coast Air Quality Management District,  
Diamond Bar CA

## 2009 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force continuously monitors and analyzes pending legislative bills that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below is a summary and status of bills the Task Force has taken a position on through June of 2009.

Bill Number	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
AB 64	Oppose	In Senate	This bill would amend the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program to include local publicly owned electric utilities in the RPS program, and increase the renewable electricity requirements on utilities. This bill would also contradict changes in statute which the Task Force has and continues to advocate through AB 222.
AB 68	Support	Two-Year Bill	This bill would prohibit a large supermarket, pharmacy, or convenience food store with over 10,000 sq. ft. from providing a single-use carryout bag to a customer unless the store charges a fee of no less than \$0.25 per bag at the point of sale. The bill would provide certain exemptions and allow the retail establishment to retain a portion of the fee. Eighty percent of funds collected by the State would be available for grants to local government on a per capita basis for litter prevention activities.
AB 87	Support	Two-Year Bill	This bill would prohibit a large supermarket, pharmacy, or convenience food store with over 10,000 sq. ft. from providing a single-use carryout bag to a customer unless the store charges a fee of no less than \$0.25 per bag at the point of sale. The bill would provide certain exemptions and allow the retail establishment to retain a portion of the fee. Eighty-nine percent of funds collected by the State would be available for grants to local government on a per capita basis for litter prevention activities.
AB 222	Support	Two-Year Bill	This bill would define "in-state renewable electricity generation facility" to include a facility that uses conversion at a biorefinery. This bill would also authorize a local jurisdiction to include solid waste diverted to a biorefinery in meeting a requirement to divert solid waste above 50 percent, if the local jurisdiction makes specified certification to the Waste Board and the board finds that the local jurisdiction has diverted at least 50 percent of all solid waste through source reduction, recycling, and composting.
AB 283	Support and Amend	Two-Year Bill	This bill would create the California Product Stewardship Act of 2009 requiring the Waste Board to adopt regulations that establish environmentally sound product stewardship protocols that encourage cradle-to-cradle producer responsibility and reduce the end-of-life environmental impacts of products.
AB 473	Concern	In Senate	This bill would require an owner of a multifamily dwelling, defined as a residential facility that consists of 5 or more living units, to arrange for recycling services that are appropriate for the multifamily dwelling consistent with state or local laws or requirements, including a local ordinance or agreement, applicable to the collection, handling, or recycling of solid waste. This bill would increase the amount of recyclables collected without addressing the need for markets that use these recyclables.
AB 478	Oppose	In Senate	This bill would require the CA Air Resources Board (ARB) to consult with the Waste Board in developing the regulations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste reduction and recycling. The ARB is already required to consult with all stakeholders in establishing these regulations, making this bill unnecessary.
AB 1358	Support	Died In Committee	This bill would prohibit a food vendor from dispensing prepared food to a customer in a disposable polystyrene food container.

