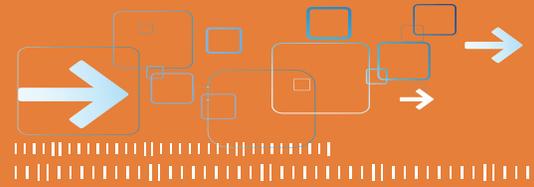




INSIDE SOLID WASTE



Inside Solid Waste produced quarterly by The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force



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AB 341 Report to the Legislature

The California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has presented to the Legislature a report on AB 341, which set forth the requirements of the statewide mandatory commercial recycling program.

The bill requires that no less than 75 percent of solid waste be source-reduced, recycled or composted.

Strategies and Recommendations

The August 2015 report outlined five strategies and three additional focus areas that can be pursued by the department, administration or Legislature to reach the

Story continues on page 3



PaintCare = Savings

Three years after the California Architectural Paint Recovery Program (PaintCare) was established by Assembly Bill 1343 (Huffman - 2010), the program continues to benefit residents and local jurisdictions with paint disposal needs.

Since the start of the program in October 2012, PaintCare has managed paint collected from Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) collection events, homeowners, businesses and institutions. They have also set up more than 700 drop-off sites throughout California.

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Household Hazardous Waste Permanent Collection Centers

City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E Permanent Collection Centers

Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Services suspended during rainy weather.

For information, call 1 (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942).

Gaffey Street Collection Center

1400 N. Gaffey Street San Pedro, CA 90731

Hyperion Treatment Plant

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Washington Boulevard Collection Center

2649 E. Washington Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90021

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center

11025 Randall Street Sun Valley, CA 91352

UCLA Location (E-waste accepted on Saturdays only)

550 Charles E. Young Drive West Los Angeles, CA 90095

Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center

4600 Colorado Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90039

County of Los Angeles Permanent Collection Centers

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center

Antelope Valley Public Landfill, 1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale, CA 93551

Open 1st and 3rd Saturday each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

EDCO Environmental Collection Center

EDCO Recycling and Transfer Center, 2755 California Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755

Open 2nd Saturday each month 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

About Household Hazardous Waste

Common items accepted: paint and solvents; used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze, and other automotive fluids; cleaning products; pool and garden chemicals; aerosol cans; all medicine except controlled substances; auto batteries; household batteries, computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs, and electronic toys. **Not accepted: business waste, ammunition, explosives, radioactive material, trash, tires and bulky items such as furniture, refrigerators, washing machines/dryers, and stoves.**



SWMC

Inside Solid Waste

Task Force Public Education & Information Subcommittee

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Visit www.lacountyiswmtf.org to find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter. JOIN THE TEAM: If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education & Information Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for Inside Solid Waste, please contact Mike Kaspar at (626) 458-4088, mkaspar@dpw.lacounty.gov, or Kathy Salama at (626) 458-2521, ksalama@dpw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at the County Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you want to be involved or contribute, please join the Subcommittee!

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AB 341 Report to the Legislature

75 percent recycling goal. Recommendations include a mix of statutory and regulatory changes, infrastructure expansion, fiscal policies and incentives, as well as monitoring and enforcement. The five strategies framing CalRecycle's recommendations are:

- Moving organics out of the landfill
- Expanding the recycling/manufacturing infrastructure, including permitting and compliance, assistance and financing
- Exploring new models for state and local funding of sustainable waste management programs
- Promoting state procurement of post-consumer recycled content products
- Promoting extended producer responsibility

The three focus areas include: Source reduction, commercial recycling and "other products" (packaging, waste tires, e-waste and used oil).

In addition to providing strategies to achieve 75 percent by 2020, the report also included the following program reviews, updates and recommendations:

- Market development strategies
- Problematic waste streams
- Programmatic effectiveness and changes to current programs
- Changes for CalRecycle: Reprioritizing existing resources
- Recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to achieve 75 percent

Task Force Concerns

On May 9, 2012, CalRecycle released a draft report that suggested monumental structural and legislative changes to the way solid waste has

been managed in California for the last several decades. Shortly afterward, the Task Force expressed concerns with a number of the proposals.

The Task Force raised questions about the economic impacts on local governments, particularly in Southern California. One proposal included the elimination of cities' and counties' diversion credit for waste materials used for transformation, alternative daily cover (including green waste), beneficial use at landfills, and waste-derived fuel. This proposal remains in the new report and would place many cities out of compliance with the waste reduction mandates of AB 939, forcing them to spend millions of dollars in new programs to make up the difference. The report also lacks any provision for a lifecycle analysis to fully understand the benefits and disadvantages of diversion options.

