

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



Winter 2009

Volume 57

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INCREASES COUNTYWIDE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEE TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE COUNTYWIDE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

On October 21, 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to adopt a revised Countywide Solid Waste Management Fee (SWMF) Ordinance. The new Ordinance increases the SWMF from \$0.86 to \$1.50 per ton of waste disposed (or exported for disposal) at solid waste landfills and transformation facilities, effective January 1, 2009.

The increased fee will provide much needed funding for expansion/enhancement of Countywide recycling and waste reduction programs, including expansion of the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste Collection program, and the establishment of additional permanent environmental collection centers.

The Ordinance includes the following key provisions:

- * Maintains a rate of 52 cents per cubic yard for waste disposed at inert waste landfills. This provides an incentive to preserve Class III (municipal solid waste) landfill

capacity needed for municipal solid waste disposal.

- * Provides an exemption for conversion technologies. This provides an incentive for developing these advanced technologies capable of converting municipal solid waste to clean fuels and energy, in order to diversify our solid waste management options.
- * Clarifies exemptions for composting projects, clean fill projects, solid waste materials transported out-of-county for recycling, and the use of soil or other approved materials for cover at landfills.

In addition, the County will review these exemptions on a regular basis to determine whether they are applicable or need modification. For more information on the countywide award-winning waste reduction, recycling, and public education programs,

please contact Hosam Banna of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-5167, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



JOIN THE TEAM: If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste*, please contact [Vanessa Lopez](mailto:vanessa.lopez@dpw.lacounty.gov) at 626-458-6563, or vlopez@dpw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you want to be involved or to contribute, please join the Subcommittee!

A GREEN PARTNERSHIP

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) partnered with the County Public Library to conduct a Countywide Pilot Household Battery Collection Program (Countywide Pilot Program).

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), each year Americans purchase nearly 3 billion dry-cell batteries to power items such as radios, toys, cellular phones, watches, computers, flash lights, and power tools. Due to recent changes in the California Universal Waste Rule, household batteries are not to be disposed of in trash cans because they contain toxic metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel. Improperly disposed batteries may have a negative effect on the environment, potentially causing serious health risks to humans and animals.

Through the Countywide Pilot Program, residents can properly dispose of their household batteries at some County Library Branches as well as at the County Library headquarters. Residents can bring common household batteries such as AA, AAA, C cells, D cells, 9-Volt, rechargeable, and button cell batteries (e.g. watch, camera, hearing aid) to these locations.

The Countywide Pilot Program has quickly become very popular with residents. During the first three months of the Countywide Pilot Program, a total of 2,300 pounds of batteries was collected. Given this initial success, Public Works is exploring options to expand the Countywide Pilot Program in the future.

Public Works encourages residents countywide to help keep their communities clean and safe by bringing their unwanted household batteries to designated library branches or to a mobile Household Hazardous/Electronic Waste Collection Event.

For more information about the Countywide Pilot Program and other available outlets for household battery disposal, visit www.888CLEANLA.com or contact Armine Kesablian of Public Works at (626) 458-3548, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



*Each year
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CITY OF CALABASAS

WINNERS OF 2008 RECYCLING DRAWING CONTEST

The Calabasas Environmental Commission hosted an award ceremony for their 2008 Recycling Drawing Contest. It was a rare sight to see City Hall bustling with the 13 bright-eyed, young, student winners and their family and friends. All were eager and excited to see each drawing elegantly framed. The young students were enthusiastic to share their own paper recycling habits. Several conveyed the importance of paper recycling as a way to reduce the amount of waste and conserve resources. They all agreed that recycling is indeed one simple action people can take to help preserve the environment.

The Calabasas Environmental Commission received 320 entries from grades K-8 for the 2008 Recycling Drawing

Contest. All entries were carefully reviewed by the commissioners during the November 4th public meeting at the Calabasas City Hall. Thirteen winners were selected based on the creativity and theme of their illustrations. The winning drawings are printed in the 2009 City's Community Recycling Awareness calendar, with the first place winner's drawing on its cover. The calendar is distributed to every household, business, and school.

