

# SOLID INSIDE WASTE

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



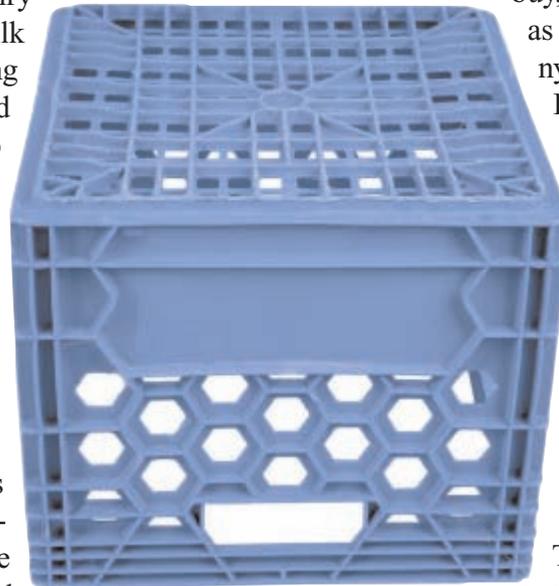
Spring 2008

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## Plastic Milk Crate Theft

According to Bill Kroese, a representative of Rock View Farms, dairy companies throughout the State are spending millions of dollars annually due to the theft of their branded plastic milk crates. Dairy companies purchased plastic milk crates with the intention of getting multiple uses from them and requiring them to be returned to the company whose name is on the crate. Since the theft of milk crates increased in recent years, the replacement cost incurred by the dairy companies is placing an unnecessary economic burden on them.

Because of the substantial losses that the dairy industry has experienced, they suspect that most of the stolen plastic milk crates are sold illegally to plastic re-processors who then grind the plastic containers into chips to be re-sold. Representatives from the beverage and bakery industries also reported a significant increase in the loss of the plastic containers and pallets that they use to deliver their product. The market and demand for plastic regrind have grown in recent years since plastic regrind are purchased by manufacturers for a lesser price than virgin plastic resin. As a result of ongoing investigations, there were plastic re-processors in Southern California that were found and arrested for grinding plastic milk crates as well as being in illegal possession of significant amounts of plastic pallets and containers owned by the beverage industry.



To avoid any potential legal consequences that could result from the unauthorized receipt of these crates, plastic re-processors must be made aware that it is illegal to buy, sell, broker or destroy these crates as they are the property of the company named on the case (California Penal Code Sections 565-566). Plastic re-processors should not accept any registered milk crates for recycling purposes in order to avoid potential legal violations.

Waste management officials, local law enforcement and City/District Attorneys need to monitor the activity of plastic re-processors and enforce existing laws!

The following are laws that address plastic container thefts:

- \* California Penal Code Sections, 565-566
- \* California Food and Agricultural Codes 34561 - 34564, 34568, 34653 - 34655
- \* Assembly Bill 2289

These laws must be recognized and enforced in order to be effective.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Bill Kroese at (562) 927-5511 ext. 1200 or [billk@rockviewfarms.com](mailto:billk@rockviewfarms.com).

**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](mailto: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!

# The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

## Reduce E-Waste and Recycle More

Ok, I'll admit it...I've become a little bit of a "tech-head." You know, one of those people who has an electronic gadget for every occasion? One of my latest devices is an MP3 player. For those of you who don't know what an MP3 player is, it's a small electronic device for digitally storing and playing music. I got mine as a birthday present about a year-and-a-half ago. I became fairly adept at transferring my beloved compact discs from my computer to the MP3 player. Then, after getting used to this new mode of music-listening, the unthinkable happened. The darn thing breaks, and it's less than two years old!

Well, I called the local retailer and made an appointment to have my gadget "evaluated." I traipsed down to their store, thinking it's a quick fix. Mind-you, it was just a tiny on/off switch that was broken. After waiting for about 15 minutes, the man behind the counter inspects my device, looks up the serial number on his computer and states very matter-of-factly, "It's broken, and the warranty expired." "Okay," I say, "How much to fix it?" "Oh, we don't fix them...we recycle them," he says. Ugh! I stand there grappling with the reality that my silly little music player is built to self-destruct. But the good news is, at least it's going to be recycled.