Additionally, while the report notes the importance of anaerobic digestion in meeting the 75 percent reduction goal, it does not consider new conversion technologies for the production of non-fossil fuels and renewable energy and the importance of eliminating barriers to their development and use, as recommended by the Task Force.

CalRecycle is aware of conversion technologies and a study conducted by its predecessor, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, pursuant to AB 2770. That study substantiated the viability of these technologies as compared to recycling, composting and landfilling. We believe that CalRecycle is missing out on the opportunities that AB 341 is providing for promoting the development and operation of conversion technology facilities in California.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 952-1147.



Southern California Conversion Technology Update

A County of Los Angeles Program

Reduction, reuse and recycling guide the County's new waste management paradigm, which emphasizes the use of materials over disposal.

However, these steps alone are not enough to achieve the longer-term disposal reduction targets identified in the County's Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future. Conversion technologies (CT) address the waste stream that cannot be recycled or composted. Through its Conversion Technology Program, LA County Public Works supports efforts to establish local CT facilities.

Public Works serves as the chair to two groups: the Conversion Technology Working Group, hosted by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force's (Task Force) Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS). These groups facilitate the development of CT projects in California and regularly attend presentations from companies developing CT technologies.

Public Works recently reported to the Board of Supervisors on the progress of the Southern California Conversion Technology Program, sharing details on project development in the region. Below are some highlights:

CR&R Anaerobic Digestion Project, Perris, CA

CR&R Waste and Recycling Services continued construction of an anaerobic digestion facility at their material recovery plant and transfer station in

Perris, California (Figure 1). This project will ultimately convert trash into fuels for county waste collection vehicles. Public Works and the Task Force assisted CR&R in obtaining funding for the project and provided technical assistance to the developers. The facility is expected to be operating at 150 tons per day (tpd) by the end of 2015. This facility will scale-up in phases and ultimately process 1,000 tpd.

In February 2014, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) and Waste Management (WM) began a demonstration program to evaluate the feasibility of full-scale co-digestion of food waste with sewage sludge in anaerobic digesters at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson, California (Figure 2). Waste Management collects commercial food waste separately from other waste and processes it into a slurry, which is delivered to the JWPCP for co-digestion.

The digester gas, mostly methane, is used at the JWPCP's Total Energy Facility to produce electricity. The project is currently operating at 25 tpd and is expected to expand after a consistent food waste supply can be secured. Utilizing existing anaerobic digestion capacity at wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) allows facilities to process organic waste with minimal initial capital costs and flexibility in the amount of organic waste that can be accepted.



Figure 1: CR&R Waste and Recycling Services in Perris, CA

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Southern California Conversion Technology Update



Figure 2: Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) Carson, CA

On July 10, 2013, Waste Management (WM) issued a Request for Proposals for a pilot green and food waste processing facility at WM's Lancaster Landfill, located in the unincorporated region of the county near the city of Lancaster. Based on the success of the pilot facility operation, WM recently secured initial agreements with a private company to move forward with a full-scale organics digestion and composting operation (referred to as the Lancaster Advanced Recycling for Green waste and Organics project, or LARGO). Waste Management

expects LARGO to eventually process up to 2,000 tpd of green waste and other waste materials. Currently, WM is requesting technical assistance from Public Works' Conversion Technology Program and the Task Force to assist with permitting, environmental review, and pursuing grants for the project. As the project moves forward, Public Works anticipates coordinating with Regional Planning and County Counsel.

Conclusion

Public Works continues to update www.SoCalConversion.org, a comprehensive website containing a variety of resources for municipal and industry stakeholders. Information regarding CT developments is submitted biannually to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in a public report that is available for viewing at the site. The site also features a database of nearly 60 CT companies vetted by Public Works as well as economic models, reports, and information about upcoming events relating to CTs. You may sign up on the site to receive a monthly electronic newsletter containing the latest information regarding CT development in the region.



Waste Management Anaerobic Digestion Project, Lancaster, CA

PaintCare = Savings continued from page 1

PaintCare advocates reuse because collected paint produces "good quality unused paint to the local community at low or no cost."¹ In August 2015, PaintCare announced a revised compensation model as an incentive for reuse programs under contract with PaintCare for qualifying paint, stain and varnish. Reuse programs collection drop-off sites report by container or by volume, and the compensation rates are as follows:

Report by Container

- \$6.00 per 5-gallon container
- \$1.20 per 1-gallon container
- \$0.30 per quart container

Under this structure, the site does not need to track or report the actual volume of paint in the

containers as PaintCare will assume an average of 75 percent full.

