

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

September 18, 2025

Los Angeles County Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Jonathan Caruso, Waste Management
James Roska, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Heather Rose, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Anna Haller, Earthcare
Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Siya Araumi called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 17, 2025, MAY 15, 2025, JULY 17, 2025, AND AUGUST 21, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the April 17, 2025, May 15, 2025, July 17, 2025, and August 21, 2025, minutes, and Mr. Eugene Tseng seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon stated that Tetra Tech:

- Submitted a draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92, which includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for conversion technology (CT) facility options.
- Submitted a revised workplan based on the finalized Countywide Siting Evaluation Report for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal CT facilities within Los Angeles County. This initial site assessment identified areas across the County with high development feasibility based on established siting criteria. Next steps include further evaluation of parcels identified as part of the initial site assessment.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

During the September 16, 2025, monthly meeting, CalRecycle:

- Provided an update on the Battery Embedded Product Program:
 - CalRecycle will establish a proposed recycling fee for covered products.
- Provided an update on the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 54:
 - CalRecycle initiated a formal rulemaking process on August 22, 2025. There is a 45-day public comment period that ends on October 7, 2025. For more information, visit the CalRecycle rulemaking [website](#).
 - CalRecycle prepared a partially recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report that is concurrent with the rulemaking process. The 45-day comment period for the report is from August 26, 2025, to October 10, 2025.

- CalRecycle published a Covered Material Categories List on September 2, 2025, which does not include updated determinations of recyclability and composability. CalRecycle will update those determinations by January 1, 2026.
- CalRecycle also published two producer reporting guidance documents to support implementation. For more information, visit the SB 54 [website](#).
- CalRecycle's next Advisory Board meeting will be on September 19, 2025.
- Provided an update on the Responsible Textile Recovery Act:
 - CalRecycle hosted an Information Public Workshop on the Responsible Textile Recovery Act on September 9, 2025, which focused on the statutory overview of the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) program and the PRO application and submission process.
 - The solicitation letter and application form are posted on CalRecycle's textile [website](#).
 - Applications are due on January 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CalRecycle will review applications that have been submitted by the due date and approve one PRO by March 1, 2026.
- Provided an update on SB 498:
 - SB 498, adopted in 2014, requires annual reporting on the amounts, types, and sources of biomass materials converted into energy. Facilities report on materials accepted from four source categories: agricultural biomass, in-forestry biomass, mill residue, and urban sources of biomass.
 - CalRecycle currently has 22 active biomass conversion facilities, many of which use gasification and pyrolysis instead of incineration.
 - In the 1980s, there were more than 50 biomass conversion facilities in the state, but they used incineration. This decline is due to less expensive sources of energy like natural gas and solar, the relatively low cost of landfilling as an alternative to biomass conversion, and subsidy fluctuations.

CalRecycle hosted an SB 1383 chat on September 17, 2025, that focused on Sustainable Funding for Food Recovery Organization and Services. Food recovery organizations discussed challenges with finding space to expand their operations, ensuring that they receive high-quality nutritious food, and increasing costs because of SB 1383 requirements. The food recovery organizations and local jurisdictions discussed various sources of funding for food recovery, including grants.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Ms. Kiem provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences, which may also be found in the [CT Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- SoCal SWANA Annual Meeting & Workshop: September 25, 2025, Long Beach, CA.
- The National Zero Waste Conference: October 22 – 23, Virtual.
- RCon Powered by SWANA: November 12 – 15, Columbus, OH.
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 19, 2025, Ontario, CA.

VI. PRESENTATION BY EARTHCARE

Ms. Anna Haller from Earthcare provided a [presentation](#) on their gasification technology to process food waste, biomass, animal manure, digestate, and biosolids into energy and biochar products.

Mr. Tseng asked if the high-temperature gasification process is similar to pyrolysis. Ms. Haller replied that one of the differences between the two processes is that oxygen is strategically put into the gasification process. Mr. Tseng asked if gasification can process black bin waste. Ms. Haller replied that while trash can be processed, the emphasis is on organic waste since that is California's priority. Mr. Tseng informed Earthcare about Assembly Bill 1126 which defines engineered municipal solid waste facilities. Mr. Tseng asked if the biochar aggregate is composed of both carbon and inorganic materials. Ms. Haller confirmed that it does. Mr. Tseng asked if Earthcare has completed aggregate strength testing. Ms. Haller replied that Earthcare's engineers can provide more insight into the testing. Mr. Tseng asked if the technology can process non-wood organic waste including textiles. Ms. Haller replied that the non-wood organics that Earthcare currently processes are mainly manure.

Mr. Jonathan Caruso asked how long it would take to process incoming material to achieve a 25-year expansion in landfill capacity. Ms. Haller replied that the material is processed on the same day within several hours, which provides immediate benefits. Mr. Caruso asked if the material could be processed within the same amount of time if there were more material. Ms. Haller replied that a single gas fire can process 40 dry tons, which are broken down from various sources.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025.