That's reality in the world of consumer electronic products. TVs, computers, and lots of other products are built to break or become obsolete in as little as nine months to two years; hence, the word "consumer."

And then there's the issue of trying to find a venue to properly dispose of these items, because it's illegal to throw them in the trash. In Rossmoor, that's fairly easy, given that you can call Curbside, Inc. and have electronics picked up from your residence. Unfortunately, I don't live in Rossmoor, so I store my worn out items in my garage, or I scramble around and perhaps even pay a fee to get rid of something I once paid good money for.

Okay, if manufacturers won't make products that last more than two years, maybe we should make them take their old stuff back. Hey, they do it with cell phones and rechargeable batteries. In California, it's the law that if a store sells either of those items, they must take them back to recycle at no charge. Maybe they should extend that law to include other products like TVs and computers too. That would make it a whole lot easier for consumers to do the right thing. And it might be an incentive for manufacturers to make their products better.

That's the idea behind Extended Producer Responsibility. Instead of customers and local governments paying for disposing this stuff, the manufacturers take responsibility for it. In fact, a group of California local governments (including the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority) got together to form the California Product Stewardship Council. They're pushing for manufacturer responsibility for recycling electronics, batteries, fluorescent lights and other items. The concept is working in British Columbia and the Northwest, so why not California?

Well, I guess the simple days of calling a TV repairman are over and I'll have to embrace getting newer technology every year or so (or just stop buying it altogether). But when I think about all the broken and outdated electronics that are probably cluttering people's attics, garages and closets, I have to think, there is a better way.

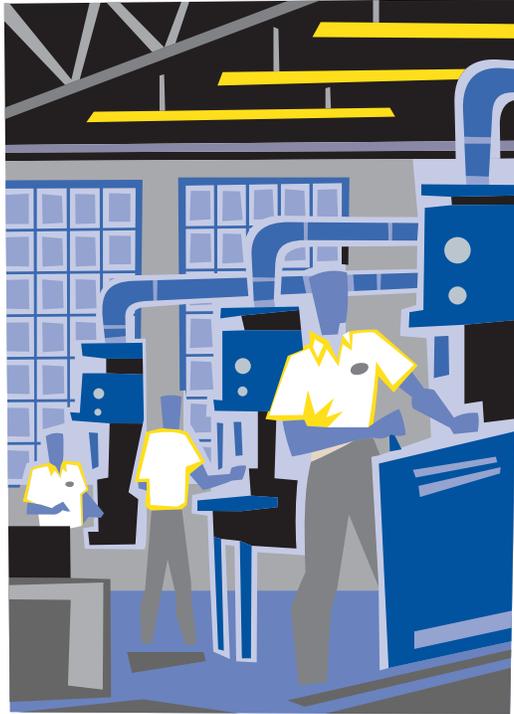
All the Best!  
Lois Courchaine  
CCCSWA  
(Lois@wastediversion.org)



## Extended Producer Responsibility California Product Stewardship Council

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a nonprofit coalition of local governments and agencies throughout California working with manufacturers and legislators to promote and implement extended producer responsibility.

Extended producer responsibility seeks to encourage manufacturers to redesign their products to minimize waste, such as excess packaging, and hold manufacturers accountable (financially or otherwise) for their products at the end of their useful life. By holding manufacturers accountable, it significantly reduces the burden on local governments to manage product waste. Furthermore, as the State Legislature considers higher waste reduction mandates, the manufacturer's role is critical in achieving further gains in waste reduction.



The Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) supports the CPSC's Extended Producer Responsibility policies that shifts California's product waste management system from one that focused on local government funded and ratepayer financed system to one that relies on producer responsibility (especially for products banned from disposal, i.e., universal waste, etc.) in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability. On January 24, 2008, the Task Force voted unanimously to join the CPSC.

The Task Force encourages jurisdictions to join the CPSC to help increase product stewardship. For more information and to join the CPSC, visit [www.caproductstewardship.org](http://www.caproductstewardship.org) or contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

## Conversion Technology Update

On January 17, 2008, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (County), in concert with the Integrated Waste Management Task Force's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee, officially released its long anticipated Request for Offers (RFO) for the County's Conversion Technology Demonstration Project. This RFO signifies the beginning of a competition to solicit formal, site-specific offers from the recommended technology suppliers and MRF/TS owners/operators identified in Phase II of the Assessment Report. Through this RFO, the County seeks to encourage developing one or more demonstration facilities as well as promote commercial-scale conversion technology facilities.

