

Interdepartmental Working Group

Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future

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

September 16, 2015
9 A.M. – 11 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Coby Skye, Public Works

- Attendees were welcomed and participants introduced themselves.
- Since the last Working Group meeting, the County has formed the Sustainability Council. The final draft of the Roadmap annual report will be presented to the Council on October 1, 2015.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES TO DATE

(Meeting PowerPoint [Presentation](#))

County Operations

Chris Sheppard, Public Works

- Discussed the re-issuing of the hauling contract for County departments by the Internal Services Department (ISD).
- ISD will prepare a questionnaire for all departments to find out the service levels they require.
- Public Works is working with ISD to see if Public Works' Solid Waste Information System can be used to report data from this new contract.
- Public Works continued working on the Departmental Recycling Program survey to find out more information about departments' recycling practices. The goal is to have the survey out by the end of the year.
- At the last County Operations Subcommittee meeting there was a presentation on the organics pilot program at Public Works HQ featuring worm composting and xeriscaping.

- Public Works will be presenting on the Departmental Recycling Program and LACoMAX at the next ISD surplus coordinators meeting on October 28, 2015 at 1:30 p. m. at ISD headquarters.

County Unincorporated Communities

Patrick Holland, Public Works

- AB 1826 requires each jurisdiction to prepare an organics management recycling program. Public Works has been working with a Smart Business Recycling consultant to prepare a plan for County Unincorporated Communities.
- As part of the first phase, the businesses that may be required to comply have been identified. From about 1,300 businesses in the unincorporated areas, more than half have been visited to date with the remaining anticipated to be visited by October. These visits will verify service levels and determine when these businesses need to comply with AB 1826.
- The pilot organics collection for the Firestone Garbage Disposal District is anticipated to begin September 21, 2015. Food waste will be collected separately which will be processed and ultimately delivered to the Sanitation Districts' Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson to be co-digested.
- Dr. Eric Handler, Orange County Public Health Officer, presented at the July Working Group meeting on Orange County's Waste Not OC food donation program. Since then, meetings with Public Health and Public Works have taken place to develop a similar program in LA County. Public Health will be the lead on this effort.

Regional/Countywide

Jalaine Madrid, Public Works

- The Mass Debris Management Plan is expected to be complete in March 2016. The plan will do the following:
 - Assess the potential operational vulnerabilities throughout the County
 - Determine needed resources to meet potential demand
 - Establish a mechanism for the County and the 88 cities to coordinate debris efforts after an event
- A Debris Management plan for the Unincorporated Areas is also in development. The next stakeholder outreach meeting is scheduled for October 2015.
- Clark Ajwani previously gave an update on Conversion Technologies. Last month Public Works submitted a semi-annual report to the Board on the progress of development of CT facilities.

- Public Works is developing a regional/countywide organics management plan to determine the processing capacities of existing and planned facilities. A consultant has been contracted to identify markets for compost and other organics materials.

Outreach and Education

Kathy Salama, Public Works

- The new Roadmap website was introduced at the last Outreach and Education Subcommittee meeting. The new proposed Resources page for the site was shown, which is broken up into categories for Residents, Businesses, and Government.
- The final Roadmap logo was presented. The revised logo incorporated comments and components that were requested at the last subcommittee meeting.
- The video for the beverage container recycling campaign with the Dodgers was shown. The little league team that raised the most money by recycling had one of their players throw out the first pitch at a Dodgers game.
- Now that the subcommittees and Working Group have been meeting for almost a year, the groups are ready to bring in external partners into the Roadmap efforts. If anyone has contacts in academia, non-profits or other agencies that they feel may be appropriate, they are encouraged to share them with us.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Presentation by Andre Villaseñor, EPA - Southern CA Office (Presentation starts on slide [#9](#))

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are announcing a new goal to reduce food waste by 50%, one week ahead of a United Nations (UN) conference on sustainability.
- According to the UN, one third of our food gets lost or wasted from farm to fork.
- 40% of food is wasted in the U.S. costing \$165 billion annually, while 1 in 6 Americans lack a secure supply of food.
- Food waste wastes enormous amounts of water and power and would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs) after China and the U.S.
- Representative Bill Emerson championed the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to free food donors from liability if the food is donated in good faith and without gross negligence.
 - University of Kansas School of Law found zero legal cases of food donation related liability
- The EPA has a program called Food Recovery Challenge that helps organizations find solutions to food waste using the Food Recovery Hierarchy as the guide for food waste recovery. It is made up of two tiers:
 - **Participants** actively track and reduce wasted food and report annually
 - **Endorsers** promote sustainable food management

