

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, June 8, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

Vanessa Olivas, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves and shared what they had learned from attending the Roadmap Working Group meetings thus far.
- The Annual Report to the Board is due in October and we have begun preparing it now. Attendees were asked to share what their departments had done to comply with the Roadmap's strategies and initiatives.

Organic Waste Management Workshop Summary

Carlos Slythe, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#3](#))

- On May 23, 2017, Environmental Programs Division staff and representatives from consultant TetraTech held a workshop on the Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan.
 - About 100 participants attended in person and via webinar. Attendees included representatives from CalRecycle, the waste collection industry, other County departments, and 37 cities.
- The Countywide Organics Management Plan is a planning document that describes the state of organic waste disposal, recycling and diversion within the County. It also describes potential capacities for compostable organic waste available inside and outside the County.
 - Also discussed was an options analysis of various organics collection programs as well as markets for organic products. The presentation concluded with a discussion on what the County is doing in the unincorporated areas, such as outreach and education and providing information on the food donation program.
 - The workshop received positive feedback from attendees.
 - The plan will be finalized soon and is due to CalRecycle by August 1, 2017.

Los Angeles County Food Donation Program Update

Larissa Yu, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#4](#))

- Feedback from the Roadmap's Outreach and Education Subcommittee has been incorporated into outreach materials, which will be disseminated by Public Health inspectors.
- The program will recognize businesses that donate food via window decals and listings on the Smart Business website.
- The chambers of commerce of various cities have been contacted for feedback and possible cooperation, as well as the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to see which non-profits they work with.

Contract Language Supporting Roadmap Efforts

Patrick Holland, Public Works (Presentation begins on slide [#5](#))

- The group was asked for suggestions on how to improve contract language to incorporate the goals of the Roadmap in contracts administered by the County. While the main purpose of a contract may be to receive a service, how can we add ancillary benefits that help the environment?
 - Contracts are broken up into general categories, such as custodial, landscape, fleet services, etc.
- U.S. Green Building Council has a Green Janitor Certification program; we could include a stipulation in contracts that janitorial staff must be certified.
 - We should also be aware of the economic and social impact of this requirement on businesses, perhaps we could make the training available for our contractors.
- There is an opportunity to include language to have vendors to donate edible food.
- A question was asked about the Green Procurement Policy. There has not been an update on the policy, but it could be used to purchase green products that might cost more thanks to the County's size and purchasing power.
- Some contracts have weighted scores for certain categories. We could assign a point value that adds a weight to green initiatives.
- Sample language for departments that want to include environmental sustainability in their contracts will be available on the Roadmap website.

Breakout Sessions

- County Unincorporated Communities and Regional/Countywide – Organics Management Options
 - Los Angeles Food Policy Council has prepared a resource with a list of composting sites, as well as a list of non-profits that handle food donation in the County of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles (Strategy 1, Initiative D2b)
 - Overview of requirements under AB 1826 and SB 1383
 - Challenges with respect to enforcement
 - City of LA's exclusive franchise system
 - Brief overview of the City of LA's new exclusive franchise system
 - Impacts of City's franchise system to County's non-exclusive commercial franchise system

- Challenges and advantages
 - With respect to organics management and collection, the collection options seem to be driven primarily by the waste hauling industry
 - Where the County's role may be the mechanism in which organics is collected (e.g. contract system types, ordinance, contract language, etc.)
 - Considerations: increased cost to customers, attaining the Board's buy-in, level of participation from customers, dealing with the contamination
 - Collection-implications: may enable alternate pick-up schedules if food is separately collected from other solid waste
 - Issue: inadequate processing capacity
- County Operations – Sustainable Practices
 - Shared information on practices from various sustainability certification standards to consider incorporating into County best management practices (BMPs), policies, and contract language. (Strategy 2, Initiative B3)
 - Envision is a sustainability rating system for all civil infrastructure. It addresses the full range of environmental, social, and economic impacts to sustainability in project design, construction, and operation. It was developed through a collaborative effort of the American Public Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the American Council of Engineering Companies.
 - The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) is a set of comprehensive, voluntary guidelines together with a rating system that assesses the sustainable design, construction, and maintenance of landscapes. The material on which the SITES Rating System is based was developed through a collaborative, interdisciplinary effort of the American Society of Landscape Architects Fund, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin, and the United States Botanic Garden.
 - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a certification standard for the sustainability of buildings. It was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, and certifies the sustainability of new and existing buildings.
 1. LEED has required minimum standards for certification on Waste Policy and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (Ongoing Purchases, Durable Goods Purchases, Lamp Purchases)
 2. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (Strategy 1, Initiative A4)
 - a) Identify top 5 most purchased products (paper, toner cartridges, binders, batteries, and desk accessories)
 - b) Find products that meet County's sustainability criteria
 - c) Set goal/timeline for product purchases to meet the County's sustainability criteria
 - d) Develop plan to meet goal/timeline and to ensure quality control over the process/methods used
 3. Discussed LEED's Top 5 Most Purchased Products
 - a) Paper - up to 30% recycled-content - current policy; consider requiring more recycled-content (Strategy 3, Initiative C1)