On February 13, 2008, the County hosted a Pre-Offer meeting at the Department of Public Works Headquarters, which was well attended by representatives from four conversion technology suppliers and three MRFs, as well as members of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee, County staff and consultants. Site-specific responses to the RFO are due to the County by May 15, 2008, at which time the County will

review and evaluate offers in conjunction with the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee, prior to making recommendations to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.

In other conversion technology news, the City of Los Angeles is moving forward with their project to convert "black-bin" municipal solid waste residuals to renewable energy. Currently, the City is reviewing multiple project proposals from technology suppliers. The recent flurry of alternative technology research and development projects springing up around the State indicate that there is a growing interest in using waste as a feedstock to produce green fuels and energy. The California Integrated Waste Management Board and Pacific Gas and Electric each released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking partners to develop and operate a demonstration facility that will convert biomass into electricity or biofuels.

For more information regarding the County's Conversion Technology Demonstration Project, please visit the official website at [www.SoCalConversion.org](http://www.SoCalConversion.org), where you can also sign up for our e-Newsletter.

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)**.

- April 19 **Glendale** - The Betty Ainsworth Sports Center  
El Segundo and Doty Ave
- April 19 **Compton** - Compton Airport  
901 West Alondra Boulevard
- April 26 **South Gate** - Compton Airport  
Tweedy Boulevard at Hildreth Avenue
- April 26 **Azusa** - Northrop-Grumman Corporation  
West 3rd Street and Zachary Padilla Avenue
- May 3 **La Mirada** - La Mirada Regional Park  
Tennis Court/Swimming Pool (Parking Lot)
- May 10 **Rancho Palos Verdes Peninsula** - Rancho Palos  
Verdes City Hall/City Yard
- May 17 **West Covina** - West Covina Maintenance Yard  
825 Sunset Ave.
- May 24 **Maywood** - Maywood Park  
57th St. and Heliotrope Ave.
- June 7 **Torrance** - American Honda  
1919 Torrance Blvd.
- June 8 **Agoura** - Calabasas Landfill (Scale Area)  
5300 Lost Hills Rd. Pasadena HHW Collection
- June 14 **Pasadena** - The Rose Bowl, Parking Lot "K"  
1001 Rose Bowl Blvd.
- June 21 **Irwindale** - Flood Control Maintenance Yard  
160 East Longden Ave.

## TASK FORCE MEETINGS

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

- May 15
- June 19
- July 17

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

For information, call Carrie Cui at (626) 458-3596, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Visit [www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org) where you can find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.

## Winners of the 2007 Recycling Coloring Contest

The Calabasas Environmental Commission hosted an award ceremony for their 2007 Recycling Coloring Contest on December 4, 2007. It was a rare sight to see City Hall bustling with thirteen bright-eyed, young, student winners and their family and friends. All were eager and excited to see each drawing elegantly framed. The young students were enthusiastic to share their own recycling habits which included recycling bottles, cans, and paper. Several conveyed the importance of recycling as a way to reduce the amount of waste and conserve resources. They all agreed that recycling is indeed one simple action people can take to help preserve the environment.

The Calabasas Environmental Commission received 120 entries from grades K-8 for the 2007 Recycling Coloring Contest. All entries were carefully reviewed by the commissioners during the November 6, 2007 public meeting at the Calabasas City Hall. Thirteen (13) winners were selected based on the creativity and theme of their illustrations. The winning drawings are printed in the 2008 City of Calabasas Community Recycling Awareness calendar, which were distributed to every household and school in Calabasas.