Report by Volume

\$1.60 per gallon

Under this structure, the site must track and report the actual volume of paint in the containers by weighing the cans on a scale.

Either method provides a beneficial incentive for reuse programs to continue and even expand their programs. However, some municipal HHW programs do not contract directly with PaintCare and therefore do not experience a direct financial benefit from this rate adjustment. These HHW programs work with contractors that have a

contract with PaintCare, so the program saves money through the decrease in disposal costs from the credit passed on after redirecting reusable paint to PaintCare.

Please click on the link below to view the new Reuse Programs – Compensation & Reporting

<http://www.paintcare.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/xx-factsheet-reuse-pricing.pdf>

For location of drop-off sites, please click on the following link: <http://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-locations/>

Hanging by a Thread

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has found Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) non-compliant with Assembly Bill 2398 (Perez, 2010), which established a carpet take-back program in California.

The program entails using assessments collected from carpet consumers to incentivize companies to process and use collected carpet to create new products. CARE was given an opportunity to take corrective measures to bring it into compliance before enforcement actions were taken.

The determination was based on the program's 2014 annual report submitted in July 2015. In order to avoid being referred to CalRecycle's Waste Evaluation and Enforcement Branch, CARE was required to submit a plan addendum addressing the program's deficiencies by Nov. 30, 2015.

On October 9, 2015, CARE submitted an addendum proposing many programmatic changes, including establishing a grant and loan program to support the take-back implementation. The addendum called for the funding to be used for capital investment, procurement, technology, product testing, and research and development consistent with program goals. Only CARE members would be eligible and California-based applicants would be given priority. CARE also requested that the California Council on Carpet Recycling help determine the eligibility of grant and loan applicants.

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) quickly objected to the addendum, citing concerns over possible loss of carpet collectors and recyclers in California. The Task Force argued

that funds for the grant and loan program should not be limited to CARE members and be used solely for projects in California to collect, process and recycle carpet. But CalRecycle Director Scott Smithline said that CalRecycle lacks legal authority to mandate funds to be exclusively allocated within California.

Despite strong opposition, Smithline conditionally approved the addendum during CalRecycle's October 2015 public meeting. Smithline required that the grant and loan program be implemented on a pilot basis and that at least half the funds be allocated within California. Further, funds may not be used for disposal costs or thermal technologies to incinerate carpet.

In the 2014 annual report, CalRecycle determined non-compliance due to six key findings, chiefly that CARE failed to produce "meaningful and continuous improvements" in its recycling output of carpet. While state law does not mandate a minimum percentage of recycling output, CARE's approved plan pledged a 16 percent recycling rate by 2016. The 2014 annual report indicated a flat trend for CARE at a recycling rate of only 12 percent since 2013.

CARE said it would provide an additional addendum by November 30, 2015, which would include higher incentive payouts for all fiber types, the addition of collector and sorter payouts, and an increase of funding for education and outreach.

Established early in the state's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislative history, the model for the carpet program may need an overhaul if there are no significant improvements, CalRecycle acknowledged. Subsequent statewide EPR legislation, including for paint and mattresses, have benefited from the carpet take-back experience. CARE has until year's end to increase its recycling rate to 16 percent.

For questions about the state's carpet takeback program or CalRecycle's decision on CARE, contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Don't forget to Recycle Your Holiday Tree!

Los Angeles County residents can help reduce the waste that ends up in landfills this holiday season by recycling their holiday tree or by renting a holiday tree.

Anyone living in unincorporated Los Angeles County communities can recycle their holiday tree by placing them curbside on any scheduled trash collection day from December 26, 2015, through January 16, 2016.

Residents living in an incorporated city should contact their city government office or waste hauler to find information on the availability of the recycling program in their city or the nearest designated collection site.

Because the collected holiday trees will be recycled into compost, mulch, or ground cover, items such as water containers, tree stands, ornaments, tinsel, and nails will need to be removed from the tree before being picked up. Nearly 21,000 holiday trees were recycled in 2014.

Mattress Recycling Plan Submitted to CalRecycle



On December 31, 2015, California's mattress recycling program will begin.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), the mattress stewardship organization has been certified by CalRecycle to administer the program. The MRC submitted the Mattress Recycling Plan to CalRecycle on July 1, 2015 for their approval. CalRecycle conditionally approved the Mattress Recycling plan on September 15, 2015.

The plan's objectives and implementation strategy are focused on diverting discarded mattresses from landfill disposal, and instead delivering them to recyclers that will dismantle them so that the steel, foam, fiber and fabric, wood and other materials recovered from that process can be used to manufacture new products.

