

Conversion Technology Program Strategy

The Conversion Technology (CT) Program and the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee ([ATAS](#)) were established in 2002 by the Conditional Use Permit for the Puente Hills Landfill. In recent years, the CT program has invested significant resources to identify specific barriers to the development of CT facilities, which include a lack of suitable sites, a lack of adequate funding, and inaccurate and inconsistent State code. Public Works is now in a better position to refocus the CT Program and use its resources to help address these barriers. This strategy describes actions Public Works will implement to foster the development of CT facilities in the Los Angeles Region and leverage CTs to assist the Region with Senate Bill (SB) 1383 compliance.

Short-Term Actions:

Public Works will initiate the following actions within 12 months to address barriers to CT development on a local and regional scale. Beginning in 2022, SB 1383 requires local jurisdictions to implement mandatory organic waste management programs for residents, businesses, and local governments facilities, as well as to secure or develop sufficient infrastructure capacity to process organic waste. The County needs at least 5 million tons per year of additional organic waste processing capacity, including at least 1.6 million tons per year of food waste processing capacity. Most commercial composting facilities are not permitted to accept mixed food and green waste. Thus, developing CTs capable of processing organic waste, such as anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities to process food waste, is an urgent priority for the CT Program.

Opportunity #1: Expand efforts to identify suitable sites

- Action 1.1: Incorporate potential vetted sites for AD facilities in the [Countywide Siting Element](#)
- Action 1.2: Complete site analysis of four strategically located County-owned closed landfill sites with Public Works technical consultant
- Action 1.3: Perform analysis of additional closed landfill sites as well as other County-owned properties.
- Action 1.4: Perform a Countywide analysis to identify other potential sites including privately-owned or vacant properties.

Opportunity #2: Collaborate with stakeholders to leverage funding

- Action 2.1: Support proposed funding mechanisms
 - o [California Recycling](#) and [Plastic Pollution](#) Reduction Act

- [State and Federal Funding Bills](#)
- Action 2.2: Apply for funding opportunities/grants
 - [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (e.g., EPA solid waste infrastructure grant)
 - [CalRecycle funding programs](#)
 - Collaborate with other jurisdictions and private industry to apply for regional funding
- Action 2.3: Develop grant program
 - Confirm funding sources and funding amounts
 - Release in early 2023
 - Evaluate projects such as Calabasas AD Facility
 - Pick recipients in mid-2023

Opportunity #3: Refocus ATAS to path towards constructing a CT facility

- Action 3.1: Focus ATAS discussions on using AD and other technologies to meet SB 1383 requirements
- Action 3.2: Work with ATAS members to formulate a working list of suggested potential sites
 - Work with Public Works' technical consultant to conduct preliminary zoning and fatal flaw analysis of suggested locations
 - Locations that pass initial analysis sent to the local jurisdiction for further review and invite to ATAS
- Action 3.3: Prioritize presentations from Cities, waste haulers, and developers with existing or planned facilities in Southern California OR new technologies that have not been presented.
- Action 3.4: Collaborate with Public Works' technical consultant to present proposed new materials and resources and request tangible feedback from ATAS members.

Opportunity #4: Provide enhanced resources for stakeholders

- Action 4.1: Update CT website
 - Provide answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for developers
 - Release a Request for Information to:
 - Update list of CT vendors and financial resources
 - Add pre-processing and post-processing technologies
- Action 4.2: Use consultant contract to assist CT developers with completing [SB 1383](#) technology verification process
 - Develop standard scope and budget

- Publicize services through [CT newsletter](#)/website, Infrastructure LA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management ([SWARM](#)) Subcommittee, conferences, and other channels
- Action 4.3: Develop additional resources to post on [CT website](#)
 - Education and outreach materials to build support for beneficial legislation and/or CT projects tailored to various audiences, including:
 - Elected officials
 - Environmental justice community
 - Local jurisdiction staff (e.g., Chief Sustainability Office)
 - Advocates
 - General public
 - White papers exploring the various benefits of CTs