First Name	Last Name	Grade	School	Teacher
HUNTER	PEARSON	2nd	Sumac Elementary School	Ms. Horwitz
CATHERINE	GRONKIEWICZ	3rd	Castlebay Lane Elementary School	Miss. Cindy Kamin-Brenek
RACHELB	ENESH	4th	Welby Way Elementary School	Ms. Anderson
ANDREA	CHAHAYED	4th	Welby Way Elementary School	Ms. Anderson
MEGAN	NISON	5th	Chaparral Elementary School	Ms. De La Vaux
KRISTA	COOK	6th	Viewpoint School	Ms. Boss
WHITNEY	LEVIN	6th	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School	Ms. Farrell
WELLINGTON	CHEUNG	7th	A.E.Wright Middle School	Ms. Kane
ARIEL	LESPERBER	7th	Lindero Canyon Middle School	Ms. Goeglein
ARMIN	DORRI	8th	Hale Middle School	Ms. Walgren
NICOLE	GINDORF	8th	Hale Middle School	Mr. Harbourt
KENT	MATSUMOTO	8th	A.E.Wright Middle School	Ms. Kane
ERIC	AMCPIKE	8th	A.E. Wright Middle School	Ms. Kane

For more information, please contact Alex Farassati at (818) 878-4205.

# Plastic Bag Update

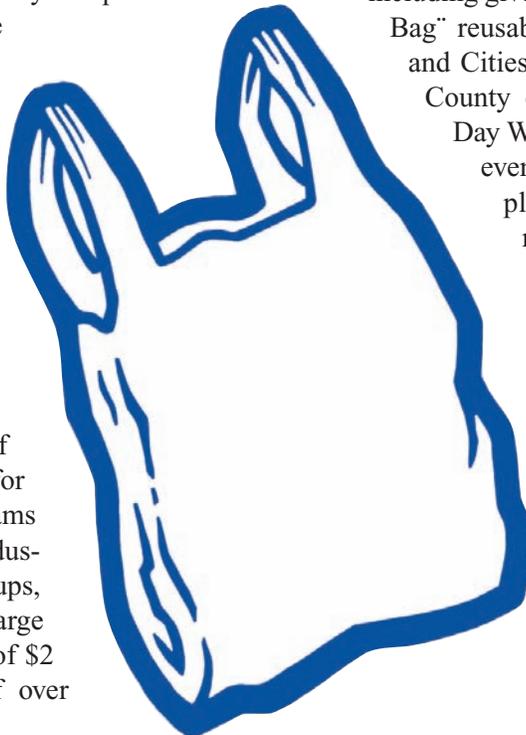
Each year, six billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in Los Angeles County. Littering highways, floating down waterways, and clogging catch basins, plastic bags have a significant negative impact on the environment and our residents' quality of life. According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, plastic bags make up only 0.4 percent of the overall landfill disposal waste stream, but can account for as much as 25 percent of the litter stream, an immensely disproportionate negative impact. Less than 5% of these bags are recycled.

10,000 square feet including pharmacies would be required to meet two plastic bag reduction benchmarks: 30% consumption reduction by 2010, and 65% by 2013. If either of these benchmarks is not met, a ban on plastic bags will be implemented. Simultaneously, the program will be expanded to cover other stores distributing plastic carryout bags, while the County will be reaching out to all 88 cities to participate in the program and adopt the disposal reduction goals as a coordinated effort to make a dent in the plastic bag litter problem.

## Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled.

On April 17, 2007, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors instructed the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to investigate the issue of polyethylene plastic bag and paper sack consumption in the County, including the pros and cons of adopting a policy similar to San Francisco's ban of non-biodegradable bags. Based on stakeholder feedback from environmental groups, industry, and community members, the County compiled a thorough staff report with a menu of options for the Board of Supervisors to consider.

On January 22, 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted a policy calling for the development of a suite of programs and incentives in conjunction with industry, manufacturers, environmental groups, residents, and local government. Large supermarkets with gross annual sales of \$2 million or more and retail stores of over



In order to encourage residents to reduce plastic bag use, the County participated in many local promotional events including giveaways of the popular "Brag About My Bag" reusable bags. Together with Heal the Bay and Cities throughout Los Angeles County, the County endorsed December 20, 2007 as "A Day Without A Bag." This wildly successful event encouraged shoppers to ditch their plastic shopping bags in favor of reusable bags. Such efforts will be incorporated into the Countywide campaign to increase recycling of plastic bags, promote reusable bags, and significantly reduce plastic bag litter. To learn more about this Policy and its programs, visit Los Angeles County's Environmental Resources website at [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or Coby Skye, Public Works, at (626) 458-5163, M-Th 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

## The California Global Warming Act of 2006 - AB 32 California Air Resources Board

The 2006 California Global Warming Solutions Act (Act), also known as AB 32, calls for significant reductions in the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced in California. The goal is to reduce 80 percent of emissions by 2050 from 1990 levels. As required by AB 32, the California Air Resource Board (CARB) developed the framework for meeting the goals of the Act. One such action included the creation of the Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee (ETAAC), with the purpose of recommending economic and technological advancement policies that can provide a cleaner and more competitive economy to reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions and develop a potential "clean tech" industry in California.