The plan calls for a recycling charge of \$11 for each piece of mattress sold in California. In comparison, the State of Connecticut has a mattress recycling charge of \$9 per mattress piece. Roughly 85.5% of the California fees will pay for mattress collection: mattress collection (10.2%), transport and recycling (72.8%), and CalRecycle direct cost reimbursements (2.5%). The remaining 14.5% will pay for education and outreach, research and development, and administrative costs.

The MRC is expected to sign contracts with operators of solid waste permitted facilities wishing to participate in the program. The solid waste facilities would

be reimbursed for costs related to the handling of the mattress to place it into a trailer provided by the MRC.

The facility will not only save on labor costs, but also on the transportation costs of taking the mattresses normally to a landfill and on the disposal fees that ranges statewide from \$15 to \$18 a mattress piece. The environmental benefits of recycling the mattresses will contribute towards conserving limited landfill capacity. The mattress is taken to 1 of 11 expected MRC-contracted recycling centers to be taken apart and the recyclable materials such as foam, steel, and wood are sold in the open market to be reused for items such as carpet padding, wood pallets, and other products. Four of the eleven mattress recyclers are located in Los Angeles County.

Governmental agencies responsible for collecting illegally dumped mattresses within their jurisdictions will also be able to get some reimbursements back for their costs. The MRC set aside \$750,000 to fund this portion of the plan for next year. Agencies would need to document the number of illegally dumped mattresses collected and send the necessary information and application back to the MRC. Payout for each piece of mattress will be based on the \$750,000 divided by the total number of mattress reported in the state

When the program starts, residents will be able to drop off their mattress at participating solid waste facilities for no cost. MRC will be advertising their website during their education and outreach effort. The website offers a convenient location finder feature to assist them in locating the nearest facilities.

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A holiday tree rental is a good way to go for the greener option. Renting means a live, potted tree will be delivered to your home and picked up after the holiday season. Rented trees go back to a nursery where it can continue to grow and be used again the following year. Renting your holiday tree can help divert green waste from the landfill. Click [here](#) to find out more on renting a holiday tree.

To learn how to reduce waste this holiday season visit our [holiday tips page](#).

For more information on the County's Holiday Tree Recycling Program or to locate a collection site, please visit www.CleanLA.com or call 1(888) CLEANLA.



Antelope Valley Mattress/Box Spring Recycling Event...A Success!

Lake Los Angeles – Last September the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force sponsored its first ever mattress and box spring collection event at County Public Works Road Maintenance Yard located in Lake Los Angeles.

By noon, the pile had risen to more than 200 mattresses and box springs. Residents brought their own mattresses/box springs while others gathered up the illegally dumped mattresses from their local communities.

The event was exclusively for Antelope Valley residents. As an incentive, a \$5.00 gift card was given to each household for every mattress or box spring recycled, up to a maximum of six pieces (\$30.00 gift card maximum).

One couple made two trips to the yard with a dozen mattresses and box springs. The rest were discarded around local neighborhoods where the couple brought them to the collection event.

Mattresses and box springs contain a number of recyclable materials including steel, cotton, foam and wood that can be reused for industrial and commercial use.

Volunteers from the Antelope Valley community and the Palmdale Sheriff's Station Explorers put in a full day as they greeted participants upon arrival, handed out survey cards, assisted in obtaining resident information for the gift card incentive, and guided traffic to offload the mattresses/box springs.

More than 300 mattresses were collected and it took two 18-wheeler trailers and a box truck to transport everything to the Blue Marble Materials recycling facility in the City of Commerce. The success of the event has set a very high expectation for future collection events. For updates and information on upcoming events please visit www.stopillegaldumping.com





Debut of Vanguard Gardens

In June 2015, the County of Los Angeles completed its Vanguard Learning Center Urban Greening Project, a multi-faceted three-acre community garden facility in the unincorporated Willowbrook area.

The project was built at Vanguard Learning Center in the Compton Unified School District, a middle school that had two large grass fields, on opposite sides of the campus. The south field was utilized for sports activities. The idea was to transform the north field into something more productive, instead of letting it idle and consume water.

The County received a \$75,000 grant from the California Strategic Growth Council initially to create a garden for the students. But the project blossomed into more to improve the disadvantaged community financed by the County's Solid Waste Management Fund. The key added amenities were the creation of a community garden with 150 plots and a smart gardening learning center.