Each winner received a \$25 gift certificate during the December 2nd Environmental Commission meeting. Catherine Gronkiewicz is the grand prize winner of the 2008 recycling drawing contest. Below is a list of all 13 winners:

First Name	Last Name	Grade	School
KAILAN SU	MACKEY	1st	Bay Laurel Elementary School
ANTHONY	DERSAHAKIAN	2nd	Castlebay Lane Elementary School
NICOLE	DERSAHAKIAN	2nd	Castlebay Lane Elementary School
KHAI	BERRY	3rd	Lupin Hill Elementary School
JAY	LIM	3rd	Castlebay Lane Elementary School
DORIAN	SAISSE	3rd	Bay Laurel Elementary School
NATALIE	AIVAZIAN	4th	Castlebay Lane Elementary School
CATHERINE	GRONKIEWICZ	4th	Castlebay Lane Elementary School
JILLIAN	GAMBOA	5th	Woodlake Elementary School
LENA	PATTYSON	5th	Woodlake Elementary School
LARISSA	HOY	6th	Lindero Canyon Middle School
MEGAN	NISON	6th	A.C. Stelle Middle School
LANEY	SCHWARTZ	6th	Lindero Canyon Middle School



For more information, please contact Alex Farassati at (818) 224-1600.

Household Hazardous waste can be taken to any of these locations. Electronic waste is also accepted. Call 1-800-98-TOXIC or 1 (888) CLEAN-LA for more information.

Gaffey Street Collection Center

1400 N. Gaffey St.
San Pedro, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hyperion Treatment Plant

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293
Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Washington Boulevard Collection Center

2649 E. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center

11025 Randall St.
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

UCLA location

550 Charles E. Young Dr. West
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center

4660 Colorado Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90039
Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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.

What's Up?

HHW ROUNDUPS are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at **1 (888) CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about City of Los Angeles events, call **1 (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

- January 10 **Bell Gardens** - John Anson Ford Park
Swimming Pool Parking Lot
7800 block of Scout Avenue
- January 17 **El Monte** - El Monte Airport
4233 North Santa Anita Avenue
- January 24 **Hermosa Beach** - Clark Stadium
Valley Drive between 8th & 11th Streets
- January 31 **Santa Fe Springs** - Rio Hondo College Fire
Training Academy
11400 Greenstone Avenue
- February 7 **Claremont** - Claremont Corporate Yard
1616 Monte Vista Avenue
- February 14 **Hawthorne** - Betty Ainsworth Sports Center
El Segundo Boulevard and Doty Avenue
- February 21 **Diamond Bar** - City Streets
Gateway Corporate Center
1300 block of Bridge Gate Drive
- February 28 **Marina Del Rey** - Dock 52 Parking Lot
Fiji Way
- March 7 **Monrovia** - Myrtle Avenue Park and Ride Lot
Corner of North Myrtle Avenue and Pomona
Avenue
- March 14 **Commerce** - Los Angeles County Health
Department, 5555 Ferguson Drive
- March 21 **Manhattan Beach** - Northrop Grumman
Space Technology
Aviation Boulevard and Marine Avenue

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

February 26
March 19
April 16

All meetings are scheduled at 1 p.m. in Conference Room C.

For information, call Benjamin Cortez at 626-458-2536, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

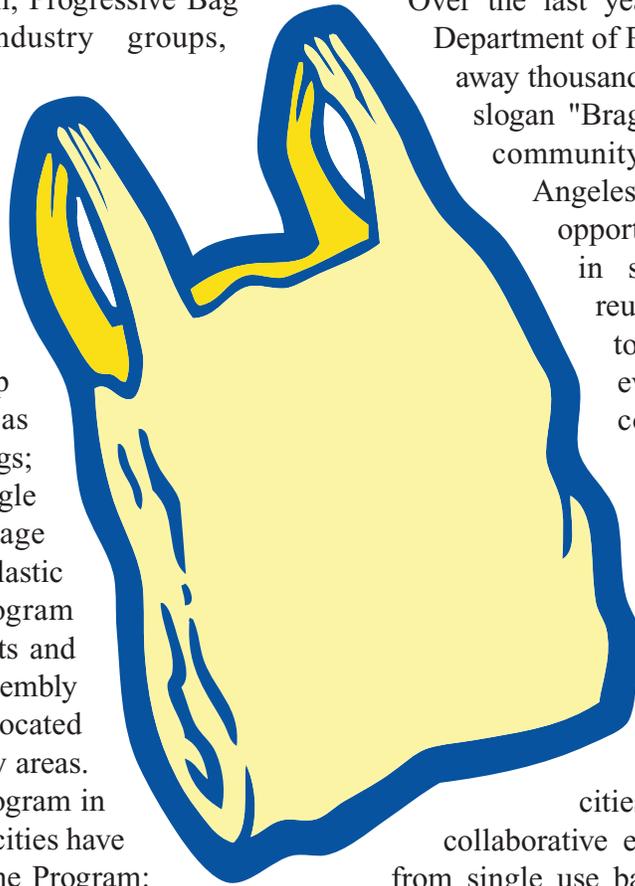
Looking for up-to-date information about the Task Force?

