

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

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



Fall 2007

Volume 52

COUNTY TO EXPAND THE COUNTYWIDE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS/ELECTRONIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND OTHER COUNTYWIDE PROGRAMS TO DIVERT MORE WASTE FROM LANDFILLS

The County of Los Angeles' 20 year-old Countywide Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) and Electronic Waste (E-waste) Management Program (the largest in the nation), partnered with the County Sanitation District and all 88 cities in Los Angeles County, continues to experience overwhelming success in providing a free and convenient opportunity for residents to manage their HHW and E-waste. Last year, approximately 77,000 households participated in the program through weekly collection events and permanent centers.

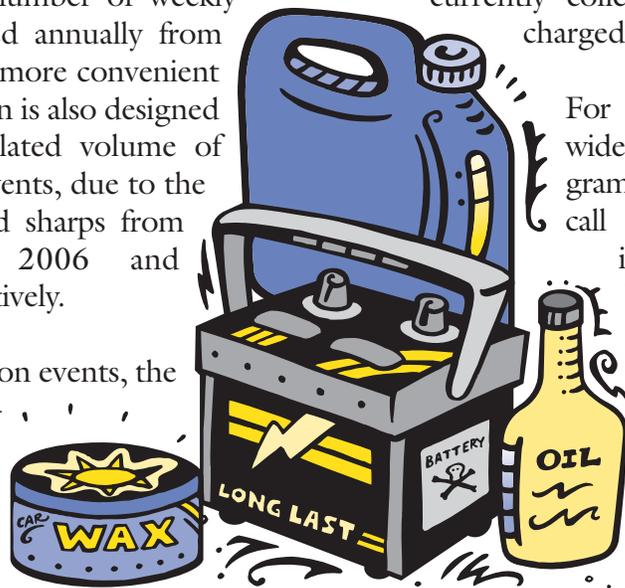
In response to overwhelming demand, the County is planning to increase the number of weekly collection events conducted annually from 53 to 65 events, making it more convenient for residents. The expansion is also designed to accommodate the escalated volume of HHW being collected at events, due to the ban of universal waste and sharps from landfills in February 2006 and September 1, 2008, respectively.

To complement the collection events, the County also plans to develop several permanent centers for HHW/E-Waste collection in the next several years in key areas of

the County. With the expected growth of HHW, as well as E-waste, household batteries, sharps, and other challenging materials, permanent centers will provide a higher level of service and convenience to residents in a cost-effective manner.

To provide for these expanded services and expansion of other countywide waste reduction, recycling and public education programs, the County is proposing to increase the Solid Waste Management Fee from \$0.86 to \$1.50 per ton disposed, with the majority of additional funds going to the enhancement of the HHW/E-waste management program. The fee is currently collected as part of the 'gate rate' charged by solid waste disposal facilities.

For more information on all countywide waste reduction and recycling programs, visit www.888CleanLA.com or call 1(888) CLEAN LA. For more information on the proposed Solid Waste Management Fee increase, please contact Coby Skye of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-5163, M - Th, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or cskye@dpw.lacounty.gov.



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 **Vanessa Lopez** at (626) 458-6563, or vlopez@dpw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you want to be involved or to contribute, please join the Subcommittee!

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL UPDATE

On February 6, 2007, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a new replacement conditional use permit (RCUP) for the County portion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The RCUP, which became effective on May 24, 2007, will assist to meet the disposal capacity needs of the County and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County while incorporating additional environmental protections at the site and securing additional revenue sources to support Countywide environmental programs.

The RCUP allows for the development of a joint City of Los Angeles/County of Los Angeles Landfill and a permitted waste disposal intake of a maximum of 12,100 tons per day to be placed on either side of the landfill. Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI), the landfill owner/operator, must, among other things, install a double liner for the areas not yet utilized, utilize alternative/clean fuel trucks,

provide \$200,000 per year (for 10 years) towards promoting the development of conversion technologies, monitor the air quality by an independent consultant, not accept out-of-county waste, and provide for the facility maintenance in perpetuity or until the waste no longer poses a risk to public health and safety or the environment. In addition, the landfill's closure date is set for February 6, 2037.

BFI is currently working with the Task Force to ensure the County side of the landfill is in conformance with the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element.

