

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

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



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In an area surrounded by more than three million people, heavy traffic congestion, air pollution, and constant commotion, the City of West Hollywood has been able to comfortably find its place in all the madness.

The residents of the City also seem to agree. With an environmentally friendly attitude the City, residents, business owners, and patrons of the area have all been able to work together to keep a clean environment a priority. West Hollywood is also fortunate to have Jan Harmon, Environmental Programs Specialist, on their team.

Although Jan has only been with the City of West Hollywood for one year, her experience in environmental issues stems back to an international level. For eight years, Jan worked at the El Paso-Juarez, Mexico border in a variety of capacities. She was the bi-national environmental program officer at the Paso del Norte Health Foundation; the sustainable development and environmental review manager for the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, which was formed as the environmental side to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and also worked at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Conquering complex international issues is one thing, but how about having to manage West Hollywood's environmental programs? Sounds easy, right? Well, what many of us don't know is that West Hollywood is the most densely populated city west of the Mississippi River. With 38,000 residents in 1.9 square miles, you can imagine how difficult it would be to manage the waste stream in the area. To make matters more difficult, the City is made up of approximately 80 percent renters.

Jan looks at these obstacles in a positive light. She knows that the City is comprised of hard-working, dedicated individuals whose goals are to keep West Hollywood clean and has been able use that same ethic in her outreach efforts. Every major bar and restaurant recycles glass, the health clubs in the area have recycling bins, and most of the grocery and hardware stores have battery drop off containers. For more than ten years, there has been citywide residential recycling, which also includes all multi-unit properties. This is a prime example of the importance of being able to communicate to not only residents of the City, but to the business owners as well.

The City has contracted with a recycling consultant, Joan Satt, to work with the many condos, multifamily units, and businesses to increase recycling. Redevelopment has been booming in West Hollywood and Jan has been instrumental in creating requirements for recycling at construction and demolition sites as well as establishing standards for permit issuance and disposal reporting by haulers servicing C & D sites. A pilot program to place public recycling receptacles along Santa Monica Boulevard is also in the works.

Another unique feature of West Hollywood is the large percentage of Russian-speaking residents. The City has had to develop outreach materials in Russian and Jan is currently involved in negotiations for a new integrated waste management franchise contract that will begin next summer which will dedicate funds specifically for the large Russian community.

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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 **Emily Montanez** at (626) 458-3579, or emontanez@ladpw.org. 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?

CITY WIDE LITTER CLEAN UP PLANNED

City of Santa Clarita Places 60 Sets of Trash and Recycling Bins In Public Rights of Way

In an effort to keep Santa Clarita looking beautiful and clean, the City began rolling out a new litter reduction/public area recycling program by placing trash and recycling bins at 60 bus stop locations throughout the City. Starting on July 14, 2003, residents using the transit system of Santa Clarita were able to have their recyclables collected at their bus stops in this new and unique program.

The unique containers used for the program are automated containers specially designed for outdoor public use and allow for trash and recycling collections on the side of busy roads with the use of automated trash collection vehicles, increasing safety for trash collectors. According to Toter, the exclusive manufacturer, these containers are used by cities all over the nation. The City of Santa Clarita is the first to use the containers for the collection of both trash and recycling.



The collection of trash and recyclables will be provided through a contract with Atlas Disposal Company. The purchase of the containers and the services rendered by Atlas will be paid through beverage container recycling funds provided by the California Department of Conservation. The City recently put its residential franchise agreement out to bid. When the City's new agreement is in effect the chosen trash company will be required to permanently collect the trash and recyclables free of charge.

"The installation of these 60 trash and recycling bins will go a long way towards keeping our City looking clean," commented Mayor Cameron Smyth. The City is excited about its new program and is eager to see the results of the program in enhancing its diversion and reducing the amount of litter around the City.

City of West Hollywood

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This new franchise contract will also include free recycling for commercial accounts, the use of re-refined motor oil in the City's trash and recycling trucks, a food waste diversion program, and the replacement of the current 16-gallon recycling buckets for residential recycling with 32 or 60-gallon rolling toters.