Visit www.lacountyiswmtf.org where you can find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.

The County's Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program

To reduce the impact of litter from single use carryout bags, such as plastic and paper bags used at stores, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program (Program) on January 22, 2008. The focus of the Program is to encourage using reusable bags, reduce the litter impacts from single use bags, and increase the recycling of plastic bags. The Program is a partnership among a well-rounded representation of stakeholders including the California Grocers Association, American Chemistry Council, Progressive Bag Alliance, plastic bag industry groups, environmental organizations, local government, and members of the public.

This voluntary Program offers a variety of options for stores to promote reusable bags; develop customer incentives such as reward points for reusable bags; reduce consumption of single use bags; and encourage customers to recycle their plastic bags at stores. The Program affects the large supermarkets and retail stores, defined in Assembly Bill 2449 (2006), which are located in the unincorporated County areas. Since the adoption of the Program in January 2008, the following cities have signed on to participate in the Program: Azusa, Bell, Glendale, Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Pico Rivera, Pomona, Redondo Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and Signal Hill. Goals were set to reduce plastic bag disposal rates by 30 percent by July 1, 2010, and 65 percent by July 1, 2013. Falling short of these goals will trigger actions towards a ban on single use plastic carryout bags at affected stores in the unincorporated County areas, and participating cities who passed similar resolutions as part of the Program.



Each year approximately six billion single use plastic carryout bags are consumed in the County of Los Angeles, equivalent to about 1,600 bags per household per year. Plastic bag litter constitutes as much as 25 percent of the litter stream. Through the use of reusable bags, shoppers could reduce their reliance on single use plastic and paper bags, thereby reducing litter and other environmental impacts from single use bags.

Over the last year, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) gave away thousands of reusable bags displaying the slogan "Brag About Your Bag" at numerous community events including the Los Angeles County Fair. These give away opportunities were highly instrumental in spreading the message about reusable bags. Public Works plans to participate in more give away events to support local communities and participating cities in promoting reusable bags.

All cities within the County of Los Angeles are encouraged to join the Program to enhance the regional impact of this environmentally beneficial effort. Benefits to cities include creating a broad-based collaborative effort to effectively reduce litter from single use bags; receiving current news and legislative updates related to single use carryout bags; interacting and developing constructive relationships among stakeholders; sharing Program resources; and showcasing the cities' commitment to environmental stewardship.

For more information about the Program, visit www.bragaboutyourbag.com or contact Emiko Thompson of Public Works at (626) 458-3521, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Recycled Materials Going Through Shakeup State Agency Working to Keep California's Environment Protected

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is pledging to work with California cities and counties, as well as the many recyclers, brokers, and processors who are trying to cope with the rapid decline in commodity prices for recycled paper, metals, and plastic goods.

CIWMB staff are monitoring market trends and prices and examining regulatory and non-regulatory options to keep these materials from being disposed.

"We're aware of the potential dilemma facing our State's recycling infrastructure," said Board Chair Margo Reid Brown. "We cannot undo the incredible progress our local cities and counties have done to reduce our waste in landfills. By working together, I'm confident we can develop short-term measures that will get us through these challenging times, while ensuring we remain true to our overall environmental goals."

Keeping waste paper and cardboard out of California landfills is one of the strategies used to combat global warming. Paper products and other organic materials decompose in landfills and generate methane, which scientists say is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

California's environment may face a potential set-back as the depressed global economy and an excess in global

inventory reduced prices paid for recycled newspapers, old corrugated cardboard, and plastics around the world. Prices paid to recyclers have, in some instances, fallen more than 50 percent in one month.

Local jurisdictions are scrambling to find additional storage space to accommodate the steady flow of old newspapers and cardboard set aside for recycling by California residents, businesses, and industry.

"We must consider the health and safety of California as we look for short-term relief in the current situation and for long-term solutions such as locating new manufacturing and energy-producing facilities in California," Brown added.

