



City of South El Monte **- Champions for A Better Environment!**

Your grandparents or parents most likely spent most of their lives dumping all their waste into one bin that was destined for the landfill. For the City of South El Monte (SEM), the change is being embraced by today's generation of residents, as they have an important role in source separating general waste, recycling and organic materials. The residents, now in their everyday life, lead the City of South El Monte to a cleaner and more environmentally friendly future.

At SEM, city staff have been working closely with Athens Services in a joint effort to seamlessly transition residents from a single barrel mixed-waste program to a source-separated three-barrel program. This is a remarkable transformation for the City and its residents! Change was never going to be easy, especially during a pandemic, but South El Monte residents have proven to be champions of change for a better environment. Within a matter of months, residents of all ages participated in numerous community events, engaging in conversations, learning more about managing their own waste and participating in activities and games designed to educate all ages on better waste and recycling practices. As a result, South El Monte has experienced a huge success in transforming SEM's manual waste and recycling hauling to a state-of-the-art citywide automation program.



On June 2021, SEM adopted an "Organic Waste Disposal Reduction" Ordinance and has continued to make significant strides to maintain compliance with state laws (SB 1383, AB1826, AB827, AB619, etc.)

On September 14, 2021, the City Council approved a contract amendment with the City's waste hauler to provide enhanced waste/recycling services to the community. The featured enhancements include several citywide clean-up and composting events throughout the year and multiple "no-cost" bulky-item pick-ups per residence.

On January 1, 2022, SEM transitioned from a manual ("hand-tossed" mixed waste and green waste collection) program to a source separated waste, recycling, and organics program. While undergoing this transition we have been very successful in connecting with residents and businesses, providing educational materials, conducting door-to-door visits, and encouraging the best practices for waste disposal and recycling.



And, leading by example, the City conducted a full assessment of its public facilities to identify any gaps in its internal operations. This effort has led to the City making its own adjustments to comply with the new law and lead as a productive citizen in the South El Monte community. Additionally, City personnel is participating in workshops to learn more about educating the public on best practices for waste disposal and recycling and are using these practices in and outside the workplace.

As South El Monte moves into the new era of organics and recycling, the City's residents are adapting and serving as a leading example for other cities. The City Council gives the residents and business owners of South El Monte an enormous, "THANK-YOU" for leading the charge for a better future in South El Monte.

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