For more information, please contact Martins Aiyetiwa of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-3553, M - Th, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or maiyet@dpw.lacounty.gov.

CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE: PHASE II REPORT RELEASED AND NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Since 2004, the County of Los Angeles and the Task Force have worked extensively to develop a conversion technology demonstration project in Southern California. The proposed development of a demonstration project presents a tremendous opportunity to not only reduce landfill disposal, but create a clean and green business model that can revolutionize solid waste management in the United States. A successful demonstration facility will showcase the real-world applications of conversion technologies and provide data on the impacts, benefits and feasibility of these technologies.

On September 20, 2007, the Task Force considered the Phase II Conversion Technology Evaluation Report, culminating two years of exhaustive research. The report summarizes various findings and recommendations drawn from extensive evaluations of technology suppliers and touring facilities overseas.

The County and the Task Force will now turn their attention towards facilitating the development of the demonstration facility at one of four candidate sites identified in the report.

Furthermore, release of the Phase II Report coincides with the development of a brand new website, www.SoCalConversion.org, which showcases progress of the demonstration project and allows the public to gain a better understanding of conversion technologies.

For more information, please contact Coby Skye of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-5163, M - Th, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or cskye@dpw.lacounty.gov.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR LANDFILL POST-CLOSURE FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Currently, State regulations require three types of financial assurances for municipal solid waste landfills:

- Closure Financial Assurance — covers the costs associated with closing the landfill.
- Post-closure Maintenance Financial Assurance — covers the costs for maintaining the landfill 30 years beyond its closure date.
- Corrective Action Financial Assurance — covers the remediation costs associated with contamination while the landfill is operating, in closure, or in post-closure.

As required by Assembly Bill 2296 (2006 Statutes), by July 1, 2009, the Waste Board must adopt regulations to strengthen the above financial assurance mechanisms in the event that a landfill owner or operator fails to meet its legal obligations to fund post-closure maintenance or corrective action (including repair of the environmental control systems) during the post-closure period.

AB 2296 also requires the proposed regulations to address the ongoing necessity to financially maintain closed/inactive landfills beyond the 30 years currently mandated in State regulations. This action ensures that residents would not be left holding the bag at anytime during the closure or postclosure maintenance period should the owner/operator default on its obligations or be in bankruptcy.

Currently, the Waste Board has begun the formal rulemaking process on cost estimate issues in preparation for a 45-day public comment period. All longer-term financial assurance demonstration amendments and corrective action issues are deferred until a contracted study mandated by AB 2296 is completed. The study will assess the pros and cons of various options such as a statewide requirement in which all operators contribute to a pooled fund to provide for the longer-term care and/or corrective actions faced at facilities, or that operators purchase insurance coverage for any costs faced at the facility that are not already identified and otherwise insured to the State.

Due to the importance of this issue, the Task Force is working with the Board staff as a member of a Working Group in reviewing and commenting on the detailed work plans to be used in completing the study.

For more information, please contact Martin Aiyetiwa of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-3553, M - Th, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., maiyet@dpw.lacounty.gov, or Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or visit the Waste Board's rulemaking site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/rulemaking/Postclosure/default.htm.

RECYCLER OF MONTH AWARDS

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) encourages curbside recycling by awarding 48 lucky residential recyclers \$250 in cash each year.

All curbside customers receive one Recycler of Month entry form in their July trash invoice. Recyclers fill out the entry form and mail it to the City. The cards are placed in a raffle drum at the Council chambers.

At every City Council meeting, two entry cards are randomly drawn. Staff then

verifies that those homes recycle (check to see co-mingled recycling and/or green waste cans at the curb on recycling days). Once it is confirmed that these homes recycle, then the names of the winners are announced at the following Council meeting. A check for \$250 is mailed to each of the winners. This is one way RPV thanks its residents for recycling.



For additional information, contact Lauren Ramezani at (310) 544-5245.

Household Hazardous waste can be taken to any of these locations. Electronic waste is also accepted. Call 1-800-98-TOXIC or 1 (888) CLEAN-LA for more information.

