



PASADENA ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP

RESIDENTIAL SECTOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ECONOMICS

1. Question:

What is the cost to implement the Zero Waste Strategic Plan?

Answer:

The costs to implement the Zero Waste Strategic Plan will depend on the types of programs that are selected for implementation. The City will evaluate the costs and benefits of the policies, programs, and other activities through the Zero Waste strategic planning process.

2. Question:

What is the cost of not implementing the ZW Plan?

Answer:

The City strives to be a Green City leader and has committed to environmental initiatives such as the Urban Environmental Accords. The City of Pasadena is joining a growing number of communities nationwide that have adopted Zero Waste as their goal. Zero Waste communities realize economic, environmental and social benefits from the implementation of policies and programs that not only minimize disposal and increase diversion, but also help to conserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, recycling benefits identified by CalRecycle include:

- Opportunities for businesses or multifamily complexes to save money.
- Creating jobs in California by providing materials for recycling manufacturing facilities.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Keeping valuable materials out of landfills.
- Creating a healthy environment for the community and future generations by recovering natural resources.

3. Question:

Can customers expect reduced waste and recycling costs as a result?

Answer:

The City has implemented a Pay-As-You-Throw rate structure for residential collection. The PAYT system charges residential customers based on the size of the mixed waste cart; the smaller the cart, the smaller the rate. Residents are not charged for recycling or yard trimmings. So if residents put more materials in their recycling or green waste cart, they may be able to reduce the size of their waste cart, and therefore reduce their waste costs.

Typically, businesses pay less for recycling service than waste collection service. So the more materials a business can recycle, the less they will have to pay for waste collection.

CITY PROGRAMS

4. Question:

Is the recovery rate at dirty material recovery facilities (MRFs) equivalent to clean MRFs?

Answer:

The recovery rates at Materials Recovery Facilities are dependent on the source and the quality of the incoming materials. A clean MRF typically receives commingled, source separated materials, meaning recyclables that were separated from the trash. Typically, the incoming materials contain about 10-20% contamination (non-recyclables). A dirty MRF processes the entire mixed waste stream, including trash and recyclables. Typically, these facilities can divert 25-45% of the incoming materials, on average.

5. Question:

What is the contamination rate of single-stream collection programs?

Answer:

The contamination rate of single-stream collection programs is dependent on the knowledge of the customers in proper sorting of the materials. Studies have shown contamination rates ranging from 5-20%.

6. Question:

Why don't multi-family housing complexes have the same recycling options as single-family homes?

Answer:

In Pasadena, the recycling options available to multi-family complexes depend on the company that provides service to the complex. As of July 1, 2012, Assembly Bill (AB) 341 requires businesses (including public entities) that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week or a multifamily residential dwelling of five units or more to arrange for recycling services. These businesses and multifamily dwellings can take one or any combination of the following in order to reuse, recycle, compost or otherwise divert solid waste from disposal:

- Self-haul.
- Subscribe to a hauler(s).
- Arrange for the pickup of recyclable materials.
- Subscribe to a recycling service that may include mixed waste processing that yields diversion results comparable to source separation.

A property owner of a commercial business or multifamily residential complex may require tenants to source separate their recyclable materials to aid in compliance with the requirement.

As part of the Zero Waste planning process, the City will consider enhancements to the multi-family residential recycling program.

7. Question:

What can and can't be recycled?

Answer:

Over 80 percent of materials disposed in landfills in California can be recycled or composted. Some materials cannot be recycled, such as treated wood and composite materials (products made from multiple materials that cannot be separated easily from each other).

In Pasadena, single-family residents can recycle the following materials in their curbside recycling cart (blue lid) : aerosol cans (empty); beverage & food containers (rinsed); cardboard (flattened); junk mail; mixed paper; catalogs; magazines; phone books; newspapers, and all Plastics 1 – 7. In addition, the City provides, by appointment, free pick up of used motor oil and filters for recycling.

The City also schedules free e-waste recycling events where residents can recycle televisions, computer monitor and peripherals, cell and telephones, DVDs/VCRs, radios, copiers, printers, lap tops, scanners, cable TV equipment, microwave ovens, fax machines and printer cartridges.

There are other recycling drop-off and buy-back locations in the City where residents and businesses can recycle a variety of materials.

8. Question:

Where does the garbage go and where is “away”?

Answer:

The majority of waste that is generated in the City that is not recycled, reused, or composted is disposed at the Scholl Canyon landfill, in Glendale. The landfill is a fully permitted municipal solid waste landfill operated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Glendale. The land is owned jointly by Glendale (80%), Los Angeles County (15%), and Southern California Edison (5%). The landfill has a maximum capacity of 3,400 tons per day (TPD) of solid waste. In the past, the landfill has received up to 1,500 TPD; however, currently disposed waste quantities are approximately 1,000 TPD.

A small portion of the City’s waste is processed at the Commerce Refuse to Energy facility, a 350 ton per day waste-to-energy facility that converts residential and commercial refuse into enough power for 20,000 homes. In addition, metals are recovered for recycling and the ash is processed to generate road base material for use in constructing landfill roads

9. Question:

What avenues will be used for outreach?

Answer:

The City presently utilizes a variety of avenues for outreach, such as the City’s website, flyers at City facilities, articles in newsletters, public service announcements, paid advertisements, displays at special events and venues, and social media sites, such as Facebook. As part of the Zero Waste Plan, the City will consider additional resources and opportunities for public outreach and education.

MATERIALS RESOURCES AND RECOVERY

10. Question:

How are materials remanufactured in Pasadena?

Answer:

Minimal remanufacturing occurs in Pasadena. Local remanufacturing companies exist for ink printer cartridge recharging and furniture re-upholstery. The majority of recycled material collected in the US is shipped to China, approximately 89%.

11. Question:

Does the phrase: “producing virtually no trash” mean every single piece of trash will be recycled?

Answer:

Zero Waste is an aspirational goal. Zero Waste does not mean 100% recycling. Zero Waste is a concept that recognizes that “waste” is not inevitable and cities could plan for a future that went beyond “end of pipe” strategies, where waste needs to be treated rather than reduced at the source. Recyclables are what we used to keep out of the trash. Now, trash is what we have left over once we reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost.

Zero Waste means setting the goal of diverting from landfill at least 90 percent of the waste generated by all sources, both business and residential. Zero Waste is meant to reduce excess consumption, minimize waste generation, encourage recycling to the maximum extent possible, and ensure that products are made to be reused, repaired or recycled back into nature or the marketplace.

12. Question:

Would Zero Waste be applied to every citizen whether they own property or rent their home(s)?

Answer:

The City envisions the Zero Waste Plan will involve all members of the community, including homeowners, renters, visitors, businesses, government and other institutions. Zero Waste is a community effort, and its success will depend on the actions of all of us.

POLICIES

13. Question:

How do we impact packaging at the local level and support City efforts for producer responsibility?

Answer:

The City can pursue policies at all levels of government (state, regional and local) for producers to take responsibility for the end of life management of products and packaging. Consumers can be a part of the solution through their purchasing habits, and will be educated on alternative purchasing practices.

14. Question:

Does the Zero Waste Plan target fuel consumption?

Answer:

The Zero Waste Plan doesn't target fuel consumption directly, but the policies and programs can indirectly result in the reduction of fuel consumption. Reusing, repurposing, and recycling of materials reduces the need for transportation of raw materials, as well as the transportation of new consumer goods. Use of recycled content materials in manufacturing also utilizes less energy than virgin materials, and reduces the consumption of fuel in the manufacturing process.