

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

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



Spring 2006

Volume 46

Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility (IERCF)

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are constructing an Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility (IERCF) utilizing a 410,000-square foot warehouse on a 24-acre site in the City of Rancho Cucamonga. The existing structure is being retrofitted at an overall project cost of approximately \$62.5 million. Construction of the IERCF is scheduled to be complete this summer. This facility will ultimately process up to 300,000 tons per year of organics into Exceptional Quality compost.

The two agencies created a Joint Powers Authority, the Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA), with the specific objective to develop and manage a regional composting facility. This partnership is intended to maintain beneficial reuse alternatives for organics generated in the region,

including biosolids, greenwaste, and manure. By creating a management alternative other than landfills, and building markets for the compost product, the IERCA will help provide a long term, environmentally friendly, beneficial reuse for local organics.

In addition to manufacturing Exceptional Quality compost, the two agencies want to be good neighbors to the surrounding community. To achieve that, the entire composting process has been enclosed, and a state-of-the-art odor control system (biofilters) is being constructed on the property to handle any odors that are generated inside the building, creating a nuisance-free facility. For more information, contact Mike Sullivan at msullivan@lacsdsd.org or (562) 699-7411, extension 2824.



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 **Ken Pellman** at (626) 458-4094, or KPELLMAN@LADPW.ORG. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you feel you have something to contribute why not become a member of the Subcommittee?

Second "Billion Bottle March" Held in El Monte

The Second Billion Bottle March was held Sunday, November 13, 2005, at Arceo Park in the City of El Monte in celebration of America Recycles Day. The unique half-day event attracted hundreds of local residents of all ages who gathered to raise awareness in the community about the billion plastic bottles carelessly discarded each year in California. Co-sponsored by the California Department of Conservation (DOC), and the City's four commercial refuse haulers, the symbolic march was held with the help of half the schools in El Monte, as well as many civic organizations and businesses. The Billion Bottle March featured a live band, and circled Arceo Park while participants shouted environmental slogans, and carried signs and banners to encourage local action to protect the environment and increase recycling of plastic water bottles.

The Billion Bottle March was followed by free food and drinks, recycling games, information tables, and a recycled art and fashion show including the eco-design and decorating of t-shirts imprinted with the Billion Bottle March logo. One of the key features of the Billion Bottle March was to involve local schools to use recycling as a fund raiser as well as awareness builder. Recyclers were on hand to accept CRV materials from the public and participating schools who were paid up to four times the normal CRV value. Two of the four trash companies, Phoenix Refuse and Recycling and American Reclamation, donated the

CRV difference that resulted in \$10,750 to the schools (kudos to Phoenix), and \$6,937.04 to the community (kudos to American Reclamation). A total 6,872 lbs. - over three tons - of CRV material was brought to the event to be recycled. The other two haulers, Valley Vista Services and Waste Management, Inc., also contributed valuable in-kind services for advertisements, games, food, drinks, and many other supplies that really made the event fun and attractive.

City Council members were on hand to greet the public and encourage residents to support recycling and waste prevention. Recycle Rex from the DOC made a special appearance on stage. The public was urged to increase recycling and decrease waste, improve the community, and protect the storm water system from litter.

For further information call David Ellis, Environmental Services Manager, City of El Monte, at (626) 590-2062.



Calabasas Calls For Use of Solid Waste Conversion Technologies

The Calabasas City Council adopted Resolution 2006-997 on January 11, 2006, in support of solid waste conversion technologies and requested a facility at the Calabasas Landfill. During a public meeting on December 6, 2005, the Calabasas Environmental Commission received testimony from Coby Skye, Associate Civil Engineer, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, on solid waste conversion technology. The Environmental Commission unanimously supported conversion technology and the development of such a facility in Calabasas. City Council then approved the resolution a month after the commission meeting.

By approving the resolution, the council was recognizing that landfill space is at a premium, and disposal rates are estimated to increase, so Los Angeles County must invest in landfill alternatives such as conversion technologies, that inhibit disposal rates, generate jobs, and utilize abundant biomass and organic waste material in an environmentally beneficial manner.

