

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future

Subcommittee Meeting

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra CA 91803
Conference Rooms B & C

Thursday, April 14, 2016
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Bahman Hajialiakbar, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves.
- Bahman noted that there are numerous County departments consistently attending the Roadmap meetings, whose knowledge and participation are necessary for the program's success.

County Sanitation Districts' Presentation on Anaergia Test Press

Habib Kharrat, Sanitation Districts (Presentation starts on slide [#3](#))

- Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) has been receiving food waste from the Garbage Districts since October 2015. They anticipate receiving food waste from the Franchise areas soon.
- Food waste is currently taken to a third party for processing; however there are plans to purchase equipment to process the materials at Puente Hills MRF.
- Sanitation Districts tested the Anaergia OREX Organic Press, which works similarly to a garlic press.
- Advantages of this machine are that feedstock does not have to be source separated, and material does not need added liquid before being placed in a digester.
- Sanitation Districts completed a 10-day pilot of an OREX Mini Press on February 1, 2016. Forty-five samples were taken from loads from various residential and commercial waste sources.
- On average, 76% of waste stream (by weight) was extracted as wet fraction from the samples. This material is 93% digestible.
- Contamination levels of the samples: Samples were chosen by selecting the wettest part of the loads. This gave a contamination rate of 24%. Taking a random sample from the entire load would give a higher contamination rate. The full size machine will have screens that remove much of the contaminants.
- The dry fraction left after pressing is landfilled.

- The wet fraction of material can be sent to an anaerobic digester where it can generate gas which can be used on-site to generate electricity, injected into the pipeline, or to power and run CNG vehicles.

State of Recycling Presentation

Armando Aguilar, Public Works (presentation starts on slide [#11](#))

- CalRecycle released the *State of Disposal in California* and *State of Recycling in California* reports in February 2016. These reports analyze existing infrastructure and programs, and discuss how to achieve future legislative goals for recycling and disposal.
- Californians currently dispose of 4.5 pounds per person per day (ppd).
- AB 939 sets the state baseline waste generation at 12.6 from data from 2003-2006. The 50% diversion target is 6.3 ppd, which puts the state well below the target.
- AB 341 sets the state baseline waste generation at 10.7 by averaging generation data from 1990-2010. The 75% recycling goal creates a disposal target of 2.7 ppd.
- CalRecycle's 2014 Waste Characterization Study shows a higher percentage of food and organic waste, and a smaller percentage of lumber compared to 2008.
- Forty percent of disposed material statewide could be composted or mulched and about 30% could be recycled. This means about 70% of disposed materials could be recovered.
- In 2014, California exported 18 million tons of recyclable material via ocean vessel. 12.6 million tons originated in the state.
- The top destinations for recyclables exported from California are China, Taiwan, and South Korea.
- CalRecycle estimates that if the processing of recyclables into usable materials was done domestically, it would create 58,000 new jobs in California.

Breakout Sessions

- County Unincorporated Communities (CUC) Subcommittee
 - Existing local recycling infrastructure is minimal due to various reasons, such as:
 - Difficulty in developing new recycling facilities as well as expanding existing facilities due to permitting requirements, local and state regulations and laws. (Strategy 3, Initiative A1) Existing facilities are old and many cannot be retrofitted but would need to be rebuilt from the ground up. The capital cost is very high.
 - Markets overseas are more financially viable to send materials to due to cheaper labor and processing and fewer regulations. This is not something that is likely to change economic/market forces which are beyond our control. There is limited ability to create markets through County purchasing and specifications. (Strategy 3,, Initiative C)
 - Opposition from communities and jurisdictions in allowing new facilities to be built or expanded in their areas due to concerns such as road congestion, odors, pollutants as well as the perception that facilities are being targeted to be built in lower, disadvantaged communities (Pomona Ordinance to limit recycling infrastructure) .
 - The concept of two types of existing Recycling infrastructure
 - Hard Infrastructure – Refers to the large physical facilities such as Material Recovery Facilities, salvage yards, transfer stations, manufacturers necessary to process recyclables. (Strategy 3, Initiative B)