The community garden lets residents grow their own vegetables in a neighborhood with few fresh produce options. This will help combat alarming rates of obesity and diabetes observed in the region. Opportunities to eat organic food will replace fast food options. The learning center serves to hold County workshops on composting, water-wise

gardening, worm composting, grasscycling, organic gardening, xeriscaping, integrated pest management, and fire-wise gardening. The County already had 10 centers as part of its Smart Gardening Program but none served this area. Residents learning to compost at home will help the County divert yard and organic waste from the landfills.

Also built was a 1/5-mile jogging path made from recycled rubber that surrounds the community garden and provides exercise opportunities for students and patrons. The project also includes the following:

- A school garden consisting of 20 raised beds
- A bioswale that collects storm run-off
- A three-compartment composting area
- Picnic tables/benches made from recycled plastic
- Decomposed granite walkways
- Drought-tolerant landscaping to replace grass
- More than 40 shade and fruit trees planted

As a finishing touch, the community garden is adorned with 10 birdhouses made by prison inmates from the Sheriff's Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic.

Revegetating Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Located about one mile north of Granada Hills, Sunshine Canyon Landfill is a municipal solid waste landfill traversing the city of Los Angeles and unincorporated areas of LA County.

Owned and operated by Republic Services, Inc., the landfill previously operated as two landfills under city and county land use permits. In late 2008, the state of California issued a joint permit allowing city/county landfill operations to begin. The permit requires the landfill to reclaim all final fill slopes, and cover slopes and landfill areas inactive for more than 180 days with vegetation.

Currently, revegetation is underway at the landfill. Various insects, birds, deer, lizards and other animals are being observed in the closed city south deck, located in the sage mitigation area.

In 2013, Republic Services launched a pilot project on the lower deck of the city sage mitigation area

to test various methods for revegetating with coastal sage scrubs. These efforts were a permit requirement aimed at offsetting the loss of coastal sage scrub, reducing erosion, improving moisture capture and providing a habitat for wildlife. Lessons learned from the pilot project will be used to determine the best revegetation methods for the site's city south area and the county sage mitigation area as well as other areas.

Planting preparation involved soil testing, grading, applying soil amendments, and installing boulders and rip rap along swale lines. The swales created drainage pathways and the boulders control water flow and establish micro-topography. Temporary irrigation was also installed.

Over time, saltbush species have dominated and are taller than other sage scrub species. Crucial to the ecosystem, saltbushes are the first species to grow, establish, and provide cover for other vegetation—sage species, sunflowers, salvia and California poppy—to develop. At the site, the saltbush is selectively thinned to allow other species to come through and establish. The pilot project continues into 2016.

For more information, contact Russell Bukoff, Task Force staff member, at RBUKOFF@dpw.lacounty.gov and (626) 458-2186, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Worms join the green team

Worms: you won't find them on the menu, but they're about to become the hottest new addition to eco-friendly food service.

A wriggling brigade of hungry worms recently reported for vermicomposting duty at the LA County Public Works cafeteria located in Alhambra —part of an innovative pilot project that is expected to serve as a model for other county departments and private restaurateurs in the months ahead.

Beginning January 1, 2016, state law will require cities and counties to develop plans to collect and recycle organic waste (i.e. food and plants) without sending to landfills, where it rots and generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Based on how much organic waste is generated, in April the law shifts to private businesses, multi-family residences and public facilities, requiring them to divert the waste to better purposes.



LA County's first-ever invertebrate workers.

On January 1, 2017, the criteria for the amount of generated organic waste under which they would be subject to the requirements would decrease from 8 cubic yards or more to 4 cubic yards or more. Then on and after January 1, 2019, those that generate 4 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week must arrange for organic waste recycling services. CalRecycle has the option to decrease that criteria amount to 2 cubic yards, beginning on January 1, 2020.

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Worms join the green team

That's where the worms come in. One of the greenest and most natural ways to deal with organic waste is worm composting, which uses live worms to convert food scraps into rich fertilizer.

Cafeteria employees now dump melon rinds, lettuce scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds and other food waste into four specialized bins that were installed outdoors behind the cafeteria. Inside, hundreds of red wiggler worms devour the waste, producing fertilizer that will be used in on-site demonstration gardens that are being installed to grow herbs and veggies, said Coby Skye, a senior engineer overseeing the program.

"It will be a full, closed loop," Skye said. "Take food scraps, make compost and feed it to our garden to grow yummy things that go right back to the cafeteria."

Cafeteria manager Sam Choi wasn't completely sold on the concept at first. The idea of dealing with worms made him uneasy and he was concerned that customers might think his foodservice operation was unsanitary. But Choi also saw a chance to make his business greener while getting something useful out of food scraps he was throwing away. "In the end, it's a good thing that's going to help the environment," Choi said.

