Los Angeles County Adopts Organic Waste Policy

Waste diversion and recycling of organic waste is a key strategy in State and County efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the Organic Waste Policy in 2021 to establish requirements for County departments to implement organic waste management programs, donate excess edible food, collect and divert organic waste from landfills, and procure certain products made from organic waste. It requires all County departments to take the necessary steps to comply with requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (Lara, 2016). Failure to comply with SB 1383 may subject the County to fines of up to $10,000 each day.

The Organic Waste Policy provides uniform guidelines across all County departments for the diversion of organic waste from landfill disposal. County facilities are required to implement organic waste diversion, either by waste hauler collection services, on-site organic waste processing, or self-hauling to organic waste processing facilities. County facilities are also required to inform employees and visitors about how the county departments manage solid waste, including organic waste and recyclables.

County departments can avoid contamination of waste and recyclables by providing separate collection bins with appropriate and clear signage as well as educational materials.

Model Sustainable Contract Language

Updating County contracts and agreements with language that promotes sustainability will help the County reach the solid waste management goals set by the Our County Sustainability Plan and County Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future. County contract managers may use all or parts of the recently developed template contract language to ensure County operations and serviced facilities comply with existing solid waste management mandates and regulations.

The template contract language can help facilities and operations implement measures to comply with new County waste management policies and are grouped by the following topics: Contract General Requirements; County Policies; Construction Services; Custodial Services; Fleet Services; Food Services; Housing; Landscape Services; and Materials Management. Use language from multiple topics to fulfill contract requirements. To view or download the contract language, please visit: pw.lacounty.gov/epd/drp/SustainableContractLanguage.aspx.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Approves

Reduce Single-Use Plastics Policy

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a policy for County facilities to eliminate the use of Single-Use Plastics in 2021. The policy aims to phase out the purchase and use of single-use plastics at County facilities and in County contracts and encourages the use of reusables.

The policy requires that any single-use food service ware used is compostable or highly recyclable. County-sponsored events are to implement measures outlined in the Waste-Free Event Guide to ensure that events are as waste free as possible. Language to help implement this policy when using contract services can be found here: pw.lacounty.gov/epd/drp/SustainableContractLanguage.aspx.

Earth Day
April 22

Paperless office tips

Maintaining a paperless office reduces the use of natural resources needed to produce paper such as trees and water. Below are suggestions on how to transform an office space at home or at a workplace into a paperless environment:

- Create a digital filing system and backup files frequently.
- Circulate email blasts instead of mailing updates, letters, and newsletters.
- Ask managers if the computer software package includes access to create digital post it-notes that you can easily attach to your digitally saved files.
- Learn how to digitally sign documents. Learn how to scan and electronically send documents to decrease printing and mailing hard copies of documents.
- Edit documents by creating shared files that allows access to documents by multiple users for simultaneous review, editing, and proofreading. Use the digital track changes and comment functions to apply revisions and digital comments to files for review, approval, and processing.