

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future County Operations Subcommittee Meeting

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

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Vanessa Olivas, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves.

Waste & Resource Collection via FASMA (Strategy 1, Initiative A)

Kawsar Vazifdar, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#3](#))

- AB 1826 is a California state law that requires all businesses, which includes County facilities, to recycle all their organic waste if they meet certain compliance thresholds.
- SB 1383 established a statewide target to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed in landfills 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025.
- In addition to State policy drivers, the Board-adopted Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future (Roadmap) establishes landfill disposal reduction targets.
- There are various ways to comply with AB 1826, including
 - Source separating organic waste and subscribing to a basic level of organics recycling.
 - Recycling organic waste on-site through composting or other small-scale technologies, or self-hauling to an approved organics processing facility.
 - Subscribing to a mixed waste recycling service that separates and recycles organic waste. No hauler in the County provides mixed waste service.
- New Facility Ancillary Services Master Agreement (FASMA) contracts for waste hauling services came into effect on April 1, 2018. A bulletin was posted on the Internal Services Department's (ISD) Purchasing and Contracts website.
- Facilities might have a different hauler after the contracts were awarded. The cost of waste hauling might have increased due to new requirements for haulers. Facilities should verify that they are not oversubscribed to waste service.
- A map of the ten County waste hauling regions was presented. Each region is serviced by a single hauler.
- Under the new contract, County facilities may request source-separated recycling services for organic waste and non-organic waste. These services will only be provided if they are requested by facilities.
- Pricing spreadsheets for waste services are available on ISD's [website](#) and can be searched for by contract or agreement number.
- The amount of waste service a facility needs might vary, for example if hosting an event with many attendees. Facilities should consider paying for extra pick-ups after these

events instead of subscribing to more services year-round.

- Under the new contract, haulers are also required to visit all facilities for which they provide waste hauling services yearly. At no cost to the facility, the hauler will conduct a waste characterization of the facility's waste stream and prepare a summary report including recommendations on how to maximize the diversion of organic waste and other recyclable materials.

Green Purchasing Policies (Strategy 1, Initiative A)

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#23](#))

- Discussed County efforts to reduce and divert from landfills the solid waste generated from County operations through the development and implementation of Green Procurement Policies.
- The way solid waste was managed in the past has changed since 1990 with new laws that focused on conserving landfill space.
- Since 1990, County policies focused on environmental protection were developed with the Chief Administrative Office, such as recycling programs and an environmentally-preferable purchasing policy with Internal Services and Public Works departments assisting and coordinating the efforts.
- In 2004, the Board provided more specific directives for County departments to cooperate with Public Works to further implement procurement policies and efforts through the County Departmental Recycling Program.
- A green purchasing policy was established, and the County has become a member of the U.S. Communities Go Green Program which competitively solicits contracts to provide a broad line of green solutions.
- Internal County restrictions were adopted for County operations, facilities, and events to not use plastic carryout bags and expanded polystyrene food containers.
- In evaluating County purchasing practices, initiatives were identified to assist in reaching the Roadmap goals, include analyzing procurement agreements, promoting use of recycled materials, and determining how to incentivize use of recycled products or reuse products.
- By purchasing recycled-content products and implementing further waste reduction efforts, natural resources as well as landfill space can be conserved.

Ways to Reduce Waste

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works

- Using alternative sustainable products is one way to reduce waste. This means using products that are less frequently disposed (i.e., more durable, washable), reducing weight or volume of waste, or that products are no longer used due to an alternative method or operation used to achieve the same goal as the product.
- Attendees were asked if there were any single-use products their individual departments normally used or any reusable products that ended up being used similarly to single-use products due to certain conditions or operations at their facilities. (Strategy 1, Initiative A)
 - Plastic sporks – A suggested alternative was serving corn chips to be used as a spoon
 - Straws - Use creative signage to discourage use, "Would you pay 5 cents to use me?" or require food service vendors to use minimal packaging and only provide straws when customers ask for them
 - Alternative products – conduct a study to analyze use of conventional products to start purchasing alternatives in bulk for the department
- One of the easiest types of solid waste that can be reduced is paper. Attendees were

asked if there were any systems their individual departments had that greatly reduced or even eliminated the use of paper. (Strategy 1, Initiative A4)

- Reducing inventory - An administrative unit dedicated to monitor/distribute reams/boxes to divisions conducted a study to reduce overuse
- Sheets of construction specification documents for public works projects in the County – changed system to allow submission of documents electronically through the internet
- Timesheets – eliminated/reduced paper by development of online form and database for the County
- Purchasing – eliminated/reduced paper by development of central online database for the County
- Attendees also discussed Outreach methods to reduce waste. (Strategy 4, Initiative A)
 - Provide recycle bins for dry materials at department events and require hauler to provide total weight report; may need more planning when dealing with multiple haulers and/or facilities/events
 - Develop a Green vendors list and filters on County purchasing database
 - Use a broader approach to frequently announce and provide reminders to all facilities and operations to further implement waste reduction efforts
 - Discuss with ISD about sending a regular reminder (rather than as-needed reminders for new policies) to purchasing agents of County departments of Green Policy and other policies to account for employee turnover
 - Share info/resources with committee that includes facilities not under BOS
 - Department Sustainability Officer can be requested to distribute resources especially for Purchasing efforts
 - Mimic SBE promotion/outreach resources for vendors of Green products; SBE program invites SBE vendors to have outreach booths at an annual event to gain more exposure to County staff in charge of contracts that they can bid on
 - Provide incentives (rewards for attaining milestones in waste reduction efforts)
 - Develop a Biggest Loser Program (most improved) for solid waste reduction; set criteria and/or categories
 - Present at a County Fleet Coordinator Meeting – attended by Department Chief Fleet Managers
 - Distribute Roadmap resources/info or present at County Sustainability Council webinar - held monthly
 - Attendees also discussed Policy methods to reduce waste such as setting minimum quota on purchasing green products
- Attendees also discussed Contract methods to reduce waste. (Strategy 2, Initiative C1)
 - Paper Recycling – Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) with the assistance of ISD secured a specific agreement with SafeShred for paper recycling.
 - Cardboard – some vendors pay if self-baled and collected in 500-lb (1/4 ton) amounts

Next Steps

- Subcommittee members may discuss with their Department Recycling Coordinator on identifying case studies on sources and/or cost analysis of alternative products/systems that reduce a facility's solid waste amount, and may send links that can be considered as additional resources on the Roadmap website.

Meeting Participants

Name	Department
Ken Pellman	ACWM
Isa Capell	Auditor Controller
Maral Tashjian	Beaches & Harbors
Beda Sasis	DPSS
Alex Mena	Parks & Recreation
Bertha Ruiz-Hoffman	Parks & Recreation
Jim Smith	Parks & Recreation
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts
Adrienne Ferree	Sheriff
Arlene Morales	Public Works - EPD
Armando Aguilar	Public Works - EPD
Francisca Mandujano	Public Works - EPD
Jason Jones	Public Works - EPD
Kawsar Vazifdar	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works - EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works - EPD