

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL RECYCLING PROGRAM Newsletter

1st Quarter 2025
Roadmap to a Sustainable
Waste Management Future

Annual Report on Waste Diversion Programs and Efforts

Every year, Public Works is required to submit a report to CalRecycle on the County's waste diversion programs and efforts. This report includes data on County Departments' activities to prevent and reduce waste, including procurement of recycled-content products and recycling of CRV beverage containers, paper/cardboard, tires, scrap metal, batteries, textiles, mattresses, and organic waste. Please submit your Department's data for Calendar Year 2024 to cdrp@pw.lacounty.gov no later than May 31, 2025.



Public Works Community Trash Can Program

In September 2024, Public Works Headquarters piloted a Community Trash Can Program to reduce plastic waste can liners. The program was first implemented in 2019 on just one floor and has recently started to expand to a total of four floors. Trash cans were removed from individual workstations and strategically placed in communal spaces for employees to share.

The Program was introduced after the results of a waste characterization study of the facility found that about half of plastic waste generated onsite mainly consisted of empty trash can liners. Replacing deskside trash cans with communal trash cans on a few floors at Public Works Headquarters has removed approximately 38 percent of the trash cans from use and reduced the number of plastic liners entering the disposal stream. This Program reduced the amount of custodial staff time needed to empty trash cans. It also raised awareness among employees of the need to conserve resources.

10 Tips to Reduce Waste While Teleworking

Some County employees may now be teleworking at least some of the time. Below are ten tips for improving sustainability and reducing household usage of energy while teleworking.

1. Work from an area at home near a window that receives a good amount of natural light.
2. Turn off all devices that are not in current use.
3. Print double-sided and turn printer off when not in use.
4. Choose to view files online instead of printing hard copies.
5. Improve air quality in your workspace with plants.
6. Replace single-serving packaged snacks with bulk items and other minimally packaged foods.
7. Avoid single-use plastic items (utensils, bags, cups, plates).
8. When your desktop computer has reached its end-of-life, consider procuring a mobile device such as a laptop or tablet that uses less energy.
9. If in need of office furniture for home, purchase second hand.
10. Recycle materials such as paper, cardboard, and beverage containers.



For questions or additional information,
email us at cdrp@pw.lacounty.gov.



Earth Month

Earth Month was April, and this year's theme was "Our Power, Our Planet". Although the focus was on using renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, we continued to stress the importance of reducing and reusing waste to conserve landfill resources.

Here are a few tips to continue celebrating the beauty and power of our planet:

- Amplify our commitment to using renewable energy
 - ⇒ Research how renewable energy technology can save you money
 - ◆ Use energy-efficient home appliances
 - ◆ Ensure your home is well-insulated and weatherproofed
 - ◆ Carpool or ride your bike to work
 - ◆ Interconnect your home electricity with solar and/or possibly even wind systems
 - ◆ Install battery storage for home electricity use - for example, a home battery unit connected to the home electrical system, which includes solar panels, can store energy that may be used during power outages
 - ◆ Participate in incentive programs to promote energy efficiency and clean technology
 - ◇ Energy utility companies
 - * Free purchase and installation of home appliances by program partner
 - * Rebates (e.g., Southern California Edison offers rebates for purchasing portable generators and smart thermostats)
 - * Surplus energy payments from using renewable energy systems
 - ◇ Government agencies
 - * Tax credits and rebates for energy-efficient home improvements or for purchasing energy-efficient home appliances
 - * Rebates for purchasing new or used vehicles using alternative fuels
 - * Rebates for purchasing/leasing home solar panels
 - ⇒ Use solar powered products, such as some appliances/devices, power banks, and cars
- Attend a composting workshop
- Volunteer in a community garden
- Plant a tree
- Conserve water in your yard
 - ⇒ Install and hydrozone drought-tolerant or native plants
 - ⇒ Install sprinklers, drip emitters, timers, and rain barrels
 - ⇒ Use compost and mulch

