



INSIDE SOLID WASTE

Winter 2026



Volume 115



lacountyiswmtf.org

Inside Solid Waste is produced quarterly by Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force



TOP STORIES

3 City of Pico Rivera Youth Ambassador Program

5 Dispose of Household Batteries the Right Way

6 Los Angeles County Public Works and Dodgers Team Up to Boost Recycling

8 Safe Disposal of Home Generated Sharps

Household Hazardous Waste Permanent Collection Centers



SWMC

Inside Solid Waste

Task Force Public Education and
Information Subcommittee

CHAIR

JOY PIPKIN

For information, call
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Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Visit lacountyiswmtf.org to find agendas, meeting minutes and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter. If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education and Information Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for Inside Solid Waste, please contact Monique Brackett at (626) 300-2697 or mbrackett@dpw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters.

City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E Permanent Collection Centers

Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., unless otherwise noted.
Services suspended during rainy weather.
For information, call (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942).

Gaffey Street Collection Center

1400 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

Hyperion Treatment Plant

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Washington Boulevard Collection Center

2649 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center

11025 Randall Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

UCLA Location (E-waste accepted on Saturdays only)

550 Charles E. Young Drive West, Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Thursday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center (Temporarily closed)

4600 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90039

Los Angeles County Permanent Collection Centers

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center

Antelope Valley Public Landfill,
1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale, CA 93551
Open 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

EDCO Environmental Collection Center

EDCO Recycling and Transfer Center,
2755 California Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755
Open 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

About Household Hazardous Waste

Items accepted: paint and solvents, used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze and other automotive fluids, cleaning products, pool and garden chemicals, aerosol cans, all medicines except for controlled substances, auto batteries, household batteries, computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs and electronic toys. **Not accepted: business waste, ammunition, explosives, radioactive material, trash, tires and bulky items such as furniture, refrigerators, washing machines/dryers and stoves.**

City of Pico Rivera Youth Ambassador Program: Inspiring Environmental Action Through Youth Leadership



The City of Pico Rivera Youth Ambassador (PRYA) Program, supported by CalRecycle's Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Local Assistance Grant and delivered through the non-profit Day One, is a core strategy within the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and improve community health.

The program provides high school students with practical training and leadership experience in organic recycling, food recovery, composting, and community climate action.

By engaging youth directly in SB 1383 activities, PRYA helps reduce methane emissions from landfilled organic waste while advancing the State mandate to cut organic waste disposal by 75 percent and recover at least 20 percent of edible food for human consumption. The City of Pico Rivera (City) believes that empowering young people with hands-on skills and real-world context

can drive long-term behavioral changes in households, promoting proper waste sorting, reducing food waste, and increasing participation in organic waste recycling.

Through weekly sessions, students learn about organic waste, methane reduction, and proper sorting practices. These sessions include interactive lessons, demonstrations, and community-focused projects that connect classroom learning to local action. PRYA participants take part in activities such as waste-sorting challenges, composting demonstrations, and field visits to see sustainable practices in action.

In partnership with Day One, students receive mentorship and project-based learning opportunities that strengthen communication, teamwork, and civic engagement. Participants also create outreach tools (e.g., posters, videos, and social media content) to educate peers, families, and neighbors about how small



household actions can help reduce harmful GHG emissions and improve overall air quality.

The PRYA Garden Program extends learning outdoors, teaching students sustainable gardening techniques, composting, soil health, and how recycled organic materials support plant growth. These skills reinforce the importance of organic recycling and give students tangible examples they can bring back to their homes and communities.

The City further encourages youth creativity through the 2025 Youth Art Competition, a collaboration between Pico Rivera and its franchise waste hauler, NASA Services. Students are invited to create artwork promoting composting, recycling, and reducing food waste. Winning designs will appear on an official NASA Waste Truck, and artists will receive certificates of recognition from the City. The contest is open to students in grades

K-12; for more information, visit www.pico-rivera.org/youth-art-competition.

Together, the Youth Ambassador Program, Garden Program, and Youth Art Competition support a comprehensive youth engagement effort that builds environmental awareness, cultivates leadership, and advances the City's zero-waste goals. By empowering today's youth, the City is fostering lasting household habits that reduce organic waste, cut harmful GHG emissions, and contribute to a cleaner, healthier community for generations to come.

Dispose of Household Batteries the Right Way



**BATTERIES
CAN SPARK
OR EXPLODE**



They don't belong in recycling or trash.



