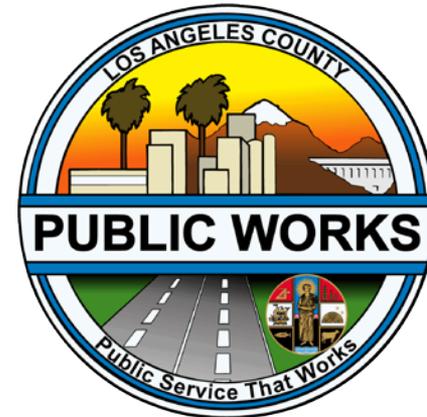


# Conversion Technologies Overview

---

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works,  
Environmental Programs Division



# Agenda

---

- Los Angeles County's Solid Waste Management Efforts
- Conversion Technology Overview
- Key Issues Regarding Conversion Technology Development in California
- Next Steps

# Solid Waste Quantities in LA County



=



+



## Amount of trash generated

- **20** million tons per year (equivalent to filling the Rose Bowl 64 times)
- **4,000** lbs per person per year

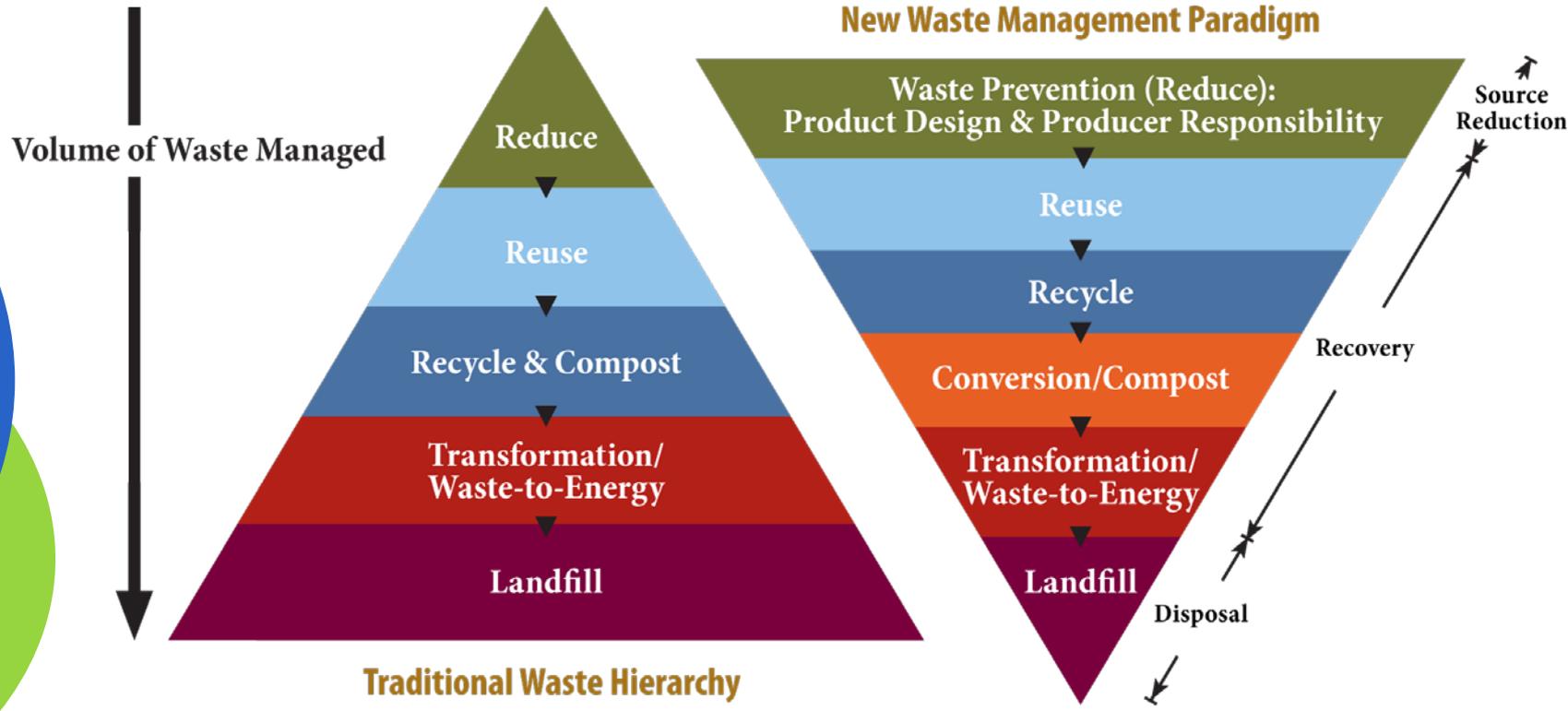
## Amount of trash diverted

- **11** million tons per year
- **2,200** lbs per person per year

## Amount of trash disposed

- **9** million tons per year
- **1,800** lbs per person per year

# Waste Management Paradigm



# What are Conversion Technologies?

- Conversion technologies are capable of converting unrecyclable solid waste into useful products, such as green fuels and renewable energy, in an environmentally beneficial way.
- They may be thermal, biological, chemical, mechanical, or a combination of processes, but do not include incineration (waste combustion).
- Conversion technologies reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants from disposal and transportation avoidance as well as fuel/electricity offsets, and are integral to achieving zero-waste.





# Long Term Benefits of Conversion Technologies

---

## Landfill diversion

- Conversion technologies can divert 80% to 100% of residual waste (after recycling) and create products and energy.

## Environmental benefits

- Reduced truck traffic through communities and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy reduces air emissions, including GHG emissions.

## Job creation

- A conversion technology facility would create construction jobs as well as long-term operation and engineering jobs.

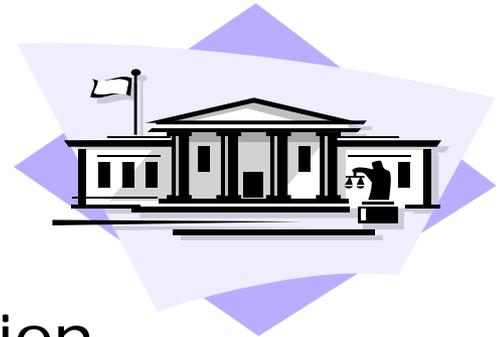
## Local control over waste

- Exporting waste is more expensive and unsustainable.
- CTs produce biofuel and renewable energy locally.

# L.A. County's Role in Conversion Technology Development

---

- National leader in evaluating and promoting the development of conversion technologies