The resolution went on to state that waste recycling must be extended to establish a statewide recycling goal and local planning requirements, to develop an extensive recycling and composting infrastructure, to increase removal of hazardous materials from the waste stream, and to establish advanced disposal fees and other manufacturer responsibility measures in conserving natural resources

The City Council requested that a conversion technology facility at the Calabasas Landfill be considered for any future planning of facilities within Los Angeles County.

The resolution is a tremendous step forward in appealing to the California Legislature to establish a facility not only in Calabasas, but within California - enabling California to become the first state to support conversion technology. For more information about conversion technologies or the Calabasas Resolution, please contact Heather Stotland, the Calabasas Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinator at (818) 878-4225.

There are six permanent collection centers where L.A. County residents can dispose of their Household Hazardous Waste.

Please see permanent center descriptions below for details or call 1-800-98-TOXIC or 1(888)CLEAN-LA for more information.

ANTELOPE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COLLECTION CENTER
1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale, CA 93551
1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

GAFFEY STREET COLLECTION CENTER
1400 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

HYPERION TREATMENT PLANT
7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293
Open Saturdays and Sundays 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

WASHINGTON BOULEVARD COLLECTION CENTER
2649 E. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

RANDALL STREET S.A.F.E. CENTER
11025 Randall St., Sun Valley, CA 91352
Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

UCLA LOCATION
550 Charles E. Young Dr. West
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Electronic waste accepted on Saturdays only

What's Up?

HHW ROUNDUPS are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the Los Angeles County 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 22 **Azusa** - Northrup-Gruman Corporation
West 3rd Street and Zachary Pedilla Avenue
- April 22 **Northridge** - Cal State Northridge University
Lot-10 at Lassen St. & Lindley St.
- April 29 **Hawthorne** - Betty Ainsworth Sports Center
El Segundo Blvd. and Doty Ave.
- May 6 **Palos Verdes Peninsula** - City Hall/City Yard
30940 Hawthorne Blvd.
- May 13 **La Mirada** - La Mirada Regional Park
Tennis Court/Swimming Pool Parking Lot - Adelfa Dr.
- May 20 **West Covina** - West Covina Maintenance Yard
825 Sunset Ave.
- May 27 **Maywood** - Maywood Park
57th St. and Heliotrope Ave.
- June 3 **Athens** - Los Angeles County Property
1326 West Imperial Hwy.
- June 4 **Agoura** - Calabasas Landfill (Scale Area)
5300 Lost Hills Rd.
- June 10 **Torrance** - American Honda
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Enter from Harper's Way off of Van Ness
- June 17 **Irwindale** - LA County Dept. of Public Works
Flood Control Maintenance Yard
160 East Longden Ave.
- June 24 **Culver City** - West Los Angeles College
Parking Lot #7
4800 Freshman Dr.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

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

May 18 - 1 p.m.
 June 15 - 1 p.m.
 July 20 - 1 p.m.

All meetings will be held in Conference Room C

For information call Christine Frias at (626) 458-3565. M - Th, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Visit www.lacountyiswmtf.org where you can find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.

Universal Wastes No Longer Acceptable in Household Trash

In February, regulatory changes regarding the disposal of universal wastes went into effect for households and small businesses. Since 2002, households and small businesses had been exempt from California's Universal Waste Rule in order to give local agencies more time to implement collection programs. The new regulations were adopted by the Department of Toxic Substances Control in 2000.

Under the rule, "universal waste" is defined as batteries, mercury thermostats and thermometers, fluorescent lights, cathode ray tube devices such as computer monitors and televisions, and other products containing mercury, lead, acid, zinc, cadmium, or other corrosive or flammable toxins.