- Soft Infrastructure – Refers to policies, ordinances, municipal services and programs, education and outreach. (Strategy 1, Initiative A2, A2e)
 - CUC subcommittee’s focus should be on improving Soft Infrastructure to pave the way for Hard Infrastructure since the subcommittee has more influence on county policy and programs. (Goal: Develop programs/policies to include in Community Climate Action Plan)
 - Also consider recycling receptacles as a form of infrastructure. (Strategy 1, Initiative C7)
 - Ideas of potential initiatives and strategies
 - Develop an inventory or database of existing recycling infrastructure in CUC.
 - Develop, enhance, and expand recycling requirements such as adding organics diversion within existing solid waste collection contracts.
 - Consider Business License requirements related to recycling for certain business types, also consider business incentives. (Goal: Organics Ordinance – incentives) (Strategy 1, Initiative B4, C2, E2,)
 - Develop a recycling ordinance (City of Pomona was mentioned as a city that is developing an ordinance although it is to restrict rather than expand recycling operations). (Goal: Explore options to enhance organics recycling) (Strategy 3, Initiative C1, D)
 - Expand communication, education and outreach efforts to customers. (Goal: Work with Education & Outreach Subcommittee to educate CUC about recycling laws)
 - Focus outreach on food waste reduction/prevention and sustainability such as buying less, throwing less, understanding food expiration dates.
 - Coordinate with other County departments to disseminate recycling information to residents and businesses coordinate with the business license application process to provide recycling information to business owners.
- Regional/Countywide (R/CW) Subcommittee
 - Discussed how do we increase recycling infrastructure in California and why are recycling drop-off centers closing down.
 - Drop-off centers could be closing because commodity values are down and it may be costing more to run the center than it is worth.
 - Cities may consider them dirty or an eyesore.
 - But we still need them to incentivize recycling and for those in areas with no separate curbside recycling bins.
 - Reach out to cities to determine the limitations of these types of facilities.
 - Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) Program can increase infrastructure.
 - Offers business assistance to businesses that divert material from landfills.
 - Increase awareness of the program amongst businesses in the zone. (Strategy 3, Initiative C)
 - Encourage expansion of the existing zone by reaching out to additional cities, particularly those with large industrial areas.
 - Advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility legislation for manufacturers to fund and/or develop recycling of their products. (Strategy 1, Initiative B)
 - Questioned whether we should go back to using glass containers instead of plastic since glass is very reusable; but broken glass is highly contaminating.

- Dedicated, steady stream of organic waste feedstock is required to get organics recycling infrastructure built.
 - Thus, contracts must be in place to dedicate that waste to a particular facility.
 - It is also very likely that an enforcement mechanism will be needed to make sure the organic waste is available (separated or taken to a separation facility) from the businesses.
- County Operations (C/O) Subcommittee
 - Discussed means for determining County facilities that generate large volumes of organic waste and other solid waste. (Strategy 1, Initiative D1.a)
 - Plan to conduct waste assessments at County facilities. (Strategy 2, Initiative A)
 - Identified other infrastructure needed.
 - We need to confirm County facilities have enough storage space for recycling roll-offs/dumpster bins for hauler collection. (Strategy 1, Initiative A)
 - We need to confirm facilities have the equipment needed and/or will be able to obtain the proper equipment to enable recycling and diversion of materials. (Strategy 1, Initiative A)
 - Discussed Parks and Recreation’s facilities as potential locations for on-site organics management. (Strategy 3, Initiative B1.c)
 - Discussed options for recycling organic wastes and clarified current project limits/scope. (Strategy 1, Initiative D)
 - Public Works’ Worm Composting Demo Project
 - Currently 4 worm bins are used to process approximately 10% of waste generated from cafeteria food preparation.
 - Public Works is analyzing the utilization of a small scale Anaerobic Digester (AD) to process all or the majority of the organic waste generated at their Headquarters (Strategy 3, Initiative B1.d)
 - Sheriff’s Pitchess Detention Center Recycling Center & AD Site
 - This site generates a lot of organic waste as well as has a need for compost as part of their on-site farming operation. Additionally, this site has on-site power generation which may be able to utilize the gas generated from AD. (Strategy 3, Initiative B1.d)
 - Animal Care & Control
 - Discussed diverting animal waste from landfills and challenges with on-site processing.
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Determine which programs and methods to employ to assist in promoting Roadmap goals to the public.
 - Free lunch program offered at 180 facilities under 4 local DPR agencies.
 - Increased education is needed for staff as well as outreach to community participants on waste reduction and recycling programs. (Strategy 4, Initiative B3)
 - Department/Staff Education/Outreach
 - Use the surveys, County Department Recycling Program, and Roadmap Working Group to develop infrastructure needs (money, labor, equipment, policies/procedures, etc.) throughout County departments. (Strategy 4, Initiative B1)

