

# SOLID INSIDE WASTE

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



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Long before our local governments began encouraging residents to start composting, Carolyn Meredith was practicing those gardening techniques in her own yard. Now, as the City of Pasadena's Recycling Coordinator, Carolyn helps Pasadena with many creative ways to get environmental messages out to the public.

Not only has Carolyn strived to make recycling easy for residents, the City's recycling staff reaches out to members of the community at every possible opportunity. A recent example of this is with the electronic waste (e-waste) events the City conducted.

In January of this year, Pasadena conducted its first-ever E-waste event. There were 378 participants that brought in 27 tons of waste. Due to the success of that event, the City hosted a second one on June 22. Preliminary numbers have indicated that there were about 630 participants and the City collected over 42 tons, a significant increase over the January event. Carolyn has enjoyed receiving positive feedback from residents and hopes to build upon the

success these events have generated.

To utilize her creative side, Carolyn has helped develop projects that concentrate on the public outreach and educational aspects of environmental learning. The "Open House for Educators" was established to bring together schoolteachers, administrators, school board members, and the superintendent to provide information for kids on ways they can help protect the environment. Speakers from different environmental backgrounds are invited to share their knowledge and a resource guide is distributed to give teachers information on environmental education.

"Behavior modification and education are necessary tools to get people motivated to change their habits," says Carolyn, "and kids have a good way of making adults feel guilty about their actions."

Aside from providing this instructive event, Carolyn has been dedicating plenty of her time to other community events. Recently the City has increased its focus on used motor oil and used filter collection by providing a booth dedicated to information on used motor oil recycling and promoting the use of re-refined oil. Through research, the City of Pasadena has identified a large population of do-it-yourselfers that change their own oil. In cooperation with the local certified used oil centers such as Pep Boys, Kragen, and Autozone, the City's used oil booth is set up on a regular basis to provide even more outreach to residents.

Carolyn demonstrates the importance of the role of a recycling coordinator and how a city can benefit from the coordinator's knowledge and creativity. With degrees in landscape architecture and urban planning, Carolyn has the ability to pursue a wide variety of career options. Luckily her talents have brought her to the City of Pasadena where she has helped contribute to the many successful recycling programs offered to the more than 133,000 residents of Pasadena. Congratulations, Carolyn on a job well done! For more information on Pasadena's recycling efforts and programs, please call (626) 744-4721.

**JOIN THE TEAM:** Anyone interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee is encouraged to contact Clarence Gieck at (562) 402-2674, [DOR.CLAR@verizon.net](mailto:DOR.CLAR@verizon.net) or Melinda Barrett at (626) 458-5975 or [mbarrett@ladpw.org](mailto:mbarrett@ladpw.org) for more information. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you feel you have something to contribute why not become a member of the Subcommittee?

If you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste* please contact **Emily Puga-Aragon** at (626) 458-3579, or [earagon@ladpw.org](mailto:earagon@ladpw.org).

# The City of Diamond Bar Puts HHW In Its Place

In 1998, the City of Diamond Bar created a plan that would address waste diversion issues including the disposal of household hazardous waste and universal waste. One year later, the City enacted an Ordinance that implemented a plan to provide a door-to-door collection of HHW to residents. In addition, the City specified a number of other inter-related elements designed to capture much more of the special waste stream. These integrated program elements include:

- Door-to-door collection of HHW (up to 125 pounds) with residents paying a co-payment of \$10 for the service;
- Establishment of a battery drop off program with depot containers conveniently located at City Hall and the Community Services Center;
- Cooperative efforts with Radio Shack, Auto Zone, and other local businesses to provide take back services for select E-waste and U-waste;



- Sharps collection using convenient mailers supplied free of charge to residents;
- Curbside collection of used motor oil and oil filters, and;
- Aggressive public outreach efforts including the production of brochures, attendance at events, and school presentations.

With the exception of the used oil collection services, the HHW and E-waste programs were inaugurated November 2001. The City is constantly evaluating the services and assembling data on participation and quantities of materials diverted from landfills. These are important and much needed services for residents and we look forward to hearing about future successes from Diamond Bar.

For more information contact Sharon Gomez or Michael Huls, Environmental Services Coordinator, at (909) 396-5671.

## Community Pride in Artesia

On March 23, 2002, the City of Artesia got a facelift from hundreds of its residents. People lent a helping hand during the Community Pride Day and Annual Neighborhood Clean-Up. Large bins were placed at several locations throughout the City where people disposed of unwanted items and recyclables.

The A.J. Padelford Teen Group was also busy with community clean-up efforts by cleaning area gutters, streets, assisting in the removal of graffiti, and monitoring the trash and recycle bins that were placed throughout the City.



The County of Los Angeles' Hazardous Waste Roundup Event was conducted the same day which further enabled residents to help clean up the environment by getting rid of their household hazardous waste.

Efforts such as these are good examples of how cities are helping make our communities cleaner places to live. For more information on the City of Artesia's programs, please call (562) 407-1723.