Spring is the season of renewal, spring cleaning, and fresh starts. As you upgrade tools, toys, and electronics for outdoor fun and home improvement projects, remember that many of these items are powered by household batteries such as AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9-volt, and rechargeable batteries. While it is easy to toss old batteries in the trash, doing so can be dangerous. Batteries contain metals and chemicals that make them hazardous waste, which are harmful to both people and the environment if not disposed of properly.

It is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste in the trash, down storm drains, on the ground, or into your regular recycling bin. When batteries come into contact with metal objects or other conductive materials, they can short-circuit, generate heat, and even ignite, causing fires in trash cans and garbage trucks. Fire safety organizations and waste management authorities report that improperly discarded batteries are responsible for a significant number of fires each year. These fires not only endanger property but also pose serious risks to public safety.

Residents can make a big difference by choosing rechargeable batteries whenever possible. They last longer, save money over time, and reduce waste. Rechargeable batteries are also made with more recyclable materials, making them more eco-friendly to process once they reach the end of their life.

When batteries no longer hold a charge, store them safely in an insulated container until they can be recycled properly. Taking a few simple steps to dispose of batteries responsibly helps reduce the risk of fires, protect public safety, and prevent toxic materials from entering landfills.

Los Angeles County residents can safely dispose of household batteries at participating libraries, temporary Countywide Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste (HHW/E-Waste) collection events, permanent collection centers, or [City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. centers](#).

To find a disposal site near you, visit <https://cleanla.lacounty.gov/> or call (888) CLEAN-LA.

Los Angeles County Public Works and the Los Angeles Dodgers Team Up to Boost Recycling and Combat Illegal Dumping



Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) partnered with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation and iHeartMedia to launch two major outreach campaigns to increase beverage container recycling and provide residents with resources to prevent and report illegal dumping. The campaigns launched at the start of baseball season and continued throughout the Dodgers' World Series run, amplifying visibility and strengthening community participation across Los Angeles County (County).

The Beverage Container Recycling (BCR) Campaign, funded in part through the CalRecycle BCR City/County Payment Program, focused on educating residents about recycling beverage containers and participating in the California Redemption Value (CRV) Program.

Dodgers star Freddie Freeman served as spokesperson, encouraging families, youth athletes, and fans to recycle more consistently and correctly.

A mix of targeted outreach strategies helped drive engagement, including radio spots and on-air mentions on the Dodgers station, AM 570 LA Sports; social media engagement; a countywide recycling challenge for Dodgers Dreamteam Little League players; a signed Freddie Freeman jersey giveaway; and on-site collaborations at Dodgers Foundation community events. Collectively, the BCR Campaign reached over 51 million people, demonstrating the significant impact of pairing solid waste education with community pride and sports enthusiasm.

Public Works and the Dodgers Foundation expanded their partnership to address another significant environmental challenge: illegal dumping. This ongoing issue affects neighborhoods, public spaces, and local waterways throughout the County. To raise awareness and connect residents with available resources, Dodgers pitcher Anthony Banda served as the campaign's spokesperson, focusing on prevention and reporting.

Residents were encouraged to use Public Works resources, such as the CleanLA hotline and [website](#), and the [The Works app](#), to report illegal dumping. Prevention messaging also informed residents in unincorporated communities about free bulky-item pickup services available through their County-contracted waste haulers.

Like the BCR Campaign, outreach included a broad mix of radio spots, social media content, billboards, and a signed jersey giveaway. This campaign also included Spanish-language messaging. These efforts generated over 32 million impressions, significantly enhancing public awareness.

Together with the two-time World Series champion Dodgers and iHeart Media, Public Works continues to strengthen recycling education and reduce illegal dumping to help create a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for all County residents.

To learn more about the Beverage Container Recycling Program, visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/bevcontainer/>.

Strike Out Illegal Dumping!



Knock it out of the park—and help keep LA County clean!



Report Trash and Illegal Dumping
Call (888) CLEAN-LA



CleanLA.com

Safe Disposal of Home-Generated Sharps



Every year, Californians use hundreds of millions of sharps, such as needles, syringes, and lancets, to administer medications. These items should never be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Improper disposal poses serious risks, especially to sanitation and waste management workers who may be injured while handling household waste.