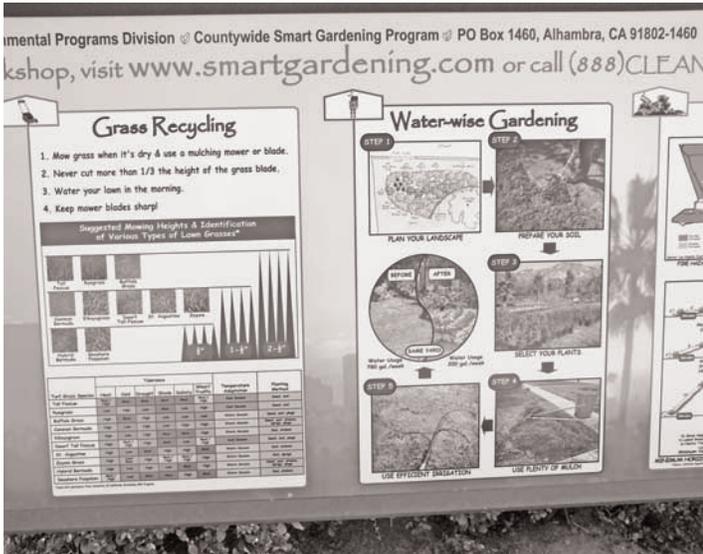
## 2009 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Bill Number	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
AB 479	Oppose	In Senate	This bill would increase the State Diversion mandate to 60% by Jan. 1, 2015 and 75% by Jan. 1, 2020 and require local jurisdictions to adopt a mandatory commercial recycling ordinance. This bill would also increase the State waste disposal surcharge from \$1.40 per ton to \$3.90 per ton and provide \$2.50 of that fee to local jurisdictions on a per capita basis subject to certain restrictions. This bill would only allow local governments to achieve the diversion mandates through existing programs that do not have a realistic capability of achieving the required mandates.
AB 1141	Oppose	Died In Committee	This bill would extend the preemption provisions of AB 2449; prohibit local governments from imposing a fee on paper bags and from banning or restricting plastic bags; redefine reusable bags to include lighter weight plastic bags; establish a 50% recycling benchmark; increase the recycled content of plastic bags, provided market conditions allow sufficient supply/quality of materials; and require manufacturers to directly pay into a fund for litter abatement. Funds remaining after State administrative costs would be allocated to local governments and state agencies, based on guidance from a special advisory panel.
SB 25	Oppose	Assembly	This bill would increase the State Diversion mandate to 60% and 75% by Jan. 1, 2015 and Jan. 1, 2020, respectively. This bill would also increase the fee paid by an operator of a disposal facility to \$2.13 per ton from \$1.40 per ton, on and after Jan. 1, 2012, and require the Waste Board to adjust the fee not more than once every 2 years to reflect the cost of living during the prior 2 fiscal years. This bill would only allow local governments to achieve the diversion mandates through existing programs that do not have a realistic capability of achieving the required mandates.
SB 26	Oppose	Died In Committee	The bill would authorize a local enforcement agency to approve a consolidation point for the collection of home-generated pharmaceutical waste (prescribed over the counter drugs) including but not limited to pharmacies, clinics, and government offices. It would exclude "home-generated pharmaceutical waste" from the definition of medical waste and allow for grants provided by the Integrated Waste Management Fund to be used by local governments for programs to help prevent the disposal of home-generated sharps waste and home-generated pharmaceutical waste at disposal sites.
SB 390	Support	Died In Committee	This bill would extend the Recycling Market Development Revolving Loan Program (program) and the continuous appropriation to July 1, 2021 and change other provisions of the program.
SB 390	Support	Senate Energy, Utilities, & Comm. Committee	This bill would exempt, from the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act, the adoption and implementation of specified district rules and the creation or the use of specified air emission reduction credits pursuant to a variety of projects within the district.
H.R. 2454	Support	Ways & Means Committee	This bill would establish emission caps that reduce aggregate greenhouse gas emissions for all major emitters. The legislation also defines the term 'equalized waste-to-energy' as energy produced from the combustion of municipal solid waste or construction, demolition, disaster debris, or the gasification or pyrolyzation of these wastes. Qualified waste-to-energy would qualify as a renewable energy.

For more information on these bills or copies of Task Force letters, visit our website, [www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org), or contact Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at 626-458-5163, M-Th, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Mike Mohajer, Task Force, at 909-592-1147.

# New Smart Gardening Information Center City of Downey

Since the City of Downey (City) is in the forefront of providing composting information to its residents, the County of Los Angeles invited the City to host one of their new Countywide Smart Gardening Information Centers (Information Center) located at Wilderness Park, 10999 Little Lake Road, Downey. The informational display area consists of three compost bin displays and five instructional signs. A weather-proof box also holds schedule flyers for upcoming workshop dates and locations.



The Information Center is a creative environmental outreach effort designed to educate residents about Smart Gardening techniques such as composting, grass recycling, worm composting, water-wise gardening, and fire-wise gardening. These techniques can significantly reduce water usage in the yard especially during the current drought. They are also simple and effective ways to reduce the amount of yard waste generated while helping residents create and maintain a healthy, beautiful, and drought-tolerant garden and lawn.

For additional information, contact Kathy Simmons at (562) 904-7103.



## County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Turns the County Green

April 22, 2009 marked the 39th anniversary since Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin) proposed a day of nationwide protest and demonstration which has become known as Earth Day. Senator Nelson's proposal was to shed light on environmental deterioration and abuse that were becoming difficult to ignore any longer. The movement that evolved from this proposal was instrumental in bringing important environmental issues to the national forefront.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) celebrated and participated in over forty Earth Day related events Countywide in the month of April. From elementary schools to senior centers, Public Works encountered residents who were eager and excited to celebrate and increase their environmental awareness.