# Q & A

**Question:** Someone told me that my microwave contains hazardous materials. Is it considered hazardous waste? (rephrased from one of the County's hotline callers)

**Answer:** If your microwave was manufactured after 1984 it probably does not contain a hazardous PCB capacitor.

Capacitors are components used in electrical equipment that can contain polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs. The two common types are running capacitors and starting capacitors. Starting capacitors are used to help start small motors and are usually free of PCBs. Running capacitors are used to improve the efficiency of electrical motors. PCBs are often found in running capacitors manufactured before 1976. Some of these PCB components have found their way into appliances manufactured as late as 1984. Starting capacitors are usually housed in a plastic or aluminum shell. Running capacitors are often larger and have a steel jacket. A magnet can be employed to distinguish the two types of coverings.

Microwave ovens are accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Electronics accepted at the collection events are diverted from the waste stream, disassembled and as much of the components are recycled as possible. Hazardous components found in household appliances can often be reused or recycled. Hazardous components that cannot be reused or recycled are destined for a hazardous waste landfill.

*Thanks to the University of Wisconsin*

## TASK FORCE MEETINGS

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

**July 18**  
**August 15**  
**September 19**

All meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in conference room A.

For information call Amy Sloboda at (626) 458-3547. M - Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 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 Los Angeles County 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)**.

- July 27 **Hawthorne** - Betty Ainsworth Sports Center, El Segundo Boulevard and Doty Avenue
- August 3 **Norwalk and Cerritos** - Cerritos College 11110 Alondra Boulevard
- August 10 **Unincorporated Whittier** - Rio Hondo College 3600 Workman Mill Road
- August 17 **Arcadia** - Santa Anita Race Track Gate 6, Colorado Place
- August 24 **Glendora** - Citrus Community College Stadium Parking Lot, Barranca Avenue just north of Alostia Avenue
- September 7 **Carson** - Joint Water Pollution Control Plant, West Maintenance Building 24501 South Figueroa Street
- September 14 **Burbank** - Burbank Fire Department Training Center, 1845 Ontario Street
- September 21 **Covina** - Walmart-Overflow Parking Lot 1275 Azusa Avenue (just south of Arrow Highway)
- September 28 **Commerce** - Los Angeles County Health Department, 5555 Ferguson Drive
- October 5 **Beverly Hills and West Hollywood** - Beverly Hills City Streets, Foothill Road between Alden Drive and West 3rd. Street
- October 12 **Palmdale** - Community Center/Children's Library Parking Lot, Sierra Highway and Avenue Q-6 (North of Palmdale Boulevard)
- October 19 **Inglewood** - Hollywood Park Gate 7A, West 90th Street (Just East of Prairie Avenue)

# Cities Take Used Oil Message to the Race Track

According to a 2002 study about do-it-yourselfers (DIYers) completed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), 25 percent of DIYers are sports spectators. Auto racing is one of the most popular spectator sports on television. In an attempt to better target the general public and DIYers, the Cities of La Verne, Arcadia, Azusa, Claremont, Covina, and Glendora decided to take the used oil recycling message to the race tracks. In partnership with KCJ Racing, the Cities co-sponsored advertising space on a Ford F-150 race track.

The truck races in the southwest region of the American Race Truck Series. The advertisement on the race truck consists of a silkscreen imprint reading: "Recycle Used Motor Oil, Call 1-800-CLEAN-UP", the names of the sponsoring Cities, and the used oil logo on the hood. The driver and race truck attend two events per sponsoring agency.



The combination of the truck's power and its colorful used oil message have proven to be a crowd pleaser on and off the tracks. The races are nationally televised on Fox SportsNet.

The Cities utilized Used Oil Block Grant funds provided by the CIWMB to purchase the advertising space. Their partnership with KCJ Racing is unique in that race truck sponsorship has primarily been an advertising strategy used by private companies. Race truck sponsorship is a creative means of advertising to reach the target audience. The cities' partnership with KCJ Racing is an excellent example of public agencies and private companies working together toward a common goal. Creating public and private partnerships is important to keeping the environment clean for future generations.

For additional information about the Used Oil Race Truck, contact Jeannette Vagnozzi, Administrative Superintendent at (909) 596-8741.

# Trash Cutter Awards

During the last four years, the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has recognized outstanding city and county government trash-cutting efforts by giving out their prestigious "Trash Cutter Awards." This year, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) achieved something no other agency has accomplished by becoming the only agency to win four awards and three honorable mentions!

The awards acknowledge the best efforts of local governmental agencies in the waste reduction and recycling arena. Trash Cutter Awards are offered in several "Best Program" categories with the awards for Innovation, Public Information, Schools, and Urban Waste Reduction going to DPW.

The DPW programs that received honors were:

- The Waste Tire recycling program
- Countywide Smart Gardening
- Los Angeles County's SmartBusiness Recycling Program
- Generation Earth's "Battle of the Schools" competition

To find out more about these programs and many other environmental programs sponsored by the County of Los Angeles visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or call 1(888)CLEAN LA.



Mike Mohajer, Assistant Deputy Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (third from left) receives award from California Intergrated Waste Management Board members Picured left to right; David A. Roberti, Michael Paparian, Chair, Linda Moulton-Patterson, and Dan Eaton.