Safe disposal of sharps helps to:

- Prevent injuries
- Reduce the spread of infectious diseases like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV
- Protect public safety and waste management workers

Where should I put my used sharps?

Used sharps must be placed in designated, puncture-proof containers. These containers are designed to safely contain hazardous materials, protecting both the community and the environment. You can pick up a FREE sharps container at countywide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Collection Events. Another option is to use a sturdy, leakproof, puncture-resistant container - just be sure to seal it, tape it, and label it "SHARPS".

How can I safely dispose of sharps generated at home?

Los Angeles County residents have several safe disposal options:

- Countywide HHW and E-waste collection [events](#)
- City of Los Angeles [S.A.F.E. Centers](#)
- Participating Public Health offices

No transportation? No problem.

Californians can order FREE sharps containers with prepaid mail-back options. These FDA-approved mail-back containers allow for safe collection and transport. Learn more at sharpstakebackcalifornia.org or call (844) 4-TAKE-BACK.

For more information on approved disposal sites and proper sharps disposal, or to find a location near you, visit <https://cleanla.lacounty.gov/> or call (888) CLEAN-LA.

Celebrating America Recycles Day: Public Works' Commitment to Sustainability



Each year on November 15th, communities nationwide celebrate America Recycles Day, an observance dedicated to promoting recycling and sustainable practices. Established by [Keep America Beautiful](#), the day reminds us that small actions, such as recycling properly or reducing waste, can have a significant environmental impact.

Los Angeles County (County) Public Works is committed not only to educating the public about recycling and proper waste disposal practices but also to engaging employees through its annual America Recycles Day event. This interactive celebration fosters learning, sharing ideas, and inspiration encouraging participants to take sustainable actions. This year's celebration featured hands-on activities, informational booths, resources, and giveaways to help employees reduce, reuse, and recycle at work and at home.

One of the event's highlights was a Smart Gardening Workshop, where participants repurposed old containers into drought-tolerant arrangements, demonstrating how sustainable gardening fits perfectly with Southern California's climate. Employees also enjoyed a creative

activity hosted by the Household Hazardous Waste Program: crafting natural air fresheners from oranges, cloves, and ribbon. This project illustrated how everyday household items can serve as eco-friendly alternatives to chemical-based products.

In addition, the event fostered collaboration among multiple County departments, where Public Works highlighted simple ways to make a difference by practicing the 4 R's: rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle. These partnerships help strengthen the County's culture of sustainability by promoting cross-departmental learning, encouraging innovative waste-reduction efforts, and reinforcing a shared commitment to environmental stewardship across the County.

Public Works recognizes that beyond celebration, these types of events inspire lasting change. By empowering employees and departments to adopt greener habits, we reduce landfill waste and help shape a cleaner, more sustainable future for the County.

To learn more about America Recycles Day, visit <https://kab.org/recycling/>.

City of Avalon Leads with Innovation in Waste Diversion and Community Partnership



Nestled on picturesque Santa Catalina Island, the City of Avalon (City) is proving that small communities can make a significant impact on sustainability. Faced with limited land and unique logistical challenges, the City has turned necessity into innovation, developing creative partnerships and community-driven programs that keep waste out of the landfill while strengthening the island's sense of connection and stewardship.

At the heart of the City's newest initiatives is a renewed focus on food recovery and community nourishment. The City has partnered with [The HungreeApp](#), a mobile platform that connects food donors with individuals and organizations in need, helping reduce food waste while tackling local food insecurity. Restaurants, grocery stores, churches, and households can easily list surplus food, while residents and food pantries can browse the app to find nearby free items.

Building on this digital tool, the City has expanded its local food recovery network. By working closely with Vons

(the only on-island grocery store), the City is coordinating regular food donations to the Avalon Food Pantry and increasing staffing to support extended pantry hours. This partnership ensures high-quality, surplus food is shared within the community instead of being discarded.

Complementing these food recovery efforts is the City's continued push to make recycling easier and more rewarding. The City recently celebrated the rollout of an Olyns Cube reverse vending machine at the Vons grocery store and marking the return of California Redemption Value (CRV) to Santa Catalina Island for the first time in more than two decades. Developed through a collaboration between the City of Avalon, Olyns, Vons, and CR&R Environmental Services (CR&R), the intelligent vending system allows users to redeem CRV-eligible bottles and cans for cash or digital rewards. With 70 to 80 unique users each month, the program is already helping divert materials from the landfill while encouraging participation through technology and convenience.