- b) Toner Cartridges - Some members informed us that toner cartridges can't be recycled after it has already been recycled
- c) Batteries
 - Current BMPs - To reduce battery waste, use Rechargeable batteries. To properly dispose of battery waste, have them recycled.
 - Problem - Charge on rechargeable batteries last far shorter than that of disposables - inconvenient for high usage battery-powered items. Service to recycle batteries are part of Hazardous Waste Removal contract, which incurs a cost. Batteries are not collected by vendor every time they collect for Hazardous Waste due to not filling up containers fast enough.
- d) Binders and Desk Accessories - Include in County purchasing contracts - use reduced or reusable packaging. (Strategy 1, Initiative B1)
- Next Steps
 - Members to brainstorm for other certification standards whose criteria can be employed in County Operations (Strategy 2, Initiative B3)
 - County Departmental Recycling Program (CDRP) to include in Outreach Material per follow up email from last meeting (Strategy 1, Initiative A3)
 1. In providing training to departments to explain the different recycling programs/diversion contracts currently available, include providing info on battery recycling, specifically proper storage and disposal; storage environment and maximum time; required number and proper placement of battery recycling bins
 2. In providing other resources to departments by developing flyers, include one about the number of conventional disposable batteries to use and dispose of compared to 1 rechargeable battery, considering a range of battery voltages
 - Internal Services Department (ISD) and CDRP to work with departments and facilities to provide outreach on their facilities' Hazardous Waste vendors' contract & contract terms, specifically re: battery recycling (Strategy 1, Initiative A3)
 - ISD to consider requiring Hazardous Waste (HW) contract to provide smaller capacity containers for collecting smaller volumes of various HW to collect all stored HW at facilities at every collection. (Strategy 2, Initiative B2a)
 - CDRP to consider working with Department Recycling Coordinators and Department Facility Managers to find items or develop another way to perform work requiring high usage of battery-operated items in similar amount of time and performance standard that generate less waste and/or require no batteries. (Strategy 1, Initiatives A6d & C3)
 - In discussions of the Green Product Workgroup for updating the Green Purchasing Policy (P-1050) to include more specific parameters to reflect sustainable practices and policies, consider requiring contracted vendors of remanufactured toner cartridges to take-back their used remanufactured

toner cartridges and provide cartridges that meet a higher level of sustainability standards or is 3rd party certified approved by the County (Strategy 2, Initiative B3)

- Green Product Workgroup to consider entire lifecycle for Top 5 Most Purchased Products under LEED standard (paper, toner cartridges, binders, batteries, and desk accessories) in updating P-1050: County Green Purchasing Policy (Strategy 1, Initiative A4b)
- Outreach and Education – Bring Your Own (BYO) Media Campaign with iHeart Media
 - The outreach portion for the upcoming BYO campaign was discussed. Participants were informed of the planned outreach efforts, which would target all 10 million Los Angeles County residents. The discussion included the campaign plan, goals, and brought about a series of ideas to assist on reaching the public more efficiently. The following are several suggestions offered:
 - Provide the commercials/public service announcement to each department, via recycling coordinators or department heads, to ensure that all 96,500 employees receive the message.
 - Send an email blast to key departmental people to further the word on the upcoming and ongoing campaigns the department has.
 - Provide County departments with all campaign pamphlets/letters/flyers so that they may assist in distribution.
 - Reach out to small businesses via the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) outreach team to inform small business to encourage customers to bring their own reusable plates, cups, etc.
 - Contact food trucks, and restaurants, that already practice BYO and provide them with campaign commercials, flyers, etc.
 - Contact non-profits throughout LA County. Provide them with the campaign info and media developed so they can post.
 - Create a brand for the campaign that can be reused, so that residents can get familiar to the program year after year.
 - Additionally, participants were concerned that the BYO messaging, or any other, would not reach all County employees. They all confirmed that they had not heard of any other campaigns the department had going on. Again, they emphasized the importance of contacting the vital person, or section, within each department to distribute campaign information properly.

Next Steps and Open Discussion

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

The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Participants

County Operations	
Frank Estrada	Animal Care & Control
Tim Frost	Children & Family Services
Candy Rodarte	Internal Services
Maribel Diaz	Internal Services
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner/Coroner
Alex Mena	Parks & Recreation
Bertha Ruiz-Hoffman	Parks & Recreation
Beda Sasis	Public Social Services
Fabiola Carrillo	Reginal Planning
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts
Greg Nelson	Sheriff
Angelica Gunderson	Public Works - EPD
Arlene Morales	Public Works - EPD
Gerald Ley	Public Works - EPD
Kawzar Vazifdar	Public Works - EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works - EPD

Outreach and Education	
Rita Kampalath	Chief Sustainability Office
Christian Olmos	Consumer & Business Affairs
Theresa Hernandez	Public Works - EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works - EPD

CUC and Regional/Countywide	
Gary Gero	CEO
Marisela Alderete	Probation
Maurice Pantoja	Public Health
Clark Ajwani	Public Works - EPD
La Salle Duong	Public Works - EPD
Larissa Yu	Public Works - EPD
Saro Toutounjian	Public Works - EPD
Suk Chong	Public Works - EPD