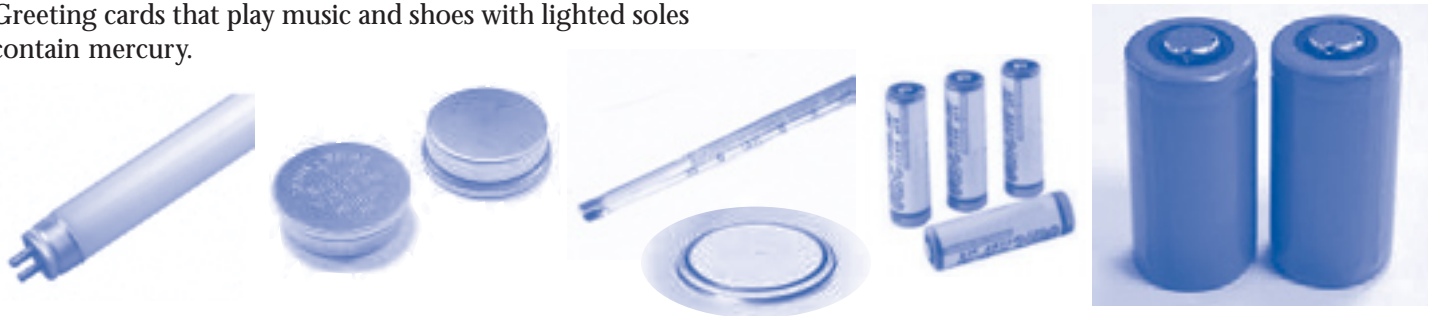
The ever-increasing use of electronics in our daily lives has made universal waste...well, universal. Common batteries include AA, AAA, and D cells, but there are also button batteries used in medical devices like hearing aids and some scales. In addition to fluorescent light bulbs, we now have high-intensity discharge (HID), metal halide, sodium and neon bulbs, which all contain mercury vapors. Greeting cards that play music and shoes with lighted soles contain mercury.

Of course, there are the more well-known electronic waste items as well, such as different kinds of phones, pagers, computer monitors and towers, printers, televisions, video cassette recorders, radios, and microwave ovens. These items may contain lead, cadmium, chromium, and copper.

Some items may have mercury switches that fall under this category: pilot light sensors, electric switches, blood pressure devices, stoves, ovens, water heaters, space heaters, clothes dryers, and furnaces.

Finally, aerosol cans marked "flammable" or "toxic" should not be tossed into the household trash container unless completely empty of everything.

Visit 888CleanLA.com or www.zerowaste.ca.gov/ for more information, including a supply of posters, stickers, and a public service announcement. Residents and business owners can see a list of banned items and find out what to do with the items when they want to dispose of them.



LEGISLATIVE ALERT: SB 928 Would Increase Mandatory Diversion Rate to an Unknown Amount

Most jurisdictions share a common goal of reducing waste. Even before passage of AB 939 in 1989, local jurisdictions were at the forefront of reducing, reusing, and recycling. AB 939's mandate to achieve a 50% reduction of waste sent to disposal has spurred even more diversion activities, however it has also created unintended consequences. For example, there are additional costs and bureaucracy in tracking and documenting disposal, attempting to calculate actual diversion, and numerous unanswered questions about the accuracy of the diversion measurement system and what counts or does not count as disposal. Even the State has recognized that this measurement system is broken.

Despite these unresolved concerns, State Senators Don Perata (Senate President Pro Tem) and Alan Lowenthal

introduced SB 928, legislation that would increase the State's diversion mandate to an unknown percentage. Yes, you read that right, *unknown percentage*. The legislation has already passed a number of key legislative committees and the Senate without sufficient input from affected jurisdictions, a cost/benefit analysis, or provisions for reimbursement.

Right now SB 928 remains active in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Because the Bill is still pending, we urge our readers to contact their legislative representatives and oppose SB 928. A copy of the Task Force's letter opposing this Bill, as well as all other correspondence by the Task Force, is available on our website at www.lacountyiswmtf.org.

Conversion Technology News Roundup

Each year, California diverts millions of tons of waste from disposal. However, nearly 40 million tons still need to be disposed. With national attention focusing on the need to generate renewable fuels and energy, and California's efforts to accomplish a 'zero waste' goal, conversion technologies provide a golden opportunity to reduce our dependence on both fossil fuels and landfilling, all while generating valuable renewable energy. The development of conversion technologies is progressing at a rapid rate both locally and abroad. Below is a roundup of news and events regarding these developments, which will be a regular feature of *Inside Solid Waste*. For more information about conversion technologies, visit the Task Force's Conversion Technology website, www.lacountyiswmtf.org.

Local

The Task Force continues to pursue the development of a demonstration conversion technology facility in Southern California. The Task Force's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee is currently reviewing three proposals that would facilitate this project, and will also be issuing an outreach contract later this year.