The City, in partnership with CR&R, continues to promote responsible disposal through the popular biannual Household Hazardous Waste and Bulky Item Drop-Off Events, held each April and October. These events give residents a safe and convenient way to dispose of e-waste, batteries, paints, and bulky household goods, all of which are transported off-island for proper recycling or disposal.

Looking ahead, the City plans to open a walk-up Recycling Center using a repurposed shipping container, where residents can drop off hard-to-recycle items like clothing, eyeglasses, toys, pool floaties, and propane canisters. Collected plastics will be transformed into park benches and picnic tables, turning waste into lasting community assets.

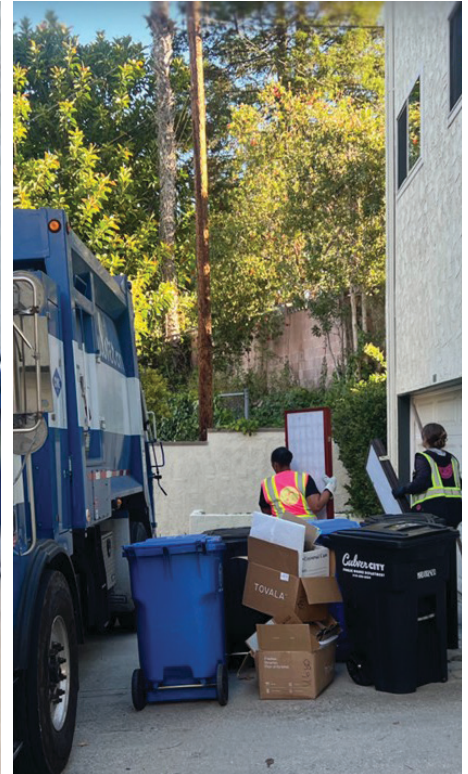
Additionally, Avalon is planning for its long-term waste management needs at the Pebbly Beach Landfill, which is owned by the City and operated by CR&R. With remaining capacity projected at just two years, the City

has proposed constructing an 18-foot mechanically stabilized earth wall to extend the landfill's lifespan by up to 27 years, ensuring stability while new diversion programs continue to grow.

Through these forward-thinking efforts, Avalon is redefining what is possible for small, isolated communities. By pairing innovation with collaboration, the City is charting a sustainable path forward, proving that when neighbors work together, even an island can lead the way toward a better future.

For more information on the City of Avalon's waste diversion efforts, visit <https://www.cityofavalon.gov/205/Environmental-Services>.

Culver City Women of Waste: Leading by Example in Community Service



On October 16, 2025, two of Culver City's (City) own leaders in Environmental Programs & Operations rolled up their sleeves and joined the frontlines of community service. Environmental Coordinator Shetauna Smith and Solid Waste & Recycling Supervisor Chloe McCarty teamed up to complete a large-scale bulky item cleanup at a multi-unit community complex demonstrating the resilience, teamwork, and dedication that define the City's commitment to public service.

Both women bring over a decade of experience in waste collection and operations, bringing practical field knowledge and strong leadership to the Environmental Programs & Operations Division. Their participation highlights the value of experience, collaboration, and dedication in ensuring that the City continues to provide high-quality waste and recycling services to the community.

With limited staffing and an increased number of bulky item requests, these two women stepped in to assist collection operations firsthand. Together, they loaded and removed bulky items, including furniture, mattresses, and assorted debris, relieving pressure on the City's regular

field crews and ensuring residents received timely service.

This effort demonstrated the City's commitment to collaboration, equity, and empowerment in the workplace, while also serving as a reminder that leadership in public works extends beyond the office. The effort embodies the City's mission to serve the community through teamwork, professionalism, and compassion.

"It's important for our community to see that leadership doesn't just come from behind a desk—it comes from stepping up when help is needed," said James Pledger, Assistant Environmental Programs & Operations Manager. "We're proud to show that women belong and thrive in every part of this industry."

Culver City Public Works applauds the ongoing dedication of all Environmental Programs & Operations staff who continue to uphold the City's high standards of service and sustainability.

To learn more about Culver City's Environmental Programs Division, visit <https://www.culvercity.gov/Services/Environmental-Programs>.

