

TRANSMITTAL

To:

THE COUNCIL

Date: NOV 14 2013

From:

THE MAYOR

TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.



(Ana Guerrero)

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

October 30, 2013

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ARLEEN P. TAYLOR
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#1 BOS

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Room No. 305
City Hall
Attn: Mandy Morales

Subject: CITY'S RECYCLING (DIVERSION) RATE-UPDATE REPORT

As recommended in the accompanying report of the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation, which this Board has adopted, the Board of Public Works requests approval and forwarding to the City Council for their information, and to receive and file the City's Recycling (Diversion) Update reporting a 76.4% diversion rate, which is a key component of the City of Los Angeles' Zero Waste Initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

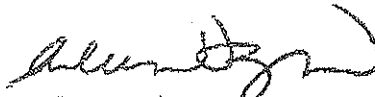

Arleen P. Taylor, Executive Officer
Board of Public Works

APT:mp



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF SANITATION
BOARD REPORT NO. 1
October 30, 2013


Executive Officer

CITY'S RECYCLING (DIVERSION) RATE- UPDATE REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommend that the Board receive and forward the Report to Mayor and Council for their information.
2. Request that the Mayor and Council receive and file the City's Recycling (Diversion) Update reporting a 76.4% diversion rate, which is a key component of the City of Los Angeles' Zero Waste Initiative.

TRANSMITTALS

1. Zero Waste Progress Report, March 2013
2. List of 20 Largest Cities in the U.S. and Reported Recycling (Diversion) Rates

DISCUSSION

Background

The Bureau of Sanitation (Sanitation) commissioned the faculty and students of the UCLA Engineering Extension's Recycling / Municipal Solid Waste Management Certification Program, the "Project Team", to provide an independent review and assessment of the City's progress towards its "Zero Waste" goal, as well as provide recommendations for the City's programmatic and policy approach to achieving this "Zero Waste" goal of 90% Diversion by 2025.

The findings in the report show that the City achieved a remarkable landfill diversion rate of 76.4% by the beginning of calendar year 2012 based on the calculation methodology adopted by the State of California. The State's method of calculating the diversion rate is called the Adjustment Method which requires that population, employment, taxable sales, and Consumer Price Index all be used in the adjustment formula. The State of California's Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 mandated that each city achieve a 25% diversion rate of solid waste from landfill disposal by the year 1995, and a 50% diversion rate by the year 2000. The City successfully complied with this mandate and achieved an approved/accepted diversion rate for reporting Year 2000 of 60%.

The "diversion rate," is defined as the percentage of generated waste that is not disposed in a landfill. This rate is the environmental metric used to evaluate the City's progress towards its "Zero Waste" goal. Waste can be diverted from landfill disposal through source reduction, recycling, composting, or other technologies that beneficially use the materials found in solid waste. In 2006, the City adopted a goal of zero waste (90% diversion) by year 2025. Each jurisdiction measures its own progress towards zero waste.

The progress made by the City of Los Angeles reflects the extensive participation of the City's residents and businesses in waste reduction and recycling programs, and demonstrates the City's comprehensive waste diversion infrastructure that has been developed and implemented over the past 25 years. The most significant finding is the fact that overall tons disposed in landfills over the last twelve years have gone down, while the City's population has steadily increased.

The City of Los Angeles has a population of approximately 3.8 million residents living in approximately 750,000 single family homes and 600,000 multi-family dwellings. The City's residential curbside program serves about 500,000 single-family and 250,000 duplex to four-unit buildings with refuse, recycling, organics, and bulky item pickups. Sanitation currently operates a solid waste collection fleet of 805 vehicles, of which 521 are alternative fueled vehicles. Private solid waste companies provide waste collection and recycling services to the remainder of the multi-family dwellings. The City also provides a multi-family recycling program serving approximately 420,000 of the estimated 600,000 multi-family dwellings (buildings with five or more units) with recycling and bulky item pick-up programs.

The Zero Waste Progress Report, March 2013 is a comprehensive report on the City's efforts to achieve Zero Waste. The latest, 76.4% diversion rate, shows that the City is making steady progress. With the passage by the State of California of AB 341 requiring mandatory commercial recycling beginning July 1, 2012, most of the businesses and multi-family dwellings in the City are required to implement recycling programs.