The current drop-off in recycled paper exports could help encourage the development of additional local and regional markets for converting these recycled materials into new products or as a source of energy and fuel.

China is the primary export market for U.S. recycled paper products but has seen a global slowdown in demand for Chinese-made products using recycled materials imported from the United States.

For additional information, contact Jon Myers at jmyers@ciwmb.ca.gov or at (916) 341-6300.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY JOIN THE CALIFORNIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (CPSC)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), also referred to as Manufacturer Responsibility or Product Stewardship, is a concept that seeks to create shared responsibility mechanisms for producers to mitigate or even eliminate the negative impacts of their products at the end of life. These mechanisms may include phasing out the use of hazardous materials, taking back products at the end of life, or redesigning products to reduce excess packaging, among other approaches. By creating a market incentive to reduce the environmental impacts of materials and products through redesign, EPR has the potential to significantly reduce the end of life management costs of products as well as other burdens placed on local governments.

As a result of the Task Force's efforts to promote the concept of EPR while encouraging jurisdictions to join the

California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), many jurisdictions in Los Angeles County have joined the CPSC, including the County of Los Angeles, who voted to join the CPSC on November 5, 2008. As part of its action, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also adopted a comprehensive resolution reaffirming their support of EPR while directing the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to sponsor and support EPR legislation and statewide policies.

For more information on extended producer responsibility or how to join CPSC, please visit <http://www.calpsc.org> or contact Mr. Coby Skye of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works at (626) 458-5163, M-Th 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. or Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

The City of Huntington Park and Starbucks Go Green

The City of Huntington Park partners with Starbucks to help the environment and give back to the community.

In early August 2008, a pilot recycling program was launched at Starbucks located at 3060 E. Slauson Avenue in the City of Huntington Park. As part of the program, plastic milk containers and plastic syrup bottles are recycled and coffee grounds are given to customers who request it to be used as fertilizer rather than sent to landfills. It is estimated that one store generates between 18,000 to 22,000 lbs. or about ten tons of grounds that are sent to the landfill yearly.

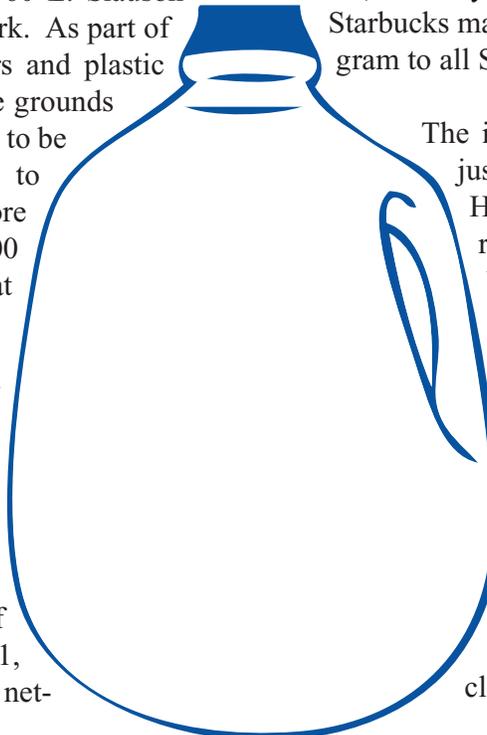
A second Starbucks in the City of Huntington Park took part in the recycling efforts shortly thereafter. Since the inception of the program, over 550 lbs. of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE#2, plastic milk containers) and about 150 lbs. of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET#1, clear plastic bottles) were recycled net-

ting over \$300 for recycling programs in the City of Huntington Park.

In an effort to expand the program throughout the district, the City of Huntington Park, at the request of Starbucks management, presented the recycling program to all Starbucks managers in September 2008.

The initial success of this pilot program at just two Starbucks locations in the City of Huntington Park inspired interest in the recycling program at other stores. Starbucks locations within and outside the City of Huntington Park will soon also have an opportunity to recycle and reduce waste. According to Miguel De Souza, Starbucks District Manager, giving back to the community through recycling embodies Starbucks' corporate philosophy.

For more information, contact Mario Rivas, City of Huntington Park Recycling Coordinator, at (323) 584-6322.



SANTA MONICA ROLLS-OUT NEW COMMERCIAL SERVICE

After an extensive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the City of Santa Monica Solid Waste Management Division (SWM) was awarded exclusive commercial collection services by the City Council on November 27, 2007. Some of the RFP criteria included: use of automated collection for refuse and recycling services where practicable; maximize recovery of recyclable materials; and use of compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquid natural gas (LNG) vehicles.