# Los Angeles Area Regional Agency

The cities in Los Angeles County now have the opportunity to spend time on waste reduction and recycling programs rather than chasing complicated waste diversion numbers. Diversion programs and reporting respond to economies of scale. The State encourages the formation of Regional Agencies (RA) for purposes of complying with mandated solid waste diversion goals. An RA is allowed to pool money to implement regional diversion and recycling programs, creating larger and more cost-effective programs. They are also allowed to average waste diversion and disposal numbers and submit only one Annual Report, smoothing out fluctuations in disposal reporting. There are 22 RA's in Northern California but none here in Southern California.

As proposed, the Los Angeles Area Regional Agency (LARA) would be limited to regional diversion programs and reporting with individual jurisdictions maintaining their own contracts and franchises and also implementing their CIWMB-approved SRRE programs.

**Will haulers who have franchise agreements with cities be required to submit additional information to the Regional Agency?**

No. The LARA will use compiled Disposal Reporting System tonnages from permitted disposal sites. Franchised haulers will report to their jurisdictions only. Further, LARA will not be involved in controlling or negotiating existing or new franchise agreements for member cities. In the future, should a regional diversion study be conducted, data will be required similar to an individual member's base year study.

**Will cities still be required to comply with AB 939 diversion mandates both through program implementation and diversion rate?**

Each city will have to continue to implement programs, but the disposal and diversion will be calculated for the LARA as a single combined aggregate number. This removes the emphasis from the numbers and places it where it belongs, on the diversion programs.

**Will jurisdictions be required to pay at least \$0.25 per ton based on the year 2000 DRS numbers?**

Actually, that is the most jurisdictions will have to pay for basic services. If more than 15 cities join as charter members, the individual jurisdiction fee will

be much lower. For example, if the 38 communities represented at the first meeting all joined as charter cities, the fee would only be about \$0.12 per ton.

**How will the agency be organized? Who will be in control?**

The most common way is that each member has a representative on a governing board and decisions are made by a majority vote of the members attending the board or committee meetings.

**Will cities be required to implement additional programs as a result of joining the agency?**

The Regional Agency was not proposed to create more mandates for cities. Any programs that are implemented by the Regional Agency will be agreed to by the members and designed to assist them in AB 939 program compliance.

**How are the Waste Board and staff involved with the Regional Agency formation?**

CIWMB Local Assistance staff and legal counsel will review the formation agreement to make sure that it has the required legal elements. The CIWMB must approve the formation agreement after all charter cities have approved and signed the Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Agency.

**Why is the City of Los Angeles doing this? How will the City of Los Angeles benefit?**

Although Los Angeles is a big city, we are still a single jurisdiction. By joining together we believe that the Agency will wield more power and influence and provide more opportunities for funding of LARA programs.

For more information, please contact Nady Maechling of the Citywide Recycling Division at (213) 473-8235 or [Nmaechli@san.lacity.org](mailto:Nmaechli@san.lacity.org).

## GOOD NEWS ABOUT E-WASTE

**The City of Los Angeles will begin collecting electronic waste at all of its Hazmobile events beginning on July 6, 2002. They will accept items from all residents in Los Angeles County. The County of Los Angeles will also enact a similar program in the near future.**

# Every Drop Counts

If good to the last drop is an accurate statement about used oil, how do we get that last drop? By recycling the “empty” oil containers generated by the County of Los Angeles’ nearly eight million registered vehicles in one year, the last drop adds up. Empty one-quart oil bottles typically contain an ounce of oil per container. Larger containers can have two ounces or more of residual oil. In this County alone it is estimated that 125 million used quart oil bottles are generated annually. Recycling these containers could reclaim almost one million gallons of oil per year and approximately 15 million pounds of HDPE plastic.

The recovery of residual oil from plastic containers is made possible by a process technology provided by ITEC - Environmental Recycling Services of America. Granulated plastic from oil containers is processed in a closed system using CO<sub>2</sub> as the solvent to remove the residual oil from the plastic. The second phase of the process distills the solvent to be reused in cleaning subsequent batches. This closed process will render the plastic clean and usable in manufacturing many products that were not previously possible due to contamination from the oil. Importantly, the processing does not create secondary waste streams such as hazardous solvents or contaminated water.



Collection of the oil containers for recycling is best accomplished by using a granulator to source reduce the empty containers. Granulating of one-quart oil bottles allows 1500 containers to fit into a standard 55-gallon drum. A drum of granulated plastic will typically yield 160 pounds of HDPE plastic and 12 gallons of oil. This source reduction serves to reduce shipping and handling costs as well as provide for safe transport to the processing facility. A variety of granulators are available that have been specifically designed for the purpose of accommodating the wide assortment of container sizes and shapes that oil is sold or transported in.

Collection programs are currently being started in several California communities with more and more cities and counties in the planning stages to begin collection and recycling programs for oil containers.

Support for these programs is available through several types of grant funding from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. For more information on funding through the CIWMB, contact the grant manager for your area. For more information on oil bottle recycling for your community, please contact ETEC-ERSA at (209) 848-3900 or Hatchken@aol.com.