The City of Los Angeles has been required to maintain a minimum 50% diversion rate each year since the year 2000. Prior to the year 2007, the diversion rate calculation was based upon how much of each year's waste generation was diverted from landfills through waste reduction recycling, composting, and other diversion programs. As of the year 2007, the former California Integrated Waste Management Board which was replaced by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), changed the reporting requirement from the diversion rate measurement to the disposal rate system. The disposal rate system uses only two factors: a jurisdiction's population (or in some cases employment) and its disposal as reported by disposal facilities. This method has been based on meeting an equivalent diversion-based metric using pounds of waste disposed per person, per day. In the year 2000, each person in the City of Los Angeles was disposing, on average approximately 5.7 pounds per day. By the end of the year 2011, each person, on average, was disposing approximately 4.2 pounds per person per day (out of a total of 17.8 pounds of waste generated by each person per day). CalRecycle no longer certifies diversion rate for jurisdictions.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

The Bureau of Sanitation, in addition to maintaining waste collection services, is responsible for the planning and implementation of programs to achieve the 2025 Zero Waste-to-Landfill goal. Since 2006, Sanitation has implemented numerous programs that have contributed to attaining Year 2011's 76.4% diversion rate. These programs include:

- Making the City of Los Angeles' Public Works Building the first zero-waste city facility in July 2010.
- Expanding Los Angeles Unified School District blue bin recycling and recycling education from 12 pilot schools in 2006 to 638 schools in 2012 (90% of elementary schools).
- Establishing a fund from Sunshine Canyon Landfill host fees for development of facilities that reduce landfilling, and mandating a reduction of City-collected MSW going to Sunshine Canyon Landfill.
- Establishing a Green Energy Producer Bonus and providing a reduction of City taxes based on a company's recycling performance.
- Adding film plastic, polystyrene, and carton recycling to the SAN-collected residential recycling bins.
- Adding residential food waste to the SAN-collected residential green waste recycling bin (pilot program at 8,700 homes).
- Implementing multi-family recycling through private waste hauler services to 430,000 multi-family households.
- Implementing recycling in the commercial sector through the Business Waste Assessment (BWA) Program; developing a Green Business Certification Program for hotels (Green Lodging Program); restaurants, office/retail, auto repair (Green Business Program); and cultural facilities (Green Arts Program).
- Implementing restaurant food waste recycling at 1,000 participating restaurants (diverting over 33,000 tons per year of compostable food and paper).
- Implementing a mandatory City-wide construction and demolition waste recycling ordinance, Ordinance #181519.
- Continuing support of LA SHARES, a non-profit organization which redirects donations of office supplies, equipment, and personal care products from businesses to local non-profits and schools.
- Evaluating methods to increase diversion and reduce environmental impact of private waste haulers waste through franchising including issuance of required legal notice (5-Year Notification Letter to Permitted Private Waste Haulers).
- Adopting and implementing the City of Los Angeles Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Program to utilize the buying power of the City to develop greener products.
- The positive response by City residents and businesses to make personal efforts to reduce the amount of waste being generated, and to recycle what is recyclable.

PROJECT TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Project Team reviewed the policies and programs of various other cities, and made the following recommendations to the City of Los Angeles:

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1. Use an Integrated Waste Management Approach
2. Increase Focus on Commercial and Industrial Sectors
3. Increase Commercial Sector Education and Outreach
4. Continue the Los Angeles Unified School District Education/Outreach
5. Implement RENEW LA to Promote a Recycling-Based Society
6. Affect Legislative Change to promote and establish conversion and resource recovery technologies
7. Adopt a "MRF First" Policy for RENEW LA Thermal Technology Projects
8. Support Landfill Diversion Policies at the State level
9. Create an Emergency and Disaster Debris Management Planning Committee
10. Use Holistic Life Cycle Cost Approach to determine environmental costs and benefits

CONCLUSION

The City has achieved a remarkable landfill diversion rate of 76.4% by the beginning of the year 2012. To achieve our Zero Waste-to-Landfill goal, existing and new programs must also be consistent within the larger overall umbrella of an integrated waste management approach and take into account environmental justice issues. The City must continue its leadership role to promote innovation and commit to the principle of continued improvement of programs and policies to establish the long-term supportive infrastructure.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