Among the five companies that submitted proposals, SWM received a unanimous recommendation from the evaluation committee for: cost, quality service, superior business plan, knowledge of the City, and financial capacity; current level of commercial provision; use of CNG; and knowledge and implementation of AB 939 diversion goals.

Since January 2007, SWM embarked on a massive "roll-out" implementation schedule to provide commercial collection services to approximately 1,400 new customers. SWM is deeply indebted to the private haulers for their cooperation and help in removal and placement of bins. As a result, the drive to remove and place more than 1,500 bins culminated October 30, 2008, two months ahead of schedule.

SWM provides customer surveys at each step of the process and received an overall 80 percent approval from the new commercial customers. Outreach staff will continue to visit each private customer to promote recycling, sustainability, and zero waste to achieve the City's goal of 70 percent diversion by 2010.

For further information, contact Laura Cronin at (310) 458-8596 or laura.cronin@smgov.net.

WASTE-TO-ETHANOL PROJECT GETS GREEN LIGHT FROM THE COUNTY

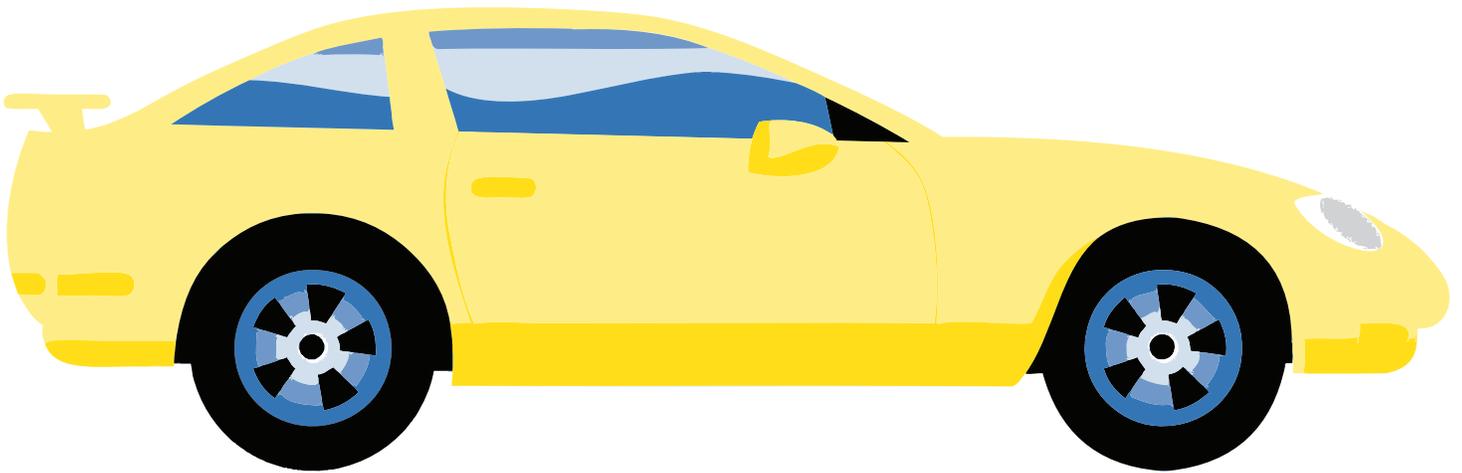
On October 28, 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to uphold the County Regional Planning Commission's issuance of a conditional use permit for the proposed BlueFire Ethanol project located in the unincorporated County area near Lancaster. The 170 ton per day project, which the Task Force unanimously voted to support, would utilize source separated materials, such as wood and green waste, and convert it into ethanol (up to three million gallons per year).

The BlueFire Ethanol project attempts to capitalize on California's growing demand for ethanol (which uses approximately one billion gallons of ethanol per year and primarily

blended into gasoline to reduce smog), while reducing the need to import corn-based ethanol from other states and diverting waste from landfills.

The \$30 million project, which is anticipated to be operational in early 2010, is a significant step forward in meeting California's growing need for safe, clean, and renewable energy projects in order to stimulate the economy and meet the new environmental challenges of the 21st century.

For more information, please contact Mr. Siya Araumi of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-4991, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



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Solid Waste Management Committee/
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