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November 5, 2013

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STATUS OF RECYCLING PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS AT MULTIFAMILY APARTMENT COMPLEXES IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES (COUNCIL FILE NO. 13-0928)

SUMMARY:

As directed by Council Motion (Council File No. 13-0928), the Bureau of Sanitation (Sanitation) is providing this report to present the current status of recycling programs and requirements at multifamily apartment complexes in the City; including, the percentage of multifamily dwellings (apartment or condo buildings of five or more units) that are participating in recycling programs both in the City of Los Angeles (City) as a whole and in each individual Council District.

BACKGROUND:

In its effort to capture a larger percentage of recyclable solid waste, on April 16, 2004 Sanitation implemented a voluntary pilot multifamily recycling program that targeted up to 100,000 (or 15%) of the current 650,000 multifamily dwellings Citywide. The pilot program was the first phase of a permanent, continuous, Citywide multifamily recycling program; and, included training and educating tenants on program eligibility and participation. To further gather necessary information during the pilot, local Community-Based Organizations were recruited to physically canvas multifamily buildings in target areas.

In July 2007 the MultiFamily Residential Recycling Program (MFRP) transitioned from a pilot program servicing 70,000 units to a permanent Citywide program serving 427,000 households.



On February 17, 2011, then-Assembly Member, Bob Blumenfield introduced AB 818, the Renters' Right to Recycle Act. This bill requires an owner of a multifamily dwelling, defined as a residential facility that consists of five or more living units, to arrange for recycling services that are appropriate and available for the multifamily dwelling, consistent with state or local laws or requirements applicable to the collection, handling, or recycling of solid waste, except as provided.

AB 818 provided that it would become operative only if AB 341, of the 2011-12 Regular Session, was not enacted and did not become effective on or before January 1, 2012. The Governor approved AB 818 on September 7, 2011.

On October 5, 2011, AB 341 was signed by the Governor. This bill requires a business, defined to include a commercial or public entity that generates more than four cubic yards of commercial solid waste per week, or is a multifamily residential dwelling of five units or more to arrange for recycling services, on and after July 1, 2012. By requiring a jurisdiction to implement a commercial solid waste recycling program, this bill imposed a state-mandated local program.

DISCUSSION:

The City's MultiFamily Residential Recycling Program (MFRP) contracts with three (3) permitted private haulers to provide required services for its implementation Citywide. To date, MFRP services approximately 427,000 units within 18,000 properties, approximately 64% of the City's multifamily dwellings, and has diverted 91,000 tons of recyclables from landfills. Additionally, Sanitation's Curbside Recycling Program services approximately 177,000 multifamily (3 – 4 living units) locations. In total, Sanitation provides recycling services to an estimated 82% of the total multifamily units located within the City.

The MFRP provides weekly recycling services, blue bins for the storage of recyclables, educational materials for tenants, and valet service of the bins by contracted private waste haulers. The MFRP mirrors the existing single-family curbside recycling program, in that blue bins are provided for collection and the same recyclable materials are accepted in both programs. The MFRP has a modification to the existing single family collection model, which does not require residents to place their blue bins along the street for weekly pickup. Instead, the MFRP offers a "valet service" in which the City's contracted private waste hauler accesses the property weekly to retrieve the blue bins. After servicing the blue bins, the waste hauler returns the blue bins to their designated recycling area. The MFRP is voluntary and is only implemented after the approval of the owner, property manager, or homeowner's association is given.

A number of multifamily apartment complexes in the City do not participate in the voluntary program, as they prefer to have a contracted, private waste hauler service their recycling due to a lack of space for the MFRP blue bins on the property, or for the convenience of having one source of service. With the initiation of mandatory commercial and multifamily recycling through AB 341, on July 1, 2012, the City can now require that the City's permitted private haulers report on the properties that are receiving recycling services.

Over the next three years, Sanitation is developing an Exclusive Franchise system for both commercial business and large multifamily complexes in the City. Through the Request For Proposals (RFP) process, Sanitation will bring forward franchise contracts for approval. The program will include, at a minimum, blue bin recycling at all customer sites. At that time, 100% of multifamily complexes will have recycling services.

DATA COLLECTION:

The data for this report was collected from several different City Departments and Sanitation sources as there is no single source or existing database for the data. Data was collected from:

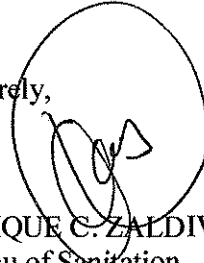
- Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) Code Enforcement – The information received from LAHD was from 2010, 2012, and 2013. The data did not include condominiums as they are outside the SCOPE of HCID and are not tracked within the LAHD database. The 2010 and 2012 data did not include the new Council Districting of 2011. The 2013 data did not include the number of individual units at the listed properties as the LAHD Systems Staff stated the data source for unit numbers would be too large for them to manipulate into an understandable format. Because Sanitation was unable to obtain data that included condominiums as well as a break out of units at each location, it was decided that the LAHD data was insufficient for use in this report.
- MultiFamily Residential Recycling Program (MFRP) – The information in this database is limited to multifamily dwellings of 5 units or more that are enrolled in the MFRP. Although useful, this information did not completely answer the request of the Motion set forth in Council File 13-0928. The data also required additional processing, or geocoding, in order to reflect the 2011 redistricting. Geocoding is a process of layering one database onto another in order to filter information into specific areas.
- AB 341 Reporting – 2012 was the first year that the City's independent, permitted, waste haulers had to comply with AB 341 reporting. The haulers reported on their commercial and multifamily solid waste service locations. Although there was some reporting of recycling services, it was not the focus of the report and there was not enough information to gain an accurate account of the number of multifamily locations receiving recycling services from the City's MFRP.
- Department of Water and Power (DWP) – The DWP invoicing database was accessed in order to gain the number of multifamily properties within the City. The data then needed to be geocoded in order to gain the number of units in each Council District. Because of the size of this database it took some time for the geocoding to be completed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this program is provided by the Citywide Recycling Trust Fund (CRTF). No General Funds are used to implement this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this report.

Sincerely,



ENRIQUE C. ZALDIVAR, Director
Bureau of Sanitation

Attachment

c: Alex E. Helou, Bureau of Sanitation
Karen A. Coca, Bureau of Sanitation
Marisela Reyes, Bureau of Sanitation
Holly L. Wolcott, Office of the City Clerk

Attachment 1

Bureau of Sanitation
 MultiFamily Residential Recycling Program (MFRP)
 City of Los Angeles Curbside MultiFamily Recycling Program
 Estimated Enrollment in the City of Los Angeles 2013

Council District	# of Multifamily Units in DWP database (Properties with 3 or more units)	# of Enrolled Units in MFRP (Properties with 5 or more units)	# of Enrolled Units in Multifamily Curbside (3-4 units)	% of Total Units (3 or more) Receiving Recycling Services from the City
1	50,515	28,290	14,780	85%
2	62,787	38,588	8,531	75%
3	44,403	37,505	3,179	92%
4	75,722	47,249	11,032	77%
5	75,371	50,728	12,114	83%
6	41,162	31,664	2,804	84%
7	20,547	13,794	4,419	89%
8	31,537	6,766	15,350	70%
9	31,004	6,196	18,521	80%
10	63,440	31,930	19,578	81%
11	67,838	40,804	16,016	84%
12	23,564	18,379	4,062	95%
13	69,716	36,375	19,453	80%
14	38,456	22,800	11,410	89%
15	36,686	15,226	15,620	84%
TOTAL	732,748	426,884	176,869	82%