On February 28, 2008, CARB accepted a report from ETAAC entitled Technologies and Policies to Consider for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions In California. In this report, six specific sectors were analyzed from a policy and technology strategies standpoint: transportation, industry/commercial/residential, electricity/natural gas, agriculture, forestry, and water. The Industry/Commercial/Residential chapter contained a section on solid waste management, which included the following recommenda-

tions, among others: develop a suite of emission reduction protocols for recycling; increase commercial sector recycling; remove barriers to composting; phase out diversion credit for green waste used as landfill alternative daily cover (ADC); and evaluate/improve policies for conversion technologies.



Following review of the draft ETAAC report, the Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) sent comments to CARB emphasizing the need to complete full economic and environmental lifecycle analysis on recycling, composting, and alternative technologies in order to correctly quantify their relative GHG emissions reduction potential. Additionally, we raised concerns regarding the report's recommendation to eliminate diversion credit for green waste used as ADC, since such use has a number of environmental benefits and capacity. To manage this material presently does not exist and is very challenging to develop.

The Task Force will continue to monitor actions in Sacramento based on the recommendations outlined in the ETAAC report. For additional information, contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

### SB 1016 (Wiggins) Update

The Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) continues to monitor SB 1016 (Wiggins), a proposal to change the State's Diversion Rate Measurement System to a disposal-based accounting system. We circulated draft revisions of SB 1016 to stakeholders for review on June 7, 2007 and January 11, 2008. In addition to reducing the complexity and potential for errors in the current Diversion Rate Measurement System, the compliance measurement proposed more emphasis on the implementation of waste reduction, recycling, and other waste diversion programs, and less emphasis on the current mathematical accounting

system. The Task Force provided two letters explaining its support for revising the current State Diversion Rate Measurement System, and provided suggestions for improving the bill's language. Copies of Task Force letters are available at the Task Force website, [www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org). Senator Wiggins' staff in concert with the California Integrated Waste Management Board are developing revised language to present to stakeholders within the next few weeks. For additional information, please contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

## Public Works Partners with Kragen Stores to Promote Used Motor Oil and Filter Recycling to L.A. County Residents

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) continues to educate Do-It-Yourselfers (DIYers) through its Regional Used Motor Oil and Used Oil Filters Recycling Public Education Program. Public Works is airing public service announcements through May 2008 on KFWB News 980 and Latino 96.3 radio stations reminding residents to dispose of their used motor oil and used oil filter properly. In addition to these public service announcements, Team KFWB and Latino 96.3 Street Team promotional vans visit select Kragen Auto Parts stores throughout Los Angeles County providing incentives to DIYers when they bring used motor oil and oil filters to Kragen for recycling. Participants receive free gift certificates, Kragen T-shirts, oil filters, and other prizes while supplies last from the radio stations, Kragen, and Public Works.

Oil filters and used motor oil that are improperly disposed of may end up in facilities where they can leak and cause contamination, or they are dumped into our streets, alleys, or flood control channels. To prevent illegal dumping of oil filters, Public Works partnered with CSK Corporation (Kragen Auto Parts) in 2004 to conduct an oil filter collection program in 48 stores throughout the

County. Public Works provided a 55-gallon drum to all participating Kragen stores, and contracted with a licensed hauler to pick up and recycle the oil filters at no cost to Kragen or to the public.

To date, there are 44 Kragen Auto Parts stores that are part of the County's oil filter collection program. Approximately 53,000 oil filters were collected from these stores since the inception of the program. This Spring, Public Works is also co-sponsoring four oil filter exchange events planned by the Cities of Maywood, La Mirada, Lawndale, and Norwalk.

The Regional Used Motor Oil and Used Oil Recycling Public Education Program is sponsored by Public Works and funded through a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

For more information, please contact Rachel Benigno, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-3599, Monday -Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
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