

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 A & B

Thursday, February 9, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Carlos Ruiz, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves and shared their sustainability goals for the new year.
- The Roadmap effort won a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Award, which honors innovation and best practices in County government. A videographer was present at the meeting recording footage for an upcoming short video on the Roadmap.

Expanded Beverage Container Recycling Program

Vanessa Olivas, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#3](#))

- The goal of this program is to increase recycling at multi-family residences in the unincorporated areas and at public facing County facilities with a high amount of foot traffic.
- Unincorporated communities have been identified as potential locations for the program based on population and geography. The list is not yet final, so feedback from the Roadmap team is encouraged.
- In-home bins are currently not provided by waste haulers to residents in multi-family residences.
- For public-facing County facilities, a preliminary list of potential County facilities with high foot traffic has also been developed.
- Outreach will target large multi-family residences with events, brochures, posters for common areas, etc. For smaller units, it might be possible to go door-to-door.
 - A proposed slogan for the program is “Don’t Trash the Cash!”
- Evaluation of the program’s success will be done via surveys to track diversion as well as feedback from facility managers and waste haulers.
 - The group suggested the surveys should be short and multi-lingual.
 - Beverage Container recycling would be handled by each facility based on their needs and agreements with haulers.

City of Thousand Oaks' Hazardous Waste Material Reuse Program

Spencer Silverstein, City of Thousand Oaks (Presentation begins on slide [#10](#))

- Thousand Oaks had monthly household hazardous waste collection events at their municipal service yard, getting about 450-550 cars per event.
- The turnout at the service yard was at capacity, necessitating the need to build a permanent household hazardous waste facility.
- A short [video](#) on the grand opening of the Thousand Oaks Material Reuse program was shown.
- The Thousand Oaks Reuse Center opened on May 30, 2014 and went from holding household hazardous waste collection events monthly to twice a week.
- The center is about an acre in size and cost \$4.7 million. AB 939 and State funds were used to fund the build.
- The design and layout was developed with the help of UCLA professor Eugene Tseng.
 - Operations are fully subcontracted to Clean Harbors since July 2016.
 - Appointments for the reuse centers are required.
- Items dropped off at the center for donation must be in good condition and be half full to be made available to the public.
- The reuse center accepts items such as paints, cleaners, and other household chemicals. Rodenticides are not allowed.
- Recipients of donated items must be 18 or over and sign a waiver. There is also a limit of five items per person to make sure reusable goods are available to everyone.
- Electronics dropped off are typically treated as e-waste unless the donor specifies that they are reusable.
- It is necessary to have one staff member present to oversee and provide security. For that reason, the reuse room was placed next to the admin area/break room so staff can see what is going on.
- Advertising is done via their website, print media, and utility bills.
- In 2015, the center diverted about 15,000 pounds from landfills.

Breakout Sessions

- County Unincorporated Communities and Regional/Countywide – Food Donation Program
 - Bernadet Garcia-Silva from Public Health gave an update about Los Angeles County Food Redistribution Initiative (LACFRI) (Strategy 1, Initiative D)
 - Developing a best practices for school food donation
 - Ben Lucha from the City of Palmdale informed us about a City of Palmdale-funded charity known as South Antelope Valley Emergency Services (SAVES)
 - SAVES provides food, clothes, and other amenities to those in need.
 - SAVES also tried to provide business outreach by inviting businesses to a viewing of the documentary Dive!
 - Provided outreach by sending out a letter, providing follow up calls.
 - Developed a video for Palmdale Food Challenge where culinary arts students use recovered foods to make food for SAVES to distribute.
 - Larissa Yu from Public Works gave an update on Food DROP
 - Surveyed non-profits that accept food donations from businesses.