Skye is use to that kind of squeamishness. As the person in charge of the county's Smart Gardening program, he oversees worm composting workshops and other eco-friendly education for local residents and schoolchildren. Kids typically dig the worms, but some adults express reservations. When people

get over the "ick factor," they're able to see the worms in a positive way, he said. "They are just like bees that make honey or other beneficial bugs that are in your garden," Skye said. "They're doing a service."

The cafeteria project is the first of its kind for LA County. Over the next few months, the bins will be watched to see how the worms are thriving and processing waste. After a year, Public Works hopes to expand the program and recommend it to other county departments.

Worm composting is clean and poses fewer health risks than letting food rot from bacteria in standard garbage cans, Skye said. He should know—he started worm composting at home 15 years ago, when he lived in an apartment. The indoor bin was odorless and his regular trash can even started smelling better because it wasn't full of decomposing food.

Skye has since moved into a home where he maintains a vegetable garden. He uses worm compost and worm tea—a liquid byproduct of the process that can be used as a weed killer, insect repellent or fertilizer—to grow a bounty of strawberries, carrots, tomatoes, kale, beets and other produce.

People who want to try worm composting at home shouldn't be intimidated, Skye said. The worms do all the hard work and bins are easy to set up. For more information, attend a local composting workshop or use the tips and instructional videos on Public Works' website.

Small but mighty recycling MVPs

The Los Angeles Dodgers may have clinched their division title, but another local team made up of much smaller Dodgers has already won the championship—for recycling.

Led by 7-year-old Daniel Gutierrez, the Dodgers of Franklin D. Roosevelt Park in South Los Angeles collected more than two and a half tons of recyclable bottles and cans and were recently named winners of this summer's RBI Recycling Challenge, a partnership with LA County Public Works and the Dodgers Foundation. (RBI is the Dodger-affiliated Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities kids baseball program.)

Daniel's recycling prowess earned him the right to throw out a first pitch at Dodger Stadium on August 29, to none other than Dodger pitching great and current commentator Orel Hershiser.

Story continues on page 12



All-star recyclers with Dodgers outfielder Andre Ethier.

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Small but mighty recycling MVPs

"I had to scoot forward to make it," Daniel said. "We got to see ourselves on TV!"

"I told my son that I'm jealous of him," said Daniel's dad, 'Big Daniel' Gutierrez. "We'll never forget that day."

Two other elementary-age teams—Bleed Blue, which also played at Roosevelt Park, and Breaking Bad, which played at Bethune Park—won second- and third-place honors, respectively. The top boys and girls of summer from all the teams took the field and got to see themselves on DodgerVision. An added bonus: posing for photos with star outfielder Andre Ethier.

In all, the young players recovered nearly \$10,000 in CRV refunds as part of the challenge.

"What people don't realize is that out of 21 billion (CRV-eligible) beverage containers sold in California each year, nearly 3 billion containers end up in landfills," Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis told Hershiser in a recent radio interview at Dodger Stadium. The supervisor also spoke about the Recycling Challenge at Dodger Stadium with Spanish-language broadcasters Jaime and Jorge Jarrín on Sunday, October 4.

As the young athletes learned, recycling can be profitable. Some of the CRV refunds went to new baseball equipment, but each of the hard-working kids earned pocket money as well.

Daniel and his teammates scoured dugouts and bleachers of the South LA ballfields where their league plays. Loaded shopping bags gave way to blue bins provided by the county and, eventually, to several pick-up truck loads of containers going to a local recycling depot, where the clerks began recognizing and encouraging the young players.

The young Dodgers' coach—Daniel's mom, Virginia Gutierrez—turned the initiative into a family affair, cheering on team members to collect from friends and relatives in addition to cleaning up after league games.

At the end of the five-week contest, the little Dodgers redeemed 1,070 pounds of aluminum cans, 1,184 pounds of plastic bottles, and 2,735 pounds of glass, plus other recyclables, for \$3,225 in CRV value.

"Now, when we see an empty water bottle, we collect it," Virginia Gutierrez said. "The kids learned the value of recycling, and that we can profit by it." "It was a great thing to work together and contribute," added Carla Valdez, a team mom. The Challenge was a great camaraderie builder. "They still can't believe it. We did it, as a group."

The Recycling Challenge was a season-long effort. Public Works, in partnership with the Dodgers Foundation and the Dodgers Radio Network flagship at iHeartMedia, encouraged fans to "strike out landfill waste" with a multi-media campaign that included a snazzy video narrated by Hershiser, along with radio announcements, web banners and social media messaging.

Even after the baseball season ends, there are still plenty of opportunities to keep recycling. Tips, including where to find beverage container redemption centers, are here.