On February 17, 2006, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to adopt Councilman Greig Smith's RENEW LA plan. This plan identifies conversion technologies prominently in the City's effort to reduce waste disposal.

An Environmental/Conversion Technology Summit is currently planned for June 2006 at UCLA. The summit is designed to solicit feedback from representatives of government, the environmental community, and the public on the suitability of conversion technologies, as well as to educate the public about conversion technologies. Information will be posted on the Task Force's website as it becomes available.

State

The Waste Board is sponsoring an Emerging Technologies Forum on April 17-18, 2006, in Sacra-

mento, as a means to provide an open forum for stakeholders to discuss and develop a common understanding of emerging technology issues, innovations and development.

Assembly Bill 1090, sponsored by Assemblymember Matthews, died in committee in January 2006. Originally, the bill would have defined conversion technologies more accurately, provided diversion credit, and allowed for the reprioritization of the waste management hierarchy to include conversion technologies.

In February 2006, Assemblymember Matthews introduced AB 2118. With the array of societal, economic, and environmental benefits that conversion technologies offer, the Task Force was discouraged to find that legislative language contained in AB 2118 contradicts language in AB 1090 and would actually harm the development of these technologies. Therefore, the Task Force and many supporters of the original AB 1090 version are strongly opposing AB 2118.

Federal

On January 31, 2006, President George W. Bush declared that our nation is "addicted to oil" in his State of the Union address, generating new interest in renewable energy as a means to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. As part of the President's Biofuels Initiative, \$150 million dollars has been allocated for research and development for domestically produced alternative fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, two products that can be derived from conversion technologies.

Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, EPA is responsible for promulgating regulations to ensure that gasoline sold in the United States contains a specific volume of renewable fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel. A national Renewable Fuel Standard will increase the volume of renewable fuel that is blended into gasoline, starting with calendar year 2006.

Building Dedicated To Honor Ginger Bremberg

Instead of raising her scepter, the self-described “Queen of Trash” Mrs. Ginger Bremberg, used her scissors to cut the red ribbon, dedicating the new Ginger Bremberg Integrated Waste Management Building in Glendale on January 24, 2006.

Over 100 people attended the dedication ceremony, including community leaders, former government associates, friends and family. All praised Mrs. Bremberg for her leadership in the area of waste management and recycling. The Glendale City Council unanimously voted to name the building at the City’s Integrated Waste Management Facility after Mrs. Bremberg, due to her renowned service to the City of Glendale which spanned more than two decades.

Mrs. Bremberg is well known for her prominence in solid waste management issues. She was influential in creating and establishing groundbreaking recycling and waste management policies not only in Glendale, but throughout the State of California. She served as Glendale’s Mayor four times; City Councilwoman for four four-year terms; and Chair of the Glendale Redevelopment Agency twice. Further illustrating her diligence and dedication to solid waste issues, Mrs. Bremberg was appointed by the LA County Board of Supervisors to the LA County Integrated Waste Management Task Force in 1991 and served as the Task Force’s Vice Chair till her retirement in 2001.



Mrs. Bremberg also served as the Chair of the former California Waste Management Board as an appointee of former Governor George Deukmejian through the end of 1989. Clearly, Mrs. Bremberg is well deserving of the title: “Queen of Trash.”

Mrs. Bremberg, whose husband Bruce passed away after a brief illness just days prior to the dedication, recognized her longtime friend and companion during the ceremony. “Ginger is my name but Bremberg was Bruce’s name, and so he’s here with me and he always will be, as long as this building stands. And, I hope as you drive by or as you use it, you’ll remember we were a team,” says Mrs. Bremberg. Ginger and Bruce Bremberg were married for 54 years.

The work of the Brembergs has inspired and motivated countless others to dedicate their lives to building a better tomorrow, so it is fitting that the Bremberg name be so prominently honored in a lasting way.

The Task Force would like to extend their hearty congratulations to Mrs. Bremberg for the well deserved honors bestowed on her by the City of Glendale. In addition, the Task Force offers its heartfelt condolences on the loss of her beloved husband, Bruce. For more information, contact Mike Mohajer at mikemohajer@yahoo.com.

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