- Incorporate conversion technologies into solid waste management approach
- Conduct in-depth evaluation of technology processes
- Support state and federal legislation
- Through landfill permit conditions provide funding and support for facility development



# Challenges We Still Face

---

- The state is establishing a permitting pathway for anaerobic digestion, but thermal technologies are still controversial.
- The public perceives thermal technologies to be incineration which limits passing of necessary legislation.
- L.A. County continues to have relatively low landfill tipping fees. Disposal has decreased due to the recession, providing more landfill capacity than previous projections.

# Goals for CTs

---

- Our key goals:
  - Clear definitions that correct scientifically inaccurate definitions currently in statute
  - Establishing a reasonable permitting pathway that regulates CTs, holding them accountable to all of CA's strict environmental standards, requiring up front recycling, and providing no exemptions from CEQA or other laws
  - Providing parity with landfills regarding financial incentives so CTs can compete on a level playing field

# Effective Outreach is Critical

To educate the public, stakeholders, and policymakers on the safety and benefits of Conversion Technologies



- Educational workshops for local stakeholders
- Round-table discussions with Environmental Justice community
- Third party evaluation of selected projects – Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
- Website dedicated to projects
- Regular presentations to local municipalities, NGOs, and business owners
- Community events

# Next Steps

---

- Continued discussions with interested stakeholders
- Public outreach and engagement, building support for new approach
- Support/Sponsor CT legislation
- Facilitating the development of pilot and commercial scale conversion technology facilities in L.A. County
- Establish necessary partnerships to get facilities built

# Questions

---



For more information  
on the County's conversion  
technology projects, please visit:

**[www.SoCalConversion.org](http://www.SoCalConversion.org)**