

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

March 16, 2023

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
Paul Koster, Republic Services
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Dee Hanson Lugo, rep by Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Department of Public
Health
Kay Martin, rep by James Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Darshna Patel, City of Los Angeles
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Richard D' Abo, New Planet Energy
Ryan Bird, New Planet Energy
John Cruikshank, New Planet Energy
Gary Petersen, New Planet Energy
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, 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 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon reported that Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works with the following:

- Tetra Tech identified potential sites for organic waste processing and thermal conversion facility development and is evaluating several old landfills within Los Angeles County.
- Tetra Tech is assisting with the preparation of a grant application for CalRecycle's Organics Grant Program, Cycle 7 for development of a proposed anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer asked which site was identified for a potential organic waste processing and thermal conversion facility. Mr. Leon responded that it was a vacant commercial site, referred to as Gardena Valley #6, a closed landfill located in the City of Carson.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Fahim provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's monthly public meeting on February 21, 2023, CalRecycle provided an update on Senate Bill (SB) 54 (2022):
- CalRecycle hosted an information session on February 28, 2023, providing an overview of the Advisory Board and the needs assessment:
 - CalRecycle is now accepting applications for Advisory Board members.
 - The deadline to apply is March 24, 2023.
 - The Advisory Board will have 10 voting and 3 non-voting members.
 - Members of the Advisory Board will provide guidance in creating a circular economy and advising the implementation of the new law.
- CalRecycle held an SB 1383 Chat on March 15, 2023, which focused on multi-family dwellings.
- CalRecycle is accepting applications for their Organics Grant Program for organic waste pre-processing, composting, and AD infrastructure. Local government agencies, qualifying tribes, businesses and non-profits are eligible to apply. The deadline is April 20, 2023.

Mr. Hunter commented that CalRecycle should reconsider the number of voting members on the SB 54 Advisory Board to reduce the chances of voting ties.

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

Ms. Tran Kiem provided an update on events and conferences, which can also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Spring Conference: March 23, 2023, Pomona, CA
- National Association County Engineers (NACE) Annual Conference 2023: April 16 - 20, 2023, Orange Beach, Alabama
- The 14th Waste Conference Technology Conference: April 17 - 20, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia. This conference will be co-located with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) SOAR 2023 Conference.
- SWANA SOAR 2023: April 17 - 20, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia
- 16th Annual VerdeXchange VX2023 Marketmakers' Conference: April 30 - May 2, 2023, Los Angeles, CA
- Waste Expo 2023: May 1 - 4, 2023, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Business Meeting: May 24, 2023, Fullerton, CA

Mr. Mohajer stated that the SCWMF Spring Conference on March 23, 2023, will be held in the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in Pomona, CA. The SCWMF will also be hosting its Annual Business Meeting on May 24, 2023, at the Coyote Hills Golf Course in Fullerton, CA.

VI. PRESENTATION BY NEW PLANET ENERGY

Mr. Ryan Bird, CEO of New Planet Energy (NPE), provided a [presentation](#) on New Planet Energy's (NPE) proposed advanced mixed waste processing facility and its ability to process black bin trash.

Mr. Mohajer asked NPE what their process involves as waste enters their facility. Mr. Bird responded that, initially, the waste will be mechanically separated. Then, it will be dried in a bio-drying room which involves drying the waste using a combination of mechanical turning and a system of fans.

Mr. Mohajer asked if Californians Against Waste (CAW) refer to NPE's process as thermal conversion or burning. Mr. Gary Petersen stated that CAW did not classify it as either.

Mr. Richard D' Abo, also with NPE, noted that one of the products they anticipate their facility will produce is an engineered fuel that can be used in cement kilns to reduce emissions and help achieve a circular economy.

Mr. Mohajer asked if NPE had communicated with CalRecycle to determine if their proposed process will be considered a reduction in organic waste disposal. Mr. Bird stated they have been in touch with CalRecycle and received a positive response and encouragement.

Mr. Eugene Tseng proceeded to answer some of NPE's questions in their presentation regarding waste auditing data. Mr. Tseng stated that all landfills in the County have waste categorization records and data. He also mentioned that materials recovery facilities (MRFs) in the City of Los Angeles also keep data on their recovery rates from recycling, organic waste, and trash bins.

Mr. Tseng asked if NPE dries food waste and other organic waste from black bin trash in order to reduce moisture and convert it into fuel. Mr. Bird answered that they will dry the food waste and organic waste, with no separate processing for food waste or organic waste. Mr. Tseng asked if their process meets Assembly Bill 1126 (2013) requirements and current cement kiln processing requirements. Mr. Bird answered that their process will meet these requirements.

Mr. Hunter asked if NPE had considered partnering with existing MRFs within the County and incorporating their process into an existing facility instead of obtaining permits for a new facility. Mr. Bird stated that they have not yet considered a partnership with an existing MRF. Mr. Hunter also asked NPE how they address odors from their process. Mr. Bird responded that their process will incorporate a bio-drier and bio-filters that remove odors. Mr. Hunter asked whether NPE would require a dedicated waste stream from the City of Lancaster and surrounding area if it built a facility in the City of Lancaster. Mr. D' Abo stated that the waste could come from any jurisdiction.

Mr. D' Abo ended the discussion by asking for support from the Task Force to meet State and local requirements, rules, and regulations, and also requested support in securing a dedicated waste stream for processing at NPE's facility.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 20, 2023.