Some of the more noteworthy events include Universal Studios' "Eco Fair," Sony Pictures' Earth Day Celebration, Aquarium of the Pacific's Earth Day Celebration, Pasadena's "Greening the Earth and Family Arts Festival," and the Los Angeles Zoo's

"K-Earth 101 Earth Day." One memorable event this year was the inaugural nationwide environmental awareness conference, "National Conversation on Climate Action."

The conference, held at Metro Headquarters in Downtown Los Angeles, brought many environmental issues to a healthy and productive forum. Supervisors Molina, Knabe, Ridley-Thomas, and Yaroslavsky attended the conference. Each Supervisor spoke at the symposium addressing environmental issues important to them. Experts in several environmental fields made eloquent presentations pertaining to climate action and change. Attendees participated in round table discussions and workshops with the goal of coming to a consensus for solutions to environmental issues presented at the conference.

All together, it was a festive and informative month for County residents eager for green information. To learn more about these events or Earth Day in general, visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or contact Gabriel Arenas at (626) 458-3547, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Remember, treat everyday like Earth Day.

## Earthy Focus at Calabasas Earth Day

The City of Calabasas held its annual Earth Day Celebration (Celebration) on April 4, 2009. The Celebration featured learning booths, wildlife presentations, green cars of the future, live music, and a raffle. Over 800 people joined the fun while learning about how to help the earth from the 24 sponsors.

Organics recycling was a hot topic at the Celebration. Crown Disposal Company, Inc. featured their organics recycling program and thrilled the crowd with compost samples and free strawberries grown from this compost. Waste Management featured information about their recycling programs and also introduced the food waste program scheduled to begin in Calabasas this year with their composting partner, Agromin Premium Soil Products. California Recycles, the City's partner in electronic waste recycling, displayed their compostable selection of cutlery, plates, and cups. California Recycles generously donated a sample package of these products to the event raffle.

State Assemblywoman Julia Brownley addressed the public on California's current environmental initiatives. Other sponsors included the Calabasas Environmental Commission, Heal the Bay, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. For more information, contact the City's Recycling Coordinator, Michael LaRussa, at (818) 224-1600.



*Compost-grown chocolate-dipped strawberries by Crown Disposal Company, Inc. were a hit with the crowd.*

## Republic and Allied Merge, Chiquita Canyon Landfill Sold

On December 8, 2008, Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) and Allied Waste Industries, Inc. (Allied), formerly the solid waste industry's second and third largest companies, merged under the Republic company title. The \$9 billion merger now comprised of over 35,000 employees serving more than 13 million customers in 40 states and Puerto Rico. As part of the merger, the United States Department of Justice required Republic, among other actions, to divest Chiquita Canyon Landfill. On February 6, 2009, Republic signed an agreement with Waste Connections, Inc. for the sale of Chiquita Canyon Landfill, along with other landfills, transfer stations, and collection routes in five other states. Waste Connections, Inc. now provides solid waste services to 1.8 million residential, commercial, and industrial customers in 23 states.

The merger of Allied with Republic resulted in a partial shift in the waste stream from Chiquita Canyon Landfill to Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Coupled with the economic downturn, the shift resulted in a 69% disposal rate decline at Chiquita Canyon Landfill, from an average of 4,800 tons per day in 2008 to 1,500 tons per day in April 2009.

For more information, contact James Benken, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-2520.



# Recycling Electronic Waste in Malibu

The City of Malibu implemented a new Electronic Waste Recycling program. Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) and household batteries are also accepted at the E-Waste events. In the past, residents participated in Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events held weekly by the County of Los Angeles, but only locally twice a year. Now, Malibu residents and businesses have a regular quarterly event in their own City. The first event on April 18, 2009, surpassed expectations yielding 1.44 tons of miscellaneous materials, 21 computer monitors (0.5 tons), and 46 television monitors (2 tons). City staff and the City's Solid Waste consultants were onsite to introduce this service to the community.

These free collection events are scheduled in January, April, July, and October at 23555 Civic Center Way from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This quarterly event coincides with the monthly used oil/latex paint/auto battery collection event. The central location makes recycling E-Waste and disposing of household hazardous waste almost effortless. For more information, contact Environmental Programs Division at (310) 456-2489, Ext. 286 or visit the City website: [www.ci.malibu.ca.us](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us).



Los Angeles County  
Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460