Meet Stan, Culver City's Spokesmonster



The City of Culver City's Environmental Programs and Operations Division teaches recycling best practices through an innovative augmented reality game featuring the new spokesmonster. The game was funded by CalRecycle's Beverage Container Grant program and served as an interactive teaching tool.

As packaging and regulations change, community members often ask, "What goes where?" Culver City sought to answer this question through gamifying the recycling experience. The City created a virtual spokesmonster character and hosted a naming competition. Over 100 name suggestions were received, and the social media community voted on the top eight. Over 300 people voted in the contest, in which Stan, a play on the word "sustainability," was chosen.

The Stan experience begins with the user allowing access to their camera. Stan then appears in the room and can be "set" wherever the camera is pointing. The user can play a game in which they sort beverage containers into either the trash or recycling. The virtual double-sided trash/recycle pedestrian can is a replica of the pedestrian cans installed throughout Culver City. When a user correctly identifies whether a beverage container belongs in the recycle bin or the trash, Stan does a happy dance. If the user chooses incorrectly, Stan will tell them it is incorrect and allows them to try again.

This is just the beginning of Culver City branching into the world of instructional games. Try Stan out for yourself at CulverCityRecycles.com.

City of Glendale's Successful Food Recovery Program



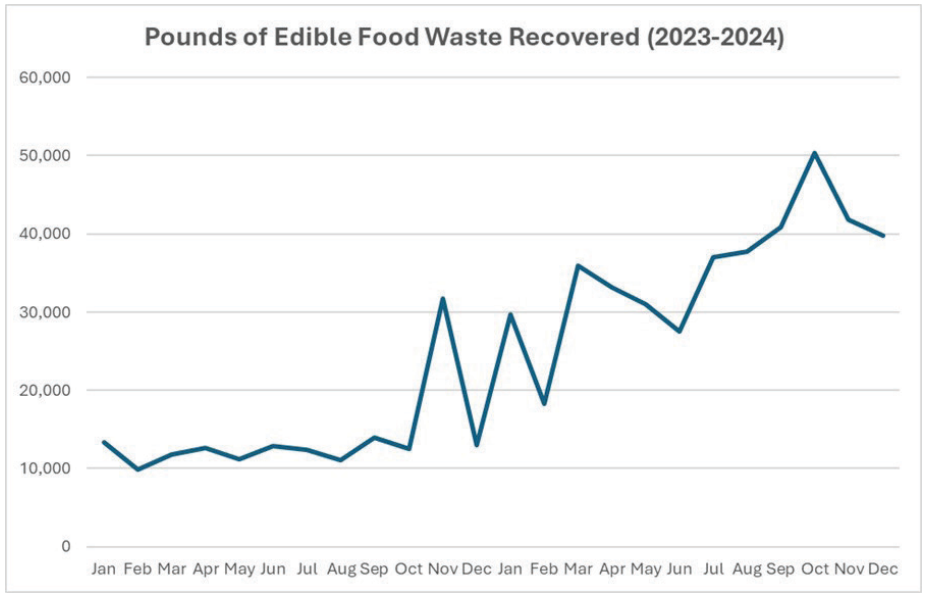
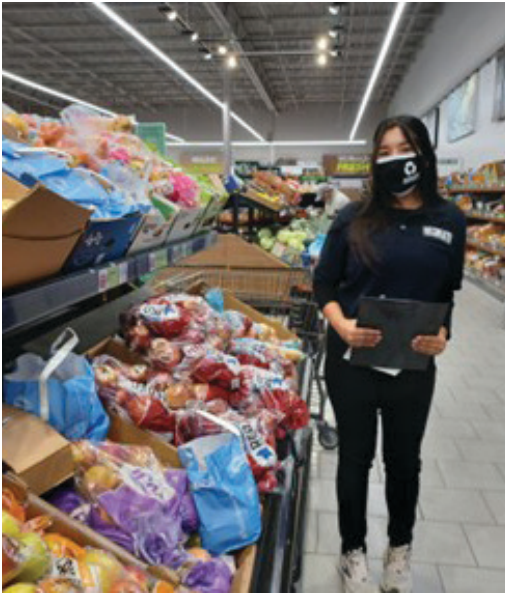
The City of Glendale (City) continues to demonstrate leadership in reducing food waste, combating climate change, and supporting vulnerable residents through its Edible Food Recovery Program. In alignment with California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383, which requires designated businesses to divert surplus edible food to approved food recovery organizations, the City has developed a coordinated and effective system that exceeds basic state mandates.