- Met with Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), which is interested in participating in the food donation program.
 - WDACS operates 14 community and senior service centers that host some sort of food pantry program.
 - Shared draft outreach material brochure with the group for comments.
 - The group made some suggestions about awarding/recognizing businesses participating in the food donation program, including Board of Supervisor scroll or press release.
 - Thomas McKenzie from the Arts Commission shared an idea to hire someone to write a STEAM curriculum/demonstration project for teachers from an environmental standpoint
 - Could include some public engagement, including a contest, feature, and press buy-in.
- County Operations – Diversion Programs
 - Discussed site visit contract (Strategy 1, Initiative A)
 - Discussed overview & objectives
 - Survey of current diversion efforts (programs, contracts, campaigns, and bins/signage).
 - Technical assistance with proper use, location, and sizing/quantities of collection bins for staff/public use.
 - Resource Management Plans (RMP) for short, medium, and the long-term
 - Discussed Probation facility visit
 - Received technical assistance in pre-consumer organic waste diversion and proper use of collection bins.
 - Discussed Public Works’ HQ site plan for organic waste diversion (Strategy 1, Initiative D)
 - Some pre-consumer waste currently diverted to Worm Bin Demo.
 - Working with trash hauler to source separate rest of food waste; can convert some current trash bins to food waste bins.
 - Working with custodial staff to organize collection into hauler collection bin
 - Will implement in phases
 - Phase 1 - Cafeteria/kitchen area
 - Phase 2 - Other locations
 - Discussed County Sanitation Districts (CSD) diversion programs (Strategy 1, Initiatives A & D)
 - Current: Paper/cardboard, Mixed plastics, California Redemption Value (CRV) containers
 - Future: Organics-coffee grounds
 - Subcommittee members recommended to have Coffee Club hosts periodically dump collected coffee grounds from their respective clubs to facility bin in cafeteria.
- Outreach and Education – Expanded Beverage Container Recycling Program and Organics Management Plan for County Operations
 - Participants were informed of the planned outreach efforts, which would target selected multi-family units and County departments.

- The discussion included campaign goals, and brought about a series of ideas to assist residents, as well as County offices, in recycling more efficiently. Suggestions included:
 - Health inspectors make constant visits to multi-family dwellings. Provide them with information pamphlets/letters/flyers so that they may assist in distribution.
 - Make it clear to residents that other recyclable items can be placed in provided bins.
 - Provide residents, and County facilities, with disposal/redeemable options for beverage containers and other recyclable materials. Including, organizing large bins for family complexes.
 - Provide a listing of recyclable items/materials so residents, and County facilities, can be full aware.
 - Post flyers/posters in common areas: lunch rooms, laundry rooms, lobbies, leasing offices, etc.
 - Conduct outreach events at the selected County facilities.
- There were some concerns relating to the actual bins. Participants felt that residential property managers would not allow families to have large bins, or would not allow having them located outside of their dwellings
- Participants felt that certain containers would not work at County facilities, due to scavengers.
- It was recommended that the department first speak with the property managers to deal with any issues before the campaign continues.

Next Steps and Open Discussion

- A representative from each subcommittee provided a brief summary of their subcommittee's discussions.

The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Participants

County Operations	
Carlos Zimmerman	Beaches & Harbors
Candelaria Rodarte	Internal Services
Lois Giron	Internal Services
Wendy Mercado	Internal Services
Jaime Gomez-Beltran	Military & Veterans Affairs
Ada Lopez	Probation
Michelle Hochstein	Probation
Marisela Alderete	Public Health
Richard Gil	Public Library
Carmen Izaguirre Gomez	Regional Planning

County Unincorporated Communities	
Thomas McKensie	Arts Commission
Marge Santos	CEO
Benjamin Lucha	City of Palmdale
Hank Heng	Probation
Bernadet Garcia-Silva	Public Health
Maurice Pantoja	Public Health
Lupe Carrillo	Public Works – PDD
Soyeon Choi	Regional Planning
Tim Murphy	Regional Planning
Jalaine Madrid	Public Works - EPD

County Operations (cont.)	
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts
Greg Nelson	Sheriff
Fernando Rubio Jr.	Treasurer & Tax Collector
Mike Jones	Treasurer & Tax Collector
Arlene Morales	Public Works – EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works – EPD

County Unincorporated Communities (cont.)	
Larissa Yu	Public Works - EPD
Terri Alex	Public Works - EPD
Armando Aguilar	Public Works – EPD
La Salle Duong	Public Works – EPD
Suk Chong	Public Works – EPD

Outreach and Education	
Maral Tashjian	Beaches & Harbors
Arlette Morales	Health Services
Bitia Tishbi	Public Health
Diana Lee	Public Works – EPD
Theresa Hernandez	Public Works – EPD
Tranette Sanders	Public Works – EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works – EPD