

Fact Sheet: The City's Solid Waste Policies and Programs

COUNTING DOWN TO ZERO WASTE PLAN

A Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP)

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bureau of Sanitation

Solid Waste Policies and Programs for the Future

Green LA Plan, the Mayor's Initiative

In May, 2007, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, in partnership with the Los Angeles City Council and environmental leaders, unveiled GREEN LA - An Action Plan to make the City of Los Angeles the greenest city in the nation and the national leader to fight global warming. The 50+ initiatives of the plan include diverting 70% of the City's waste by 2015. In 2008, the mayor accelerated that goal to 75% diversion by 2013.

The mayor has established additional directives for solid waste management, including:

- Implement a Stakeholder-driven Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP)
- Convert the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) trash collection fleet to clean fuel
- Shift from reliance on Waste Disposal to a greater focus on Resource Recovery
- Establish an operating Alternative Technology facility



City Council has adopted RENEW LA Plan, Goals for the Future Solid Waste Management System

Councilman Greig Smith introduced his RENEW LA (Recovering Energy, Natural Resources and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles) Plan, which was adopted by the City Council in February 2006. This 20-year plan is the blueprint that will guide the City in reducing the use of landfills by maximizing recycling and reuse, and converting much of the solid waste that currently would go to landfills into clean energy and/or valuable raw materials. Many of the plan components have been, and continue to be implemented. RENEW LA calls for the following actions:



- Establish RENEW LA Oversight Committee
- Adopt RENEW LA Blueprint and Zero Waste Policy
- Modify Zoning Code to allow Alternative Technology by right in M2 (light industrial) and M3 (heavy industrial) zones with conditions
- Establish site areas for Alternative Technology in each of the Collection Districts
- Site and develop the first and second Alternative Technology facility
- Establish a fund from Sunshine Canyon host fees for development of facilities that reduce landfilling
- Implement recycling in 50% of the commercial sector
- Mandate a time-certain reduction in City MSW disposed at Sunshine Canyon
- Expand Multi-Family Recycling to 50% of the City
- Establish City tax breaks for Zero Waste and new re-manufacturing companies
- Establish a green energy producer bonus from the Department of Water and Power
- Add residential food waste to the green bin program



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Zero Waste and the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP)

The City has chosen Zero Waste as its master plan for addressing solid waste management for the next generation, and the Bureau of Sanitation continues to develop programs and policies that will be included in the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan. This innovative planning process has received feedback from the community through extensive stakeholder meetings and interviews conducted during the first phase in 2007 and 2008. The result will be the development and implementation of a 20-year master plan for the City's future to reduce solid waste and increase source reduction, reuse and recycling programs.

On May 3, 2008, after a year of intense outreach and stakeholder feedback, City stakeholders signed off on the following 12 Guiding Principles that will help the City achieve Zero Waste by 2030:

- Protect Public Health and the Environment
- City Leadership as a Model for Zero Waste Practices
- Manufacturer Responsibility
- Incentives
- City Leadership to Increase Recycling
- Convenience
- Economic Efficiency
- Education and Outreach to Decrease Wasteful Consumption
- New, Safe Technology
- Equity
- Education and Outreach to Increase Recycling
- Consumer Responsibility

Solid Waste Policies are guiding the Program of the Future... With Your Help!

Achieving zero waste will require radical changes in areas of manufacturing and packaging, consumer habits, product disposal and, finally, our thinking about what it means to "take away the garbage." The materials we generate and discard from our homes and work places can no longer be thought of as just "waste", but streams of materials that can be reduced, reused, recycled, composted and ultimately converted back to resources or energy.

The City has exceeded its state mandated 50% solid waste diversion goal and achieved 62% waste diversion in 2002, and offers numerous recycling programs for residents to participate in. In addition, the Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division (SRCRD) provides technical assistance to City Departments, private sector businesses, multi-family complexes, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD),

restaurants and the community. The office fosters public/private recycling partnerships and helps to promote new markets for recyclable materials. As the City continues to implement the Mayoral and City Council directives listed above, and strives towards a 90 percent diversion goal by 2025, everyone is being asked to fully participate in the programs already in place and those being developed for the future.

The City continues to review its options to increase diversion from the commercial and multi-family waste streams through initiatives, such as:

- Consider potential use of exclusive or non-exclusive franchises to provide commercial customers with more convenient and uniform recycling and organics collection service.
- Consider limiting the number of permit haulers allowed within each service district in order to minimize the number of haulers and associated traffic impacts, and increase collection efficiency.
- Directing the flow of construction and demolition (C&D) waste through Building and Safety project permit requirements in order to ensure these materials go to processing facilities for maximum recovery.

In August 2008, the Mayor set the bar even higher by announcing that the City will achieve 75% diversion by 2013. To meet the new challenge by 2013, BOS has also initiated several new programs:

- Multi-family recycling available to all buildings (initiated in 2007)
- Plastic bag policy recommendation and polystyrene foam ban at City facilities (initiated in 2008)
- Construction and demolition recycling requirements (initiated for Public Works projects, and citywide C&D ordinance being considered for adoption in 2009)
- Pay-as-you-throw pilot development (planned for 2009)
- Residential food scrap pilot (initiated in 2008)
- City Departments recycling managed by BOS
- Proper sharp (needles, lancets, carpules) disposal

Find out More

For a full listing of the City's solid waste programs being offered for residents and businesses, or to learn more about the policies and strategic planning efforts under way in the Bureau of Sanitation, visit the City's website:

www.lacity.org/san and click on Solid Resources.



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