Gaffey Street Collection Center
1400 N. Gaffey St.
San Pedro, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hyperion Treatment Plant
7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293
Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Washington Boulevard Collection Center
2649 E. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center
11025 Randall St.
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

UCLA location
550 Charles E. Young Dr. West
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center
4660 Colorado Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90039
Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center
Antelope Valley Public Landfill
1200 West City Ranch Road
Palmdale CA, 93551
Open 1st and 3rd Saturday each month 9 a.m. - 3 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 County of Los Angeles 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)**.

October 27 **Florence-Firestone** - Roosevelt Park Senior Center
 7600 Graham Ave.

October 27 **Inglewood** - Hollywood Park, Gate 7A
 West 90th Street just east of Prairie Ave.

November 3 **Monterey Park** - East Los Angeles College
 Stadium Parking Lot
 Bleakwood Ave. and Floral Dr.

November 3 **Bellflower** - Simm's Park
 Clark Ave. and Oak St.

November 3 **South El Monte** - Community Center Parking lot
 1415 Santa Anita Ave.

November 3 **Universal City** - Universal Studios
 3900 Lankershim Blvd.

November 10 **El Segundo** - Raytheon Company, Parking lot "G"
 Hughes Way off of Sepulveda Blvd,

November 10 **Commerce** - Los Angeles County Health Dept.
 5555 Ferguson Blvd.

November 17 **South Whittier** - L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.
 STAR Training Center
 11515 South Colima Blvd.

December 1 **Malibu** - Malibu Civic Center, Rear Parking lot
 23519 West Civic Center Way

December 1 **Unincorporated Angeles National Forest** -
 Wildwood Picnic Area,
 Mile Marker 3.52, Big Tujunga Canyon Rd.

December 8 **Lomita** - Lomita City Hall Parking lot
 24300 Narbonne Ave.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

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

December 20
 January 18

All meetings are scheduled at 1 p.m. in Conference Room C.

For information, call Erayna Chang at (626) 458-2536, M - Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking for up-to-date information about the Task Force?

Visit www.lacountyiswmtf.org to view agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Assembly Program Keeps Going Strong!

It's been over 10 years since the initiation of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' Environmental Defenders Program and it's still going strong!! The Environmental Defenders Program is a FREE 30-minute, high-energy school assembly program actively engaging students. The assembly is an exciting music driven show featuring Al Luminum, Polly Ethylene and their friends, the Environmental Defenders, teaching elementary school students in Los Angeles County the importance of protecting the environment.

The assembly consists of environmental music, audience participation and repetition to effectively communicate environmental concepts: reduce, reuse and recycle, stormwater pollution prevention, proper disposal of household hazardous waste and electronic waste, and illegal dumping.

The program also encourages students to learn important environmental concepts and motivates students to take environmental action. The Super

Environmental Defenders Program provides pledge cards with easy things students can do to change their behavior. Last year, 14,867 students became Super Environmental Defenders.

In addition to school assemblies, the Environmental Defenders Program reaches out to the community by participating in community events to provide students and their parents with key environmental messages. A total of 17 community events were attended throughout the County last year reaching more than 79,100 adults/students.

During FY 2006-07, the program reached a total of 504 schools reaching more than 189,380 students. The program is FREE to all public/private elementary schools in Los Angeles County. To schedule a FREE assembly, please contact the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' Contractor, Allison Modiest of the Rogers Group, at (310) 552-4115 or schedule an assembly online at www.888cleanla.com.



MIKE MOHAJER RECEIVES REGIONAL CHAMPION AWARD FROM SCAG



On May 3, 2007, The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) recognized three individuals for their outstanding accomplishments. Among them was the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force's very own Mike Mohajer.

Mr. Mohajer, a recognized leader in the area of solid waste management, received the Regional Champion award. He has more than 30 years experience in the fields of environmental protection and waste management and was the manager of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Work's environmental programs prior to his retirement in 2003.

Congratulations Mike!

Public Works Engages Students with Ecological Lessons

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is a proud sponsor of Plan-It Earth, a Los Angeles Times environmental education program. The Plan-It Earth program gives teachers the opportunity to nurture environmentally sound habits. The program also supplements teachers' existing curriculum with assignments and lessons that give students a refreshing alternative to textbook learning. With a focus on the environment - particularly pollution prevention and solid waste management - the lessons give students the opportunity to research environmental issues related to preventing water pollution, recycling to preserve natural resources, and handling toxic and other solid wastes in a responsible way that protects the environment.

