

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

January 18, 2024

Los Angeles County Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, rep by Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Dee Hanson Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Kate Downey, Republic Services
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Coby Skye, Public
Sonny Burkett, Harp Renewables
Tom Ybarra, Harp Renewables
Michael Stewart, Republic Services
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kim Yapp, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the November 16, 2023, minutes and Mr. Fahim Rahimi seconded. Motion passed with three abstentions.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Christine Arbogast from Tetra Tech stated that Tetra Tech is:

- Performing a Countywide siting analysis for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 jurisdictions in the County.
- Performing a follow-up feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites investigating land availability and land use compatibility.
- Finalizing a Fact Sheet and PowerPoint presentation for the proposed Calabasas AD facility in support of community outreach.
- Finishing a draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for the Antelope Valley in compliance with the Conditional Use Permit for Lancaster Landfill. The study includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for CT facility options.

Ms. Arbogast added that Tetra Tech recently prepared a Small-Scale On-Site Organic Waste Processing Management Options memo for a non-local entity in the County.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's December 17, 2023, monthly meeting, they announced that \$130.6 million in Organics Grants funding will be awarded to 23 applicants in support of Senate Bill (SB) 1383 compliance. Awardees include seven compost, seven AD/co-digestion, five standalone pre-processing, and five in-vessel projects.
- CalRecycle hosted an SB 1383 Chat on January 17, 2024, which focused on container contamination monitoring requirements.
- CalRecycle stated that SB 54 implementation reached the following milestones:
 - Circular Action Alliance was selected as the first Producer Responsibility Organization.
 - Draft regulations were published.

- Covered material categories were published.
- A report to the Legislature was published, which provides information related to recyclability of single-use packaging and single-use plastic food ware in California.
- CalRecycle will host a question-and-answer session on February 1, 2024, regarding the SB 54 law and regulatory process.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Ms. Kiem provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- Compost 2024: February 6 – 9, 2024, Daytona Beach, FL
- The 37th Annual Southeast Recycling Conference & Trade Show: February 18 – 21, 2024, Destin, FL
- Global Waste Management Symposium: February 25 – 28, 2024, Indian Wells, CA
- Zero Waste Symposium: February 28, 2024, San Diego, CA
- International 17th Annual Biomass Conference Expo: March 4 – 6, 2024, Richmond, VA

VI. PRESENTATION BY HARP RENEWABLES

Harp Renewables (Harp) provided a [presentation](#) on their biodigesters that convert food and other organic waste into a certified organic fertilizer within 24 hours.

Ms. Arbogast and Mr. Mike Mohajer asked about the biodigester capacity. Mr. Tony Ybarra responded that capacity ranges from 200 pounds per day to 5.5 tons per day.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Harp technology could be used at large venues such as the So-Fi Stadium. Mr. Ybarra responded that they met with So-Fi but that they already have a contract to manage food waste.

Mr. Rahimi asked if Harp has contracts with local customers. Mr. Ybarra responded they have a contract in San Diego, California as well as two contracts in San Fernando, California. He also said that Ikea is installing Harp biodigesters in Costa Mesa, California and Columbus, Ohio as part of a pilot program. He continued that Ikea may consider using the digesters worldwide, based on the results of the pilot. Mr. Ybarra added that Harp is also working with similar clients. He stated that Harp wants to partner with waste haulers to install their technology at transfer stations for food waste processing.

Mr. Sam Shammass asked how they handled contaminants, such as utensils, chicken bones, and compostable plastics. Mr. Ybarra responded that contaminants that cannot be digested using Harp's technology are screened out before entering the system. Mr. Sonny Burkett recommended that the incoming feedstock should be pre-processed to reduce its size to ensure that it can be fully digested. The technology produces a fertilizer which is an alternative solution to synthetic fertilizers. Mr. Ybarra added that if contaminants do enter the system, they can also be screened out of the fertilizer. Mr. Mohajer emphasized the importance of addressing contaminants due to strict state requirements for compost and soil amendments.

Mr. Mohajer asked whether the technology produces emissions and if it meets California Air Resources Board requirements. Mr. Burkett responded that Harp will obtain emissions results from an independent laboratory test in two months, and offered to share the results with the Subcommittee.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024.