In 2021, the City established a four-zone exclusive franchise waste collection system. As part of the franchise agreements, haulers are required to provide dedicated funding to support the City's edible food diversion efforts. This \$150,000 annual funding enables the City to contract with a third-party service provider to manage the program's core activities.

Since 2022, the City has partnered with ReCREATE

Collaborative, supported by Foodcycle LA and CAREIT, to implement a focused and well coordinated food recovery strategy. Through this partnership, the City has streamlined the compliance process for local businesses while simultaneously reducing food insecurity and achieving a high compliance rate among edible food generators.

The program initially concentrated on ensuring SB 1383 compliance among the City's seven food distribution organizations and seventy-one Tier I and Tier II edible food generators. ReCREATE inspectors have become trusted points of contact within the community, helping businesses understand requirements and supporting the City's overall compliance goals. Building on this solid foundation, the program was expanded in 2024 to include a collection and redistribution component, with Foodcycle LA now coordinating timely



pickup and delivery of recovered food.

The City also hosts regular stakeholder meetings with local food recovery organizations to encourage collaboration and identify emerging needs. As a result of these discussions, the City expanded the program to allow voluntary participation from commercial generators not mandated under SB 1383. Additionally, individuals experiencing food insecurity, such as college students, can now access donated food by volunteering with participating recovery organizations. This approach not only improves access to food but also increases the network’s capacity to capture smaller quantities of edible surplus that might otherwise go to waste.

Monthly program data shows a steady increase in edible food recovery, rising from around 12,000 pounds in early 2023 to nearly 50,000 pounds by late 2024, a more than threefold increase. This growth reflects improved

coordination, strengthened partnerships, and expanded collection capacity.

Through strategic planning, community partnerships, and ongoing innovation, the City is demonstrating how local governments can move beyond compliance to create meaningful, lasting environmental and social benefits. The Edible Food Recovery Program is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preventing food waste, supporting public health, and strengthening the City’s commitment to sustainability.

For more information on Glendale’s Food Recovery Program, visit: <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/public-works/integrated-waste-management/businesses/edible-food-recovery>.

Los Angeles County Public Works Annex Garden and Do-It-Yourself Home Gardening Tips



Water conservation remains essential in California, especially in our gardens. That's why Los Angeles County Public Works created the Annex Garden. This beautiful and educational space shows how to create vibrant, sustainable landscapes using low-water and drought-tolerant plants.

What is the Annex Garden? Located at the southeast corner of Public Works Headquarters' Annex Building, the Annex Garden was designed as a demonstration space for employees and visitors. It showcases ways to beautify gardens year-round while conserving water. It also served as a model for the larger landscaping retrofit now seen across the Public Works campus.

In addition to its lush and colorful appeal, the garden supports pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, as well as beneficial insects like ladybugs, which provide natural pest control.

The garden is divided into three sections, each with a unique focus:

1. Drought-Tolerant Landscape – This area features bright, colorful, low-water plants and flowers that are both eye-catching and sustainable. Plant and flower varieties include: Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias Curassavica*), Lion's Tail (*Leonotis Leonurus*), Kangaroo Paw (*Anigoanthos Flacidus*), Pork and Beans (*Sedum Rubrotinctum*), Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia Grandiflora*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus Officinalis*), and much more.

2. Raised-Bed Vegetable Garden - Two 4' x 4' beds are planted seasonally to encourage home gardening. This fall, the beds include Jarrahdale pumpkins, French Marigold (Red Metamorph), Calendula Resina, Cherry Tomatoes (Patio Choice Yellow), and Lemon Drop Peppers.
3. Succulent Garden – Ideal for indoor and outdoor use, succulents thrive with minimal water. During the fall and winter seasons, they require watering only every 4-6 weeks. Featured plants in this area include Gollum Jade (*Crassula ovata*), Pork and Beans (*Sedum Rubrotinctum*), and Hens and Chicks (*Sempervivum*).

The Annex Garden demonstrates a water-efficient irrigation method using do-it-yourself ollas. Ollas are unglazed porous clay pots that provide passive water diffusion. Buried in the soil and filled with water, these pots slowly release moisture as the surrounding soil dries out. This natural wicking process keeps the soil evenly hydrated, making ollas especially effective during seed germination and in the heat of summer. Additionally, white garden rocks are used throughout the garden to naturally retain soil moisture.

