

Sustainable Solid Waste Management Future Roadmap Implementation Working Group: County Unincorporated Communities Subcommittee

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

Thursday, August 27, 2015
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Patrick Holland mentioned that he will be taking over as the lead for this Subcommittee and that Coby Skye will continue to oversee all the Roadmap efforts
- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves

2. Recap Previous Meeting

- The draft outline of the overall Organic Management Plan which includes all three focus areas was presented along with a list of options to efficiently collect organic waste
- An update was provided on the number of businesses visited that are large generators of organics
- A discussion was held on the need to find more local markets for compost as well as the lack of facilities to process organic waste

3. Organics

Christopher Sheppard and Clark Ajwani, Public Works, presentation (starts on slide [#25](#))

- Assembly Bill 1826 Compliance
 - An Unincorporated Organics Management Plan must be in place by December 31, 2015
 - The law goes into effect in April 2016 for the first tier of businesses (those who generate 8 cubic yards or more per week) to arrange for organic waste recycling services
 - Potentially 1,300 businesses in the first tier; visited half of them to date, and the remainder will be visited by the end of October

Please direct any questions to
Vanessa Olivas at volivas@dpw.lacounty.gov or (626) 458-2528

- Most people are recycling because of AB 341, but most are not recycling organics

Discussion

- Is there an Organics Ordinance?
 - No ordinance at this time but that is an option for the future
- Strip mall bins are shared; is the organic waste generated measured by business or by bin?
 - Currently, the only available information is service level by account, which is typically the property owner of the entire strip mall. This is a known issue that we will work to resolve.
- Waste Not LA
 - Food donation is source reduction, the top tier of the waste management paradigm
 - Dr. Handler from Waste Not OC presented at the June Working Group meeting
 - Discussions with Public Health are under way to determine what the LA County program should look like and who should be involved based on the OC model
 - Include - clinical screenings, business outreach, waste component outreach
 - When restaurants realize how much they are donating, they tend to cut back on the food they buy and become more efficient; therefore you constantly have to find new businesses to donate food.

Discussion

- Need to identify farms that want to take ripe fruits and veggies
- Do non-profit food banks have to get Board approval to receive donated food?
 - Who monitors enforcement? Public Health will likely be involved
- Food purchasing section of the Internal Services Department should be involved
- Food donors should be recognized in some way
 - Similar to letter grade from the Health Department
- Pilot Collection Program with County Sanitation Districts (CSD)
 - Partnering with CSD and negotiating with Republic on pilot food waste collection program in 2 Garbage Disposal Districts (Firestone and Belvedere)
 - Tentative start date for this program is September 21, 2015
 - Food waste will be taken to Puente Hills MRF for separation, then to Waste Management's OC facility to create slurry, finally to Sanitation District's Carson facility to co-digest

4. County Unincorporated Communities Annual Report to CalRecycle

Nilda Gemeniano, Public Works, presentation

- Provided statistics of tonnage generated, disposed, and recycled to meet mandatory recycling requirement of 50%
- Described the numerous programs and efforts to meet and exceed recycling requirements
 - Franchises, outreach, composting learning centers, school gardens, Household Hazardous Waste drop off centers, libraries and mobile events
 - Over 50 schools signed up for the Smart Gardening Program in 2015
- The 50% disposal target for LA County is 7.4 pounds per person per day (pppd) and we are currently at 4 pppd (roughly a 73% diversion rate)

5. Pharmaceuticals Extended Producer Responsibility

Gabriel Arenas, Public Works, presentation (starts on slide [#29](#))

- On June 2, 2015, the Board adopted a motion to investigate options for reducing improper use and disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals and to support a take back program
- On August 11, 2015 the Board approved a motion to initiate stakeholder engagement with the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders and to draft an ordinance by February 2016
- Study shows that people prefer dropping off unwanted drugs at pharmacies instead of Sheriff's stations

Discussion

- How is the existing program being promoted?
 - Through CleanLA.com and word of mouth; however, we do not want to overly promote the current unsustainable program

6. Open Discussion and Next Steps

- Sustainability Council Leadership Committee is made up of seven departments: Internal Services, Public Works, Public Health, Regional Planning, Community Development Commission, Parks and Recreation, and Sheriff
 - Second level is the coordination committee which has over 10 departments
 - Third level is working group level: water, framework, and cap and trade program with possibly adding additional subcommittees for waste and extended producer responsibility
- They will be apprised of the Roadmap's progress at their meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2015.
- 2 current tasks – finalize framework and develop plan with schedule with numerical goals and metrics; plan due to the Board in December 2015

7. Next Subcommittee meeting tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Department
Marjorie Santos	CEO
Dennis Morelos	Internal Services
Susana Ortega	Internal Services
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner - Coroner
Gerry Villalobos	Public Health
Linda Ramirez	Public Health
Maurice Pantoja	Public Health
Youn Sim	Public Works - DES
Armando Aguilar	Public Works - EPD
Chris Sheppard	Public Works - EPD
Clark Ajwani	Public Works - EPD
Gabriel Arenas	Public Works - EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Pat Proano	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works - EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works - EPD
Tina Fung	Regional Planning
Habib Kharrat	Sanitation Districts