For more information on the above event and other programs by the LA County Public Works visit CleanLA.com or the following: <http://newsworks.dpw.lacounty.gov/small-but-mighty-recycling-mvps/>



LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Orel Hershiser discuss recycling on radio from Dodger Stadium.

OCTOBER 2015 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force continuously monitors and analyzes pending legislative bills that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below is a summary and status of legislation the Task Force has taken a position for the first year of the 2015/2016 Legislative Session.

2015-2016 State Legislative Session (Except as noted)

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
<p>AB 45 Mullin</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Assembly Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require jurisdictions, by July 1, 2020, to increase their collection and diversion of household hazardous waste (HHW) by 15 percent from a baseline to be determined according to regulations established by CalRecycle.</p>
<p>AB 144 Mathis</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>	<p>The bill would make a fourth or subsequent conviction of dumping waste matter in or upon, among other things, a public or private highway or road a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 30 days and by a fine of not less than \$750 or more than \$3,000.</p>
<p>AB 190 Harper</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Dead</p>	<p>This bill would repeal all provisions related to Senate Bill 270 (Padilla, 2014) which would, among other things prohibit certain stores from providing single-use plastic-carryout bags to customers. The requirements related to SB 270 are currently on hold pending a potential referendum petition.</p>



Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
<p>AB 191 Harper</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Dead</p>	<p>This bill would repeal Senate Bill 270's (Padilla, 2014) provision related to the requirement that certain stores that distribute recycled paper bags make those bags available for purchase for not less than \$0.10. This and other requirements related to SB 270 are currently on hold pending a potential referendum petition.</p>
<p>AB 199 Eggman</p>	<p>Support if Amended</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 768)</p>	<p>This law would expand projects eligible for the sales and use tax exclusion to include projects that process or utilize recycled feedstock, but would not include a project that processes or utilizes recycled feedstock in a manner that constitutes disposal. The Task Force had requested an amendment that would have clarified projects which produce fuels from recycled feedstock are eligible for the proposed sales and use tax exclusion.</p>
<p>AB 237 Daly</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Assembly Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require, before the adoption of any new parcel tax, the legislative body of a local agency to provide notice of the vote to enact the proposed parcel tax to the owner of each parcel affected by the tax within one week of the local agency voting to place the proposed parcel tax on the ballot.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p>AB 239 Gallagher</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Dead</p>	<p>This bill would prohibit the State Air Resources Board (ARB) on and after January 1, 2016, from adopting or amending regulations pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Nunez, AB 32). The bill would authorize ARB to submit to the Legislature recommendations on how to achieve the goals of AB 32.</p>
<p>AB 577 Bonilla</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Senate Rules Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to develop and implement a grant program to award grants for projects that produce biomethane, that build or develop collection and purification technology or infrastructure, or that upgrade or expand existing biomethane facilities.</p>
<p>AB 590 Dahle</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Senate Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would provide that moneys in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund may be made available for expenditure by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission for the purposes of maintaining the current level of biomass power generation or geothermal energy generation in the state and revitalizing currently idle facilities in strategically located regions.</p>



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<p>AB 876 McCarty</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 593)</p>	<p>This law requires a county or regional agency to include in its annual report to CalRecycle an estimate of the amount of organic waste in cubic yards that will be generated in the county or region over a 15-year period, an estimate of the additional organic waste recycling facility capacity in cubic yards that will be needed to process that amount of waste, and areas identified by the county or regional agency as locations for new or expanded organic waste recycling facilities capable of safely meeting that additional need.</p>
<p>AB 901 Gordon</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 746)</p>	<p>This law requires recycling and composting operations and facilities to submit information directly to CalRecycle, rather than to counties as current State statute currently requires, and deletes the requirement for counties to submit that information to cities, regional agencies, and CalRecycle. The law will provide that civil penalties may be imposed on any person who refuse or fails to submit information required. Disposal records that are subject to this law can also be inspected by an employee of a government entity with respect to tonnage received at a disposal facility that originates within the government entity's geographic jurisdiction.</p>
<p>AB 1045 Irwin</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 596)</p>	<p>This law requires the CalEPA, in coordination with CalRecycle, to develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills. This law requires CalRecycle, in coordination with CARB and the State Water Board, to develop policies that promote the development of streamlined permitting and regulation of composting facilities while protecting air and water quality. The Task Force requested amendments which would require the identified agencies to consider health and safety of residents when streamlining permitting and regulations as well as to include local governments in the process.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p>AB 1063 Williams</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would, beginning January 1, 2017, raise a fee imposed on an operator of a disposal facility from \$1.40 to \$4 per ton for all solid waste disposed of at each disposal site. This bill would require CalRecycle, commencing January 1, 2019, to establish and impose a charge on all solid waste generators (\$15 million in total initially) to be collected by a cities and counties and remitted to the State Board of Equalization to be allocated to CalRecycle for their activities and partially towards programs that promote recycling and highest and best use of materials.</p>
<p>AB 1103 Dodd</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require a person who transports food waste to be registered by CalRecycle and to maintain a record of food waste transported. The bill would authorize CalRecycle to impose fees on registered transporters for vehicles used to transport food waste for CalRecycle’s regulatory costs for administering the bill’s provisions. The bill would require food waste transporters and facilities to report information to CalRecycle at least quarterly, including the quantity of food waste transported or received.</p>
<p>AB 1159 Gordon</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Assembly Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would establish the Product Stewardship Pilot Program and, until January 1, 2024, would require producers and product stewardship organizations of covered products, defined to mean home-generated sharps waste or household batteries, to develop and implement a product stewardship plan.</p>



Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p>AB 1176 Perea</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Senate Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would establish the Advanced Low-Carbon Diesel Fuels Access Program to provide capital assistance for projects that expand advanced low-carbon diesel fueling infrastructure in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards and additionally where the greatest air quality impacts can be identified.</p>
<p>AB 1239 Gordon</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Senate Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require a waste tire generator that is a retail seller of new tires to end user purchasers to pay a California tire regulatory fee to be established by CalRecycle sufficient enough to generate revenues equivalent to the reasonable regulatory costs incurred but not to exceed \$1.25 per new tire sold.</p>
<p>SB 32 Pavley</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Assembly Natural Resources Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require the State Air Resources Board (ARB) to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emission limit that is equivalent to 40% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2030.</p>

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<p>SB 47 Hill</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Senate Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would, among other things, require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, by July 1, 2017, in consultation with CalRecycle, the State Department of Public Health, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control, to prepare and provide to the Legislature a study analyzing synthetic turf for potential adverse health impacts. This bill also would prohibit a public entity from installing a new synthetic turf in the interim unless three conditions are met.</p>
<p>SB 350 De Leon/Leno</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 547)</p>	<p>This law requires that the amount of electricity generated and sold to retail customers per year from eligible renewable energy resources be increased to 50% by December 31, 2030. This law will require annual targets for statewide energy efficiency savings and demand reduction that will achieve a cumulative doubling of statewide energy efficiency savings in electricity and natural gas final end uses of retail customers by January 1, 2030.</p>
<p>SB 485 Hernandez</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 678)</p>	<p>This law authorizes certain sanitation districts in the County of Los Angeles, to acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and furnish facilities for the diversion, management, and treatment of stormwater and dry weather runoff, the discharge of the water to the stormwater drainage system, and the beneficial use of the water.</p>



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<p>SB 489 Monning</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 489)</p>	<p>This law authorizes the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) to adopt regulations to designate end-of-life photovoltaic modules that are identified as hazardous waste as a universal waste and subject those modules to universal waste management. The bill would authorize DTSC to revise the regulations as necessary.</p>
<p>SB 662 Environmental Quality Committee</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Chaptered (Chapter 453)</p>	<p>This law authorizes CalRecycle to expend money in the Recycling Market Development Revolving Loan Subaccount to make payments to local governing bodies within Recycling Market Development Zones for services related to the promotion of the zone for training, outreach, development of written promotional materials, and technical analyses of feedstock availability.</p>
<p>SB 687 Allen</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Senate Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require the State Air Resources Board (ARB) in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the Public Utilities Commission, to adopt a carbon-based renewable gas standard (RGS) that would require all gas sellers to provide minimum percentages of renewable gas to retail customers in California.</p>
<p>HR 2463 Bera</p>	<p>Support if Amended</p>	<p>U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee</p>	<p>This bill would set aside \$2.5 million per year for the next 5 years and allow eligible entities, both public and private, to apply for grants of up to \$250,000 over a 2 year grant period for expenses related to prescription drug disposal sites; implementing disposal procedures and processes; implementing community education strategies; replicating a prescription drug take back initiative throughout multiple jurisdictions; and training of law enforcement officers and other community participants. The Task Force is requesting amendments which would allow grant awardees to use funds for expenses for their programs as necessary rather each and every item as described in the bill.</p>

OCTOBER 2015 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

For more information on these bills or copies of Task Force letters, please visit the Task Force website, www.lacountyiswmtf.org or contact Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-3547, Monday - Thursday, 7 am to 5:30 pm or Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.