

Update on Los Angeles County Green Zones Ordinance

The Los Angeles County's Green Zones Program (Program) seeks to enhance public health and land use compatibility in the County unincorporated communities that bear a disproportionate burden of pollution.

The Program will promote equitable development and reduce neighborhood health disparities by making changes to the County's Zoning Code. These changes consist of policy and procedural updates for specific industrial uses located near sensitive uses and for recycling and solid waste uses throughout the County.

The Green Zones Program will include the following major revisions to the Zoning Code:

- Identification of 11 Green Zone Districts and new development standards for industrial facilities near sensitive uses in those districts.
- County unincorporated area wide recycling and solid waste facility permitting requirements and storage enclosure standards.
- Additional standards for specific industrial uses in the County unincorporated areas.

The Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) released a revised draft of the Green Zones Ordinance in December 2020. The revised draft includes new definitions for facilities such as Class III landfills, municipal solid waste landfills, landfill gas-to-energy facilities, transformation facilities, and waste-to-energy facilities.

The revised draft also provides clarification on requirements for conversion technology, biomass conversion, anaerobic digestion, and in-vessel composting facilities, including allowable zones, prohibited areas, distance to nearest sensitive uses, minimum lot size, and permit requirements. In addition, the revised draft would allow for small-scale accessory composting and anaerobic digestion technologies to be used to process waste produced on-site at commercial and institutional locations such as schools, hospitals, restaurants, supermarkets, plant nurseries, and more.

Regional Planning received comments on the ordinance through April 21, 2021, at which time the Regional Planning Commission conducted a public hearing. The draft Ordinance is currently being revised and a final Environmental Impact Report is being prepared in consideration of the input received from the public. The Program will be presented to the Regional Planning Commission in Summer 2021 and subsequently submitted to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption.

Additional information regarding the County's Green Zones Program can be found at: <https://planning.lacounty.gov/greenzones>.



DRAFT