- The EPA has various tools available for businesses and organizations such as assessments and toolkits at <http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-assessing-wasted-food>
- Public Health shared some of the challenges in implementing a food donation program. These included the number of initiatives going on, not just in the County, but in the cities as well. WasteNotOC is currently being conducted in 2 cities in Orange County, while LA County has 88 cities.
- A question was asked regarding EPA grants for programs that relate to food waste.
 - There are indirect grants for environmental education.
- The EPA has a tool called, *Food: Too Good to Waste*, for measuring and reducing food waste at home. (<http://westcoastclimateforum.com/food>)
- Food expiration dates: Only baby formula is legally required to have expiration dates. Most dates are for vendors to determine freshness.
- A question was raised whether County Animal Care and Control could use food waste to feed animals in their care.

L.A. County gaps in addressing food recovery

- Identifying businesses that would be good, initial candidates as surplus food donors.
- Educating businesses on how much food they are wasting, and teaching them how to engage in source reduction.
- Educating businesses on the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act.
- Linking food donors with food banks. Spoon-feed food donation logistics to the food donors; make it turnkey.
- Educating food donors on proper preparation and storage of surplus food for donation
- Developing infrastructure for transporting, storing and processing perishable, surplus food.

Opportunities for EPA and L.A. County to collaborate

- Help educate businesses on all aspects of [food recovery](#)
- Sign up L.A. County and its target businesses in the [Food Recovery Challenge \(FRC\)](#)
 - Provide support and recognition for FRC participants and endorsers.
- The EPA guides L.A. County on the use of the [Managing and Transforming Waste Streams Tool](#).
- Educate residents on [Food: Too Good to Waste](#), which is a free toolkit to reduce household food waste.
- Provide information on tax incentives for donating surplus food.
- Identify the players in different stages of the food supply chain to work with on food recovery.

- Assess viability of donating surplus food to L.A. County Animal Control.
- Provide educational materials on expiration dates.

EPR – PHARMACEUTICALS

Presentation by Gabriel Arenas, Public Works (Presentation starts on slide #34)

- Update on the pharmaceutical Extended Producer Responsibility efforts
- Two stakeholder meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2015:
 - 10 a.m. for focused stakeholders; 1:30 p.m. for the public
- Ordinance is to be submitted to the Board for consideration by February 11, 2016

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD

Vanessa Olivas, Public Works

- We are currently incorporating comments we received on the draft report from the Working Group and the CEO. We will provide the draft report to department heads for comment and will finalize the report by the end of September.
- The Sustainability Council will receive the draft report by October 1, 2015.

OPEN DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

- Future meeting topics for Working Group and Subcommittees should be linked back to the initiatives in the Roadmap.
- Next Working Group meeting tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2015.
- Meetings should be “working group” meetings and not just progress reports.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Department
Mario Wu	ACWM
Mayen Alcantara	Arts Commission
Carlos Zimmerman	Beaches & Harbors
Dorothea Park	CEO
Andre Villaseñor	EPA
John Adkins	Fire Department
Marta Garcia Sheffield	Health Services
Susana Ortega	Internal Services
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner - Coroner
Jim Smith	Parks & Recreation
Raul Flores	Parks & Recreation
John Ferguson	Probation

Name	Department
Cindy Hernandez	Public Health
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo	Public Health
Linda Ramirez	Public Health
Maurice Pantoja	Public Health
Monica Galimberti	Public Health
Terri Williams	Public Health
Veronica Petrosyan	Public Health
Armando Aguilar	Public Works - EPD
Bahman Hajjaliakbar	Public Works - EPD
Carlos Ruiz	Public Works - EPD
Christopher Sheppard	Public Works - EPD
Coby Skye	Public Works - EPD
Gabriel Arenas	Public Works - EPD
Jalaine Madrid	Public Works - EPD
Jason Jones	Public Works - EPD
Kathy Salama	Public Works - EPD
Nilda Gemeniano	Public Works - EPD
Patrick Holland	Public Works - EPD
Vanessa Olivas	Public Works - EPD
Dominic Osmeña	Public Works - PDD
Pamela Manning	Public Works - PDD
Chuck Boehmke	Sanitation Districts
Nick Morell	Sanitation Districts