

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future

Working Group County Operations/Outreach and Education Subcommittees Meeting

Los Angeles County Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra CA 91803
Alhambra Room

Thursday, May 16, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed, and participants introduced themselves.

Recap of Previous County Operations Meeting (February 2019)

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works

- Announcements were given about the newly adopted Plastic Straw and Stirrer Ordinance, which affects County facilities, as well as the new County Organic Waste website to help County facilities comply with AB 1826 and prepare for SB 1383.
- Case studies of the LAC+USC Medical Center, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) El Monte District Office, and Belvedere Park and City Terrace Park were presented by Arlene Morales, County Departmental Recycling Coordinator, Public Works.
- Recycling contracts were presented by Ted Lo, Internal Services Department about scrap metal and universal/hazardous waste recycling.
- A discussion was held as to what initiatives and roadblocks departments have experienced in reducing solid waste. Ideas were shared about providing foods not requiring utensils at office gatherings and providing community trash cans.

Materials Management Resources

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide #3)

- A BuzzFeed [video](#) titled “I Want You to Stop Recycling”, was presented and it demonstrated the history of recycling disposables, the impacts of recycling over time, and the importance of changing habits to avoid creating waste in the first place.
- A CNN Business [video](#) titled “How to Solve the World’s Plastics Problem: Bring Back the Milk Man”, was presented that introduced Loop; a new project by TerraCycle that uses a delivery service to ship as many as 300 different items from the world’s largest consumer goods companies to customers’ homes in reusable containers and returnable packaging.
 - After the products are used or consumed, customers place the empty containers in the Loop tote, which is picked up by the delivery service.
 - The reusable containers are then cleaned, refilled, and reused.
 - The service launched in May 2019 in New York and France.
- The Waste-Free Event Guide is being finalized. This guide will be a good resource for County departments on how to host waste-free events at County facilities.

- The subcommittees were reminded to visit CleanLA.com for information and tips on reducing, reusing, and recycling at County facilities.

What are Departments Doing to Reduce/Reuse?

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide #4)

- Case studies based on site visits conducted through the Commercial and Institutional Recycling Program contract were presented. The contractor visited various County facilities, assessed the waste produced, and created a plan of recommended resource management practices to reduce waste by 25 percent, 50 percent, and 75 percent or more.
 - Department of Public Social Services
 - Pomona District Office operates a successful in-house beverage container recycling program.
 - Beverage containers are covered under the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act and subject to California Redemption Value (CRV) fee at time of beverage purchase, which may be redeemed when empty containers are brought to identified recycling centers.
 - The Pomona District Office elects to use the CRV funds collected from the recycling program to support employee events such as fundraisers.
 - Beverage container collection bins are located throughout the facility in highly trafficked employee areas.
 - County Library Headquarters
 - Installed three water bottle refill stations.
 - Since the first installation in 2017, they have eliminated the equivalent of approximately 58,000 disposable plastic bottles.
 - The Music Center
 - The Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County has a “Leave, Take, Use” program.
 - The program allows employees to leave office supplies on a shelf for other employees to take if needed.
 - A similar program called “Take, Read, Return” serves as a free employee library for books and resource materials.
 - Public Works
 - Public Works has a Food Donation and Recovery Outreach Program (DROP).
 - Each year, Los Angeles County unincorporated communities dispose of 128,000 tons of food, while approximately 1 in 7 individuals are food insecure.
 - Public Works is working with other County departments and partnered with local charities to offer businesses a food donation option.
 - Food DROP provides resources for businesses to safely donate their excess edible food to fight hunger and reduce food waste in Los Angeles County.
 - The Community Trashcan Pilot program is in its first stage of implementation.
 - In 2015, Environmental Programs Division conducted a waste characterization study of the agency’s headquarters and found that nearly 50 percent of plastic waste was the result of empty to nearly empty trashcan liners.
 - The purpose of the pilot program is to reduce the waste of trashcan liners by replacing deskside trash cans with desktop trash mini-bins and establishing communal trash cans.

- Several divisions from Public Works have agreed to participate in the pilot program.
- Attendees were asked to share what initiatives their departments have implemented or plan to implement to reduce and reuse waste.
 - Public Works discussed their programs to assist unincorporated County residents and County employees, such as the Smart Gardening and Scrape Your Plate Programs. A short video is being created to explain the Scrape Your Plate food waste recycling program, and to deter contamination in food waste collection bins.
 - Meeting attendees inquired about having fact sheets and specifics on how to implement various waste reduction programs.
 - Public Health inspectors switched from using disposable batteries to rechargeable ones.
 - An attendee from Beaches & Harbors raised an issue on how difficult it is to implement public sorting of trash, recyclables, and organics at about 2,000 locations. She inquired about a possible solution or if Public Works held any contracts with waste haulers requiring them to separate recyclables from trash after collection to meet the organics waste mandate.

Outreach/Media Campaigns

Diana Lee, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide #9)

- A presentation was given to the subcommittees about the Bring Your Own (BYO) program. The purpose of the BYO program is to reduce the usage and waste of single-use items.
- Meeting attendees were provided reusable utensil sets and straws to demonstrate how feasible it is to reduce single-use items that are landfilled. They were given examples of how simple it is to reduce waste by taking reusable utensils and plates to office gatherings.
- Meeting attendees learned about the BYO campaigns that have been implemented through different media outlets, such as, radio and YouTube campaigns. The BYO public service announcement video was shared.
- Meeting attendees were encouraged to share their ideas on what they would like to see in future campaigns.
 - An attendee shared a BYO campaign idea to reduce waste on beaches by encouraging families to bring a picnic basket to the beach with reusable food and beverage containers.
 - A conversation about the benefits and concerns of bringing your own food container for leftovers to restaurants was discussed among the group, and the idea of incorporating this topic into a public service announcement was mentioned. Public Health encouraged Public Works to contact the California Restaurant Association for information.
- A suggestion was made to share outreach and media campaigns with other County Departments, so it can be posted on their Intranet webpage.
- A meeting attendee inquired about having Public Works visit their department to give a presentation on County waste diversion programs to help them reduce waste and get their management on board with the County's Roadmap programs.

Meeting Attendees

Name	Department
Violet O. Contreras	Alternate Public Defender
Iris Regn	Arts Commission
Maral Tashjian	Beaches & Harbors
Jessica Mireles	Consumer & Business Affairs
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner - Coroner
Marisela Alderete	Probation
Bernadet Garcia-Silva	Public Health
David Chun	Public Health
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo	Public Health
Aldo Ynigo	Public Library
Tera Haramoto	Public Works
Lupe Carrillo	Public Works
Olga Cruz	Public Works
Danny Lopez	Registrar-Recorder / County Clerk
Arlene Morales	Public Works- EPD
Armando C. Aguilar	Public Works- EPD
Bella Hernandez	Public Works- EPD
Beverly Jones	Public Works- EPD
Diana Lee	Public Works- EPD
Francisca Mandujano	Public Works- EPD
Frederick Wong	Public Works- EPD
Jason Jones	Public Works- EPD
Katonya Turner	Public Works- EPD
Kimberly Lyman	Public Works- EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works- EPD
Vanessa A. Olivas	Public Works- EPD
Vanessa Gutierrez	Public Works- EPD
Vigen Abramyan	Public Works- EPD