Since there are many restaurants along Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevard, the City has had to become familiar with ways of maintaining and preserving their clean city streets. A partnership with Los Angeles Conservation Corp has helped in these efforts by providing volunteers that will manually pick up recyclables and discards that may have been left on the streets during special events. This task can be especially difficult after many events the City hosts such as the Halloween parade, The Christopher Street West Gay Pride parade, the LA AIDS Walk, the AIDS Life Cycle Bike Ride, and the many Emmy parties which all bring in hundreds of thousands of people to West Hollywood.

Keeping the City clean and environmentally-conscious also comes from the generous support of the City Council, says Jan. "Our City Council goes out of their way to make it easy for staff to work on our environmental programs. This demonstrates a strong statement of how important the environment is to them and how important it is to the community as a whole."

The City of West Hollywood is the perfect example of how successful recycling efforts can be when the community comes together and works as a team. No matter how many obstacles Jan may face, she has been able to find a positive side to each challenge and will continue to help make West Hollywood a great city to live in, shop in, or visit. Congratulations to Jan on her accomplishments in West Hollywood, and abroad, and to the City of West Hollywood.

For more information about the City of West Hollywood's environmental education outreach, please contact Jan Harmon at (323) 848-6499.

HHW Collection Programs

In our last issue of *ISW*, we provided information about several permanent household hazardous waste collection centers that serve Los Angeles County residents. Although these centers are in the City of Los Angeles, any County resident can take in their hazardous waste free of charge.

Aside from these centers and the County of Los Angeles' Roundup events, cities may offer full or limited HHW and e-waste programs for their residents. Call or visit these websites for further information.

Full HHW and e-waste programs for residents:

Burbank

(818) 238-3900

Glendale

(818) 548-4030

Los Angeles

(800) 988-6942

Norwalk

(800) 449-7587

Redondo Beach

(310) 318-0665

Santa Monica

(310) 458-8255

Limited HHW and e-waste programs for residents:

Agoura Hills

(818) 597-7339

Calabasas

(818) 889-0363

Diamond Bar

(909) 396-5671

Hidden Hills

(818) 888-9281

Malibu

(805) 495-7521

Santa Clarita

1-800-HHW-PKUP
(449-7587)

What's Up?

HHW ROUNDUPS are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 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).

- November 8 Bellflower - Simms Park
Clark Ave. and Oak St.
- November 15 El Segundo - Raytheon Corporation
Parking Lot G, Hughes Way off of
Sepulveda Blvd.
- November 22 Monterey Park - East Los Angeles College
Stadium Parking Lot, Bleakwood Ave.
and Floral Dr.
- December 6 Lomita - Lomita City Hall Parking Lot
24300 Narbonne Ave.
- December 13 Malibu - Malibu Civic Center, Rear Parking Lot
23519 West Civic Center Way
- December 20 La Verne - Brackett Field
Fairplex Dr. & West McKinley Ave.
- January 3 Paramount - Paramount Swap Meet
Overflow Parking Lot
7815 E. Somerset Blvd.
- January 10 South El Monte - Community Center Parking Lot
1415 Santa Anita Ave.
- January 17 Canoga Park - The Boeing Company
& January 18 De Soto Facility Parking Lot
Corner of De Soto Ave. & Gresham St.
(Conducted by the City of Los Angeles)
- January 24 Hermosa Beach - Clark Stadium
Valley Drive between 8th & 11th Streets
- January 31 Cudahy - Clara Street Park
4835 Clara St.
- February 7 Claremont - Claremont City Yard
215 Cornell Ave.
- February 28 Diamond Bar - Gateway Corporate Center
1300 Block of Bridge
- March 6 Marina del Rey - Dock 52 Parking Lot
Fiji Way
- March 13 Glendale - Glendale Water and Power
800 Air Way

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

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

November 20
December 18
January 15

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

For information
call Stacey Haro
at (626) 458-3547,
M-Th, 7:00 a.m. -
5:30 p.m.

THE RECYCLING TIP SHEET

Recycling is easy to do, especially if you follow these handy tips. Remember, when you recycle, you help save valuable natural resources, reduce waste in landfills, and help create jobs.

