

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL RECYCLING PROGRAM Newsletter

2nd Quarter 2019

Roadmap to a Sustainable
Waste Management Future

“Think Green” Team

The “Think Green” team is a Los Angeles County Department of Social Services (DPSS) employee managed group dedicated to recycling and educating fellow County employees about the importance of environmental awareness. With support from LA County Public Works, the “Think Green” team was able to obtain beverage container recycling bins to jump start the recycling program at the DPSS El Monte office.

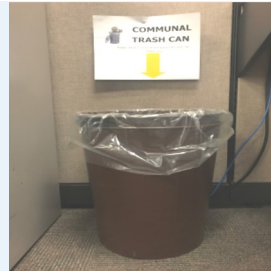


Expansion of the beverage container recycling program included placement of beverage container recycling bins throughout the office, including areas with heavy foot traffic and in the outdoor patio area. Recyclables are then collected by “Think Green” team members and are taken to a local recycling center each month. For more information on the “Think Green” team, contact Emad Lotfy, DPSS department recycling Coordinator at (323) 720-3502. To learn how you can implement beverage container recycling at your facility contact, Arlene Morales, departmental recycling coordinator at (626) 458-7834 or amorales@pw.lacounty.gov.



COMMUNITY TRASH CAN AT WORK

LA County Public Works recycling coordinator, Martin Blanco, was inspired to make a difference in his workplace after attending his first recycling coordinators meeting in July 2017. The meeting discussed a 2011 waste characterization study which concluded that there is an excessive amount of trash bags being used in comparison to the actual trash collected at Public Works Headquarters.



Blanco recommended a community trash can to his manager and fellow coworkers, and received their support to move forward. Using a community trash can eliminate up to 13 plastic bags that otherwise would have been used for one waste item and discarded daily. Reducing the amount of trash bags used each day helps Public Works to annually divert more than 2,700 liner bags from landfills.

While it can be difficult to change old habits, the community trash can is an example that positive environmental change is possible. We all play a part in the amount of waste generated that ends up in landfills. No idea is too small. Thank you, County recycling coordinators, for helping ensure a sustainable future in the workplace.



THE FOUR R's

- **Reduce** waste by purchasing durable items with a long shelf life.
- **Reuse** items that are no longer needed; give them a new look or donate them.
- **Recycle** when an item has reached the end of its useful life.
- **Rethink** before throwing away an item you think is broken, worn out or is no longer useful.

To learn more about the 4 R's and other environmental services and programs, visit CleanLA.com.



For questions or additional information regarding our programs, email us at cdrp@dpw.lacounty.gov.