For more tips on sustainable gardening and drought-resistant plants, please visit <https://cleanla.lacounty.gov/smartgardening/>.

Southern California Waste Management Forum 2025



On November 19, 2025, the Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) held an annual conference and exhibit in Ontario, California. The conference focused on Senate Bill (SB) 1838, SB 54, disposal capacity planning, and the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the value of recyclable materials.

The conference started with a keynote address by Ms. Zoe Heller, Director of CalRecycle. CalRecycle stated that they aim to halve food waste and reduce methane emissions by seven percent by the year 2030, emphasizing that local solutions will be crucial to achieving this target. CalRecycle also mentioned a new education campaign designed to simplify recycling messages for Californians. The campaign focuses on plain language, clear personal benefits, and easy-to-incorporate recycling steps, and will use influencers during the holiday season to maximize impact. Lastly, CalRecycle discussed California's larger shift towards a circular economy, including the development of a Zero Waste Plan, which outlines the critical policies, partnerships, and collaborations needed to achieve zero-waste goals.

The first session highlighted lessons learned from SB 1383 implementation. Republic Services and the City of Carlsbad introduced the joint public-private route review program, which schedules route reviews

quarterly or seasonally to prevent staff burnout. Carlsbad uses a multi-channel outreach strategy (postcards, emails, truck signage, on-site technical assistance) tailored to different generators. Using software like Recyclist, Carlsbad collaborates with Republic Services in real time to review data and assign follow-up tasks to sustainability advisors to take immediate action on noncompliance, which may include corrective action.

Economics experts identified challenges in multi-family organics implementation, such as resident turnover, space limitations, and inconsistent participation. They also highlighted successful practices including installing containers in trash chutes for organic waste collection, offering various bin sizes and split bins, and providing regular hauler services, including on Sundays, along with bulky-item pickup programs.

Lastly, CalRecycle provided an update on SB 1383 Compliance Evaluations, stating that evaluations are educational, and not automatically linked to enforcement. They emphasized the importance of record-keeping, ensuring implementation records align with regulations, and being prepared to explain best management practices.

The second session highlighted updates on SB 54. Ms. Heidi Sanborn of the National Stewardship Action Council emphasized the importance of extended



producer responsibility (EPR) in achieving zero waste. EPR has been adopted in many regions worldwide, with packaging being the most common product. Currently, EPR policies for packaging cover approximately 20 percent of the U.S. population across several states. Ms. Emily Coven, California Executive Director of Circular Action Alliance (CAA), discussed that CAA is the Producer Responsibility Organization implementing SB 54. CAA is developing the compliance plan, using producer fees to support packaging redesign, and will reimburse jurisdictions for the additional costs of collecting and processing new covered materials, excluding medical waste and California Redemption Value beverage containers.

The third session focused on the urgency of regional capacity planning for landfill disposal in Southern California as landfill lifespans shrink. Mr. Christopher Sheppard, Principal Engineer at Los Angeles County Public Works, noted that Los Angeles County generates 31 million tons of waste annually, and that concerns about available disposal capacity have grown following the closure of Chiquita Canyon Landfill in January 2025 and a major fire event that produced two million tons of debris. The closure of Chiquita Canyon Landfill highlights the pressing need for alternatives to landfill disposal. Mr. Tom Koutroulis, Director of Orange County Waste and Recycling, emphasized Orange County's sustainability investments, including expanded composting at landfill

sites and renewable natural gas projects, while noting the region wide decline in disposal capacity.

The fourth session highlighted how AI is transforming the material value chain. Ms. Bernadette Halverson, Senior Engineer at the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, introduced the City of Los Angeles's multilingual [Sort LA app](#) which reduces contamination by providing residents with accurate disposal guidance and generating data on common mistakes to inform future outreach. Mr. Apurba Pradhan, Head of Product and Marketing at EverestLabs, demonstrated AI systems capable of accurately identifying materials at sorting facilities that provide automated sorting, delivering detailed composition data, boosting recovery values, and informing packaging redesign. Mr. Kevin Hahn, Director of National Sales at Routeware, showcased AI driven platforms that streamline operations, cut fuel use and route hours, enhance curbside contamination detection, and automate billing. Panelists also emphasized AI's growing role in compliance and enforcement, highlighting tools such as inspection apps enabling faster, more consistent monitoring. Case studies demonstrated that AI can significantly reduce contamination and increase material capture.