- Make it quick and easy for users to arrive to CleanLA & ISD sustainability websites from the MyLACounty (intranet) & LACounty.gov (internet) portals.
- Increased education needed on Battery Recycling program
- Outreach and Education (O/E) Subcommittee
 - Recap on last subcommittee meeting discussion (February 4, 2016)
 - Revision of Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) collection event survey questions
 - Create a knowledge-based survey for County residents to find out what residents currently know about recycling
 - Recently received mobile devices to begin conducting HHW surveys digitally.
 - The next survey to focus on is the knowledge-based survey for County residents to determine what they currently know and establish a baseline for future surveys.
 - Draft Roadmap Brochure was shared and discussed.
 - Received feedback from subcommittee.
 - Next step is to work with Public Relations Group to incorporate feedback.
 - Discussed methods of distributing the information to everyone, i.e. Department Communications staff or recycling coordinators.
 - Discussed how the County Department Recycling Program and the Surplus Program Coordinators should work hand in hand.
 - County Food Donation Program – Discussed story of Azusa teacher fired for collecting uneaten food, i.e. fruit and redistributing to children afterschool.

Open Discussion and Next Steps

- The group reconvened and each subcommittee had an opportunity to provide a brief summary of their subcommittee’s discussions.

The next Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

County Operations		Regional Countywide	
Frank Estrada	Animal Care and Control	Lisa Scales	Sanitation Districts
Carlos Zimmerman	Beaches & Harbors	Armando Aguilar	Public Works – EPD
Candelaria Rodarte	Internal Services	Carlos Slythe	Public Works – EPD
Lois Giron	Internal Services	Clark Ajwani	Public Works – EPD
Octavio Sahagun	Internal Services	Jalaine Madrid	Public Works – EPD
Changmii Bae	Parks & Recreation	Joe Bartolata	Public Works – EPD
Michelle Hochstein	Probation	Trishena Robinson	Public Works – EPD
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts	Outreach and Education	
Richard Sigur	Sheriff	Jennifer Lieu	Arts Commission
Mike Jones	Treasurer & Tax Collector	Mayen Alcantara	Arts Commission
Arlene Morales	Public Works - EPD	Tom McKenzie	Arts Commission

Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works – EPD
County Unincorporated Areas	
Marjorie Santos	CEO
Gerry Villalobos	Public Health
Chris Sheppard	Public Health
Lupe Carrillo	Public Works – PD
Connie Chung	Regional Planning
Kristen Holdsworth	Regional Planning
Habib Kharrat	Sanitation Districts
Kawsar Vazifdar	Public Works – EPD
Saro Toutounjian	Public Works – EPD
Suk Chong	Public Works – EPD

Isaura Capell	Auditor-Controller
Maral Tashjian	Beaches & Harbors
Bernadette Garcia-Silva	Public Health
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo	Public Health
Monica Galimberti	Public Health
Kathy Salama	Public Works – EPD
Vanessa A. Olivas	Public Works - EPD
Coby Skye	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Kwong	Public Works – EPD