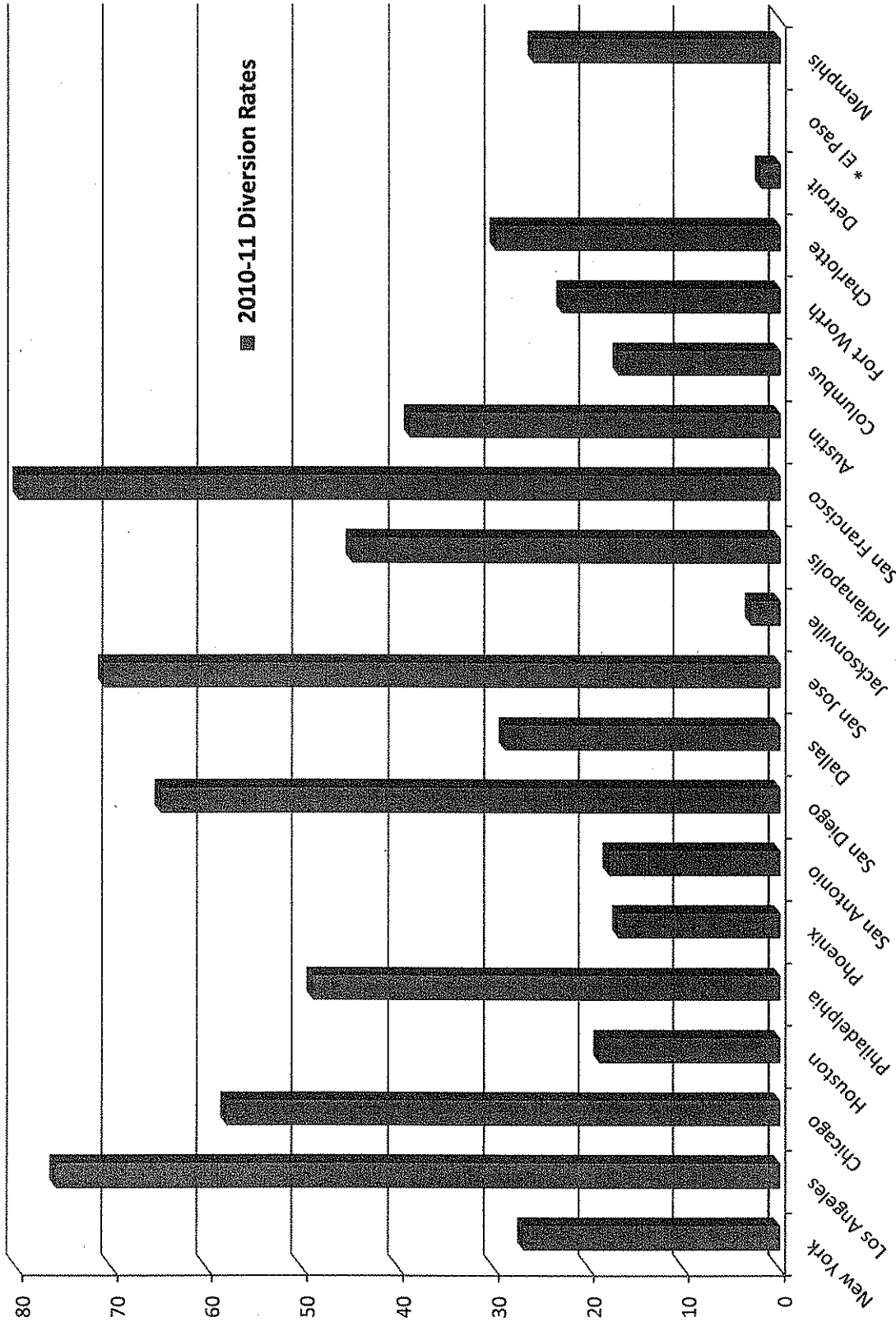
None submitted.

Respectfully submitted,


ENRIQUE G. ZALDIVAR, Director
Bureau of Sanitation

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20 Largest Cities in U.S., by Population



* Data not Available for El Paso, TX