IN THE HOME

- ◆ Whether you are at home, school or work, don't waste paper. Using both sides is a great way to save.
- ◆ Magazines:
 - Pull out articles/information/pictures for later reference
 - Save interesting pages for decorative wrap
 - Use magazine pages and covers for book covers
 - Use colorful paper for origami and other paper projects
 - Donate magazines to friends, senior citizens, convalescent hospitals, doctors' offices, hospital waiting rooms, etc.
- ◆ Avoid aerosol cans. They have no practical reuse or recycling potential. Instead, look for products like hair spray or room freshener that come in pump spray bottles that are recyclable.
- ◆ If you bring home shopping bags, reuse them as garbage bags or return them to the store for recycling. Most supermarkets now have recycling bins for both plastic and paper bags. Even better, bring your own cloth or mesh bag with you when you go shopping.
- ◆ Purchase products compatible with your neighborhood recycling program. Plan ahead and consider what you will be buying and where things will ultimately end up.
- ◆ Donate unwanted clothes, toys, or household goods to a charitable organization or homeless shelter. Worn-out clothes can be turned into rags for household cleaning - just wash and reuse. Visit the County's Materials Reuse website [LACoMAX](http://ladpw.org/epd/lacomax/) (<http://ladpw.org/epd/lacomax/>), for more ideas.
- ◆ Disposable diapers take up a lot of room in our landfills. When possible, consider using a cloth diaper service instead.
- ◆ Nature is one large composting system. Living organisms "eat" organic material and turn it into a rich, crumbly soil called humus. Food scraps and yard waste can be recycled through composting. Visit the [Smart Gardening program](http://ladpw.org/epd/sg/) (<http://ladpw.org/epd/sg/>) for helpful composting tips and other garden conservation ideas.
- ◆ Green waste, including tree and grass trimmings, leaves, weeds, and related materials that are separated from other solid waste, should be placed in your green waste bin. Green waste does NOT include: food; fruits and vegetables; dirt or sod; rocks or concrete; oversized branches, stumps, or logs, large pieces of lumber; yucca leaves, palm fronds, or other fibrous materials.
- ◆ Recycle your junk mail, screening it for non-recyclable items like magnets and membership cards. There are also several ways to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive, such as having your name removed from national mailing lists and broker lists. Visit the [Junk Mail resource page](http://ladpw.org/epd/junkmail/index.cfm) (<http://ladpw.org/epd/junkmail/index.cfm>) for other ideas and contact information.
- ◆ Styrofoam® takes a long time to decompose. Instead of using Styrofoam® cups, use glass or ceramic. If you receive Styrofoam® peanut packaging, reuse it, or donate it to your local box or shipping company.

FOOD SHOPPING

- ◆ Buy products in packaging that you know can be recycled.
- ◆ If you feel a product has too much packaging, contact the manufacturer and explain your concern or try to avoid buying that particular product.
- ◆ Buy your milk in plastic jugs or glass bottles rather than in wax-coated cartons.
- ◆ Food is a perishable commodity. Do not buy more than you need.



Construction and Demolition

The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimated that 136 million tons of building-related debris were generated in 1996. Of that, 20-30% was recovered for processing and recycling and 35-45% was sent to C&D landfills.

In California, C&D materials account for almost 12% of the waste stream, according to a 1999 study by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). C&D waste stream material includes concrete, both from the foundations of homes and from highway and airport repair work; asphalt, almost exclusively from roadwork; wood, largely from building demolition and waste from new construction; gypsum, recovered from wallboard at demolition projects, left over from construction, and rejected by wallboard factories; and asphalt shingles.

C&D debris has drawn interest because it offers a variety of recycling opportunities. Wood can be used for fuel, wallboard can be processed into gypsum, and concrete can be used for aggregate in road-building and other construction projects. These materials, for which there are established markets, are being separated out for recycling. Organics also are being separated out of the C&D waste stream more frequently.

C&D recycling is not always profitable, especially in most of the middle of the country and wherever tipping fees are still low. The coasts are where most of the C&D recycling is taking place, with New England having the best C&D recycling infrastructure in America.

There are numerous innovative C&D programs throughout the country.

At a local level, the City of Claremont has been able to get creative with their own C & D issues. Claremont Village is a commercial area that includes restaurants, banking, and other small businesses in the city's central business district.