As part of the Plan-It Earth program, students are encouraged to participate in the yearly art and essay contest. The contest focuses on drawing or creating a piece of art depicting an environmental issue/concern or writing an essay on an environmental topic while providing solutions.

The entries are judged in four categories submitted by students in grades 6-9. Two grand prize winners

are selected: one art and one essay winner in each category. The grand prize winners are also featured in the Los Angeles Times.

For more information, please contact Edna Gandarilla at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, (626) 458-6536, M - Th, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Plan-It Earth Award Art and Essay recipients (grades 6-9) along with teachers and Public Works and L.A. Times staff participated in an awards luncheon on May 29, 2007, at the Los Angeles Times Headquarters facility in Downtown Los Angeles.

Trash for Teaching - the art of reuse

The City of Torrance and Trash for Teaching (T4T) were awarded a reuse grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. T4T is a non-profit group that collects cast-off materials from manufacturers, cleans and prepares them, and offers them to teachers and students for projects. As part of the program, T4T also assists the City with grant administration.

T4T contacts Torrance manufacturers to collect cast-offs from their operations that could be donated for reuse in the program. Then, during the school year, T4T visits Torrance schools and gives workshops to the

teachers. T4T also brings the Reuse Truck. The truck is filled with oversized thread spools, wood pieces, varieties of paper, plastic webbing and numerous other assorted doodads for students and teachers to use in their classroom projects - limited only by their imaginations.

While T4T normally charges for their service to cover expenses, this year it was free for Torrance teachers as costs were covered by the grant program. Teachers from participating schools could also visit the T4T warehouse and pick up even more free materials to reuse.

Torrance students give new life to vast amounts of “trash” that would otherwise go directly into landfills. It’s a small and simple, yet powerfully effective way to take better care of our planet, and teach children the importance of reuse, recycling and environmental responsibility.

For additional information, contact Alison Sherman from the City of Torrance at (310) 781-6916.



Calabasas Multi-Family Recycling Programs

Unfortunately, participation of multi-family residences in the City’s recycling program is low since recycling is not convenient and accessible to residents in many apartment buildings and condominiums that use communal bins. Calabasas recently implemented three programs to help make recycling easier for multi-family residents:

1. The City implemented a household recycling waste basket program. All multi-family units with the City of Calabasas are provided with a free household recycling basket that can be conveniently placed under the sink. These baskets are to facilitate the separation of solid waste from recyclable materials. With an easy to carry handle, the recyclable materials collected can be carried straight out to the recycling bin within the trash enclosure.

2. The City provided signage to each commercial and multi-family residential building owner and property manager, which use commercial bins, to post on the trash enclosure asking people not to mix the recyclable materials with trash.

3. The City also requires developers of new commercial and multi-family residential buildings to provide two separate trash chutes from each floor in multi-story buildings: one for trash and one for recyclable materials. The chutes shall lead to either a trash bin or a recycling bin.

For further questions or information regarding the City of Calabasas’ recycling efforts, please contact Kay Ayazi at (818) 878-4225 or visit www.cityofcalabasas.com.



PROPER DISPOSAL OF HOME-GENERATED SHARPS WASTE

Home-generated sharps waste, including hypodermic pen, and intravenous needles, and lancets used by the millions of Americans with diabetes and other diseases, pose a great danger and serious health risks to the general public and to solid waste collectors when disposed of in the trash. Over 2 billion injections per year happen outside of health care settings.

To ensure appropriate disposal of sharps waste necessary to protect the general public and workers from potential exposure to contagious diseases and health and safety risks, California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed SB 1305. This bill bans home-generated sharps waste from trash

and recycling containers. Effective September 2008, the new law would make it a violation of state law for home-generated sharps waste to be placed in trash containers, including recycling and greenwaste containers. SB 1305 would also require sharps waste to be collected and transported in approved sharps containers.

The County of Los Angeles currently accepts sharps waste at its weekly Household Hazardous Waste Collection roundups, and at the City of Los Angeles' permanent collection centers. The County is also looking into expanding the Sharps Collection Program to meet the requirements of SB 1305. For more information, call 1(888) CLEAN LA or visit www.888cleanla.com.