The next SCWMF event will be the Spring Conference, scheduled for March 25, 2026, in Whittier, California.

For more information on the SCWMF event, visit <https://www.scwmf.org/>.



SPRING 2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) continuously monitors and analyzes legislation that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below are summaries of legislation the Task Force has tracked during the start of the 2025/2026 Legislative Session.

California State Legislation:

Bill Number / Author

Status

AB 27

Schiavo

Amended

June 19, 2025

2-year bill

This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2029, would provide an exclusion from gross income for amounts received, on or after March 1, 2024, as compensation for loss, damages, expenses, relocation, suffering, loss in real property value, closing costs with respect to real property, including relator commissions, or inconvenience, including access to the real property, related to the Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event in the County of Los Angeles.

AB 28

Schiavo

Amended

Sept. 3, 2025

2-year bill

This bill would require the state board to amend its regulations on methane emissions from a municipal solid waste landfill (MSW landfill) to establish requirements for monitoring landfill gas temperature. The bill would require the operator of an MSW landfill to monitor landfill gas temperature in accordance with those regulations. If the gas temperature is 131 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require the operator of the MSW landfill to take specified actions, including, but not limited to, filing a corrective action plan for the review by the local enforcement agency. Higher thresholds of 146 degrees Fahrenheit and 162 degrees Fahrenheit for the same duration necessitate further interventions, including a multiagency investigation and potential permit suspension/revocation.

Bill Number / Author

Status

AB 762

Irwin and Wilson

Amended

January 26, 2026

2-year bill

This bill would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2027, a person from importing or manufacturing for sale in this state a new or refurbished disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device, and, beginning January 1, 2028, a person from selling, distributing, or offering for sale a new or refurbished disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device in this state. The bill would define a “disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device” to mean a vaporization device that contains nicotine but not cannabis or a cannabis product and that is not designed or intended to be reused.

AB 1153

Bonta

Amended

January 22, 2026

2-year bill

This bill would authorize CalRecycle, to provide program funding to public entities to abate illegal disposal sites for removing and disposing of recreational vehicles and for enforcement strategies including developing local enforcement teams and illegal dumping enforcement officers.

AB 1606

Nguyen

Introduced

January 4, 2026

2-year bill

This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2032, would allow a credit against those taxes to a qualified taxpayer for qualified cleanup expenses. The bill would define qualified cleanup expenses for this purpose to mean costs directly related to the one-time removal and disposal of unauthorized encampments, illegal dumping, and abandoned property.

SB 501

Allen

Amended

January 4, 2026

2-year bill

This bill would extend EPR for loose batteries to include medium format batteries (E-bikes, outdoor lawn equipment, portable power systems, etc.) seeks to expand the program under AB 2440 EPR program to categorize all covered batteries as either a small format battery or a medium format battery. The bill would define a “small format battery” to include a rechargeable battery weighing no more than 11 pounds with a rating of no more than 300 watt-hours and a non-rechargeable battery weighing no more than 4.4 pounds. The bill would define a “medium format battery” to include a rechargeable battery weighing more than 11 pounds but no more than 25 pounds, a rechargeable battery with a rating of more than 300 watt-hours but no more than 2,000 watt-hours, and a non-rechargeable battery weighing more than 4.4 pounds but fewer than 25 pounds.



Bill Number / Author

Status

SB 561

Blakespear

Amended

June 23, 2025

2-year bill

This bill would create a manufacturer responsibility program for the safe and proper management of emergency distress flares. Would define “covered product” to include certain pyrotechnic devices that meet the criteria for household hazardous waste.

SB 811

Caballero

Amended

january 22, 2026

This bill would establish a comprehensive scheme for the regulation of metal shredding facilities that would be administered by the DTSC pursuant to authority separate from laws governing the control of hazardous waste. The bill would prescribe the requirements for obtaining a permit, for being deemed to have a permit, for operating a metal shredding facility, and for transporting certain materials related to metal shredding. The bill would require the DTSC to have primary responsibility for enforcing these provisions, would require the DTSC to conduct an annual compliance evaluation inspection of each metal shredding facility, and would authorize the DTSC to refer violations to a district attorney or the Attorney General for prosecution.

For more information on these bills, please visit the Task Force website, lacountyiswmtf.org or contact Perla Gomez with Los Angeles County Public Works, at (626) 300-2616, Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.