The village decided to expand the downtown area, which would involve 200,000 square feet of demolitions on 41 acres. Claremont is unusual in that it is the sole hauler for solid waste generated in the city; private haulers are not allowed to handle residential, commercial, or institutional waste within the city limits. Recyclable materials, however, can be hauled by commercial recyclers.

An initial goal of the project is to assist the City in developing a C&D reuse and recycling and diversion ordinance applicable not only to the village expansion project but also to other public works and private residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional developments within the city. This will reduce the city's work effort and help it take advantage of the most successful ordinance programs.

In the initial results of the project, the recycling figures are very good, says CMRA's Kelly McArthur Ingalls. A September 16, 2002, report by Laird Construction Co. Inc. in Rancho Cucamonga, CA, for work on six buildings that were demolished as part of the village expansion, shows 2,016 tons generated, 1,931 to be used or recycled and 85 tons to be disposed, for a landfill diversion rate of 95.7%.

Some construction-related material has been found to be hazardous. Random tests conducted by the Environmental Working Group in Washington, DC, concluded that the amount of arsenic found on the surface of pressure-treated lumber used widely for decks and play sets exceeds safe levels even after years of wear. On February 12, 2002, lumber companies, in an agreement with EPA, said that after December 2003 they

no longer would use chromated copper arsenate (CCA), a powerful pesticide, to protect lumber from decay and insect damage in residential settings. As part of the agreement, EPA said it did not believe there was any reason for people to replace the CCA-treated wood, which is used in an estimated 90% of such outdoor wooden structures as decks, play sets, and picnic tables. EPA is in the process of conducting its own formal risk assessment.



Enthusied by Used Shoes!

Somehow the word got out. Southern Californians heard that Burbank was calling for 5,000 pair of sneakers and tennis shoes, which Nike Inc. transforms into athletic fields, courts or playgrounds. Adidas, Vans, Converse, Reeboks, Keds and brands unknown (along with an occasional unwanted pair of fuchsia suede pumps) came running in from everywhere--La Jolla, Alhambra, Granada Hills, Los Angeles, San Gabriel.

On October 1, a Roadway truck cruised by the Recycle Center to stop for 17 gaylords (boxes 48 in. x 48 in. x 40 in.) on pallets to be delivered to the Nike plant in Beaverton, Oregon. To date, Nike has built more than 150 sports surfaces--playground, basketball courts, soccer fields--around the world with retired athletic shoes. In less than 10 months, Burbank residents had answered the call and happily collected enough sneakers for a Nike Grind sports surface for a needy city.

Thanks are owed to many: a La Jolla Day School that held an end-of-the-year locker room clean-out; Burbank's La Providencia Children's Hospital Thrift Shop; a Granada Hills High School coach and her gym classes; Los Angeles Water and Power Earth Day collection including a few sneakers that had been naughtily tossed over telephone wires; the Los Angeles County Generation Earth environmental education team; a PTA mover and shaker from Mountain Avenue Elementary School in La Canada Flintridge; and



Alhambra sorority.

The admission charge for Recycle Center tours for school classes was old sneakers--so thank you Miller, Providencia and Washington schools for visiting and filling the bin! Students were shown hunks of the end product--a kind of "Astroturf" found underfoot in playgrounds. The City Police/Fire and the Water and Power buildings, Burbank libraries and high schools, the local YMCA, Verdugo and Olive recreation centers all joined in the sneaker collection bonanza. All received a free can of Lysol with each collection cart, but hardly anyone needed it.

"Being able to turn back something like a pair of used, smelly sneakers is just kind of a fun thing to be able to do," said Lee Weinstein, a Nike corporate director. It makes people happy that they're doing a good deed. Saving natural resources and landfill space is just the icing on the cake.

By popular demand, the Recycle Center is running with the Reuse-A-Shoe program again. Burbank will team up with a few neighboring cities to build another 5,000-pair mountain of shoes. So don't toss the old sneakers: a city near you may be collecting them. Call the Burbank Recycle Center for more information at (818) 238-3900.

Los Angeles County
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Integrated Waste Management Task Force
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