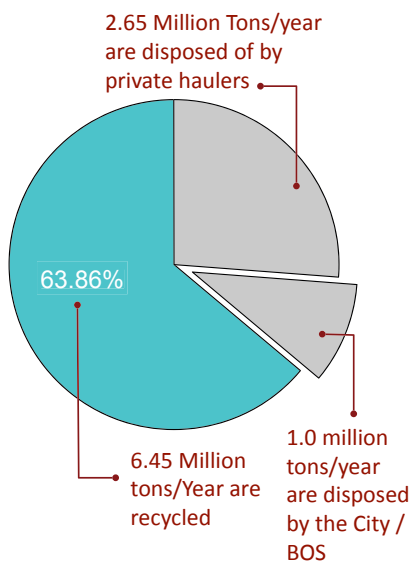


program facts

The City generates a total of 10.1 million tons of solid waste per year.



Each year, BOS collects 240,000 tons of recyclables and 480,000 tons of yard trimmings.



What is the problem?

The problem is the diminishing capacity of local urban landfills to handle all the trash generated within the City of Los Angeles (City), and the impacts landfills have on public health and the environment, such as emitting methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

It has been widely agreed that landfilling of trash or solid waste is an outdated and inefficient strategy for solid waste management. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, landfills are one of the largest sources of methane emissions in the U.S., accounting for approximately 23 percent of the total methane emissions in 2007. The City must find new, cost-effective, environmentally sound, and socially beneficial solutions to manage our trash now and for our future.

Who is responsible?

We all generate trash and all share the responsibility of properly managing it. The City's Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) is the lead agency in charge of citywide solid waste management. Residents and BOS can work together to develop new strategies to reduce and manage the millions of tons of trash we generate.

Angelenos should be proud of having one of the most comprehensive recycling programs in the country with a 64 percent diversion rate! However, about 3,600 tons of trash (what is placed in the black bin) is collected at residential curbsides and end up in our urban landfills everyday, which adds up to approximately one million tons of residential trash a year! We thus need you and local communities to support the development and implementation of new solid waste management strategies as we move towards becoming a zero waste city.

What is the City's plan to deal with the problem?

The City is developing the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP), the zero waste master-plan for managing solid waste in the City over the next 20 years. Part of the plan includes the implementation of alternative technology facilities to convert non-recycled solid waste into renewable energy and other resources to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.

BOS is actively working towards siting and developing alternative technology facilities

to process solid waste. Unlike landfills, alternative technologies can be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while recovering energy and other valuable resources from solid waste. This effort is supported by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and is consistent with the City Council's Recovering Energy, Natural Resources and Economic Benefit for Los Angeles (RENEW L.A.) Plan adopted in 2006.

What has been done so far?

In 2004, BOS conducted a Phase I study on alternative technologies for processing solid waste and reducing our reliance on landfills. The study concluded that alternative technologies could be employed as innovative, environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, and economically sound methods for solid waste reduction and disposal.

BOS has conducted public outreach to various stakeholders such as communities, businesses and government officials on the conclusions of the Phase I study and the potential benefits of using alternative technologies for processing solid waste.

In 2007, BOS released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to vendors, seeking specific plans on how alternative technologies for the processing of municipal solid waste could be implemented in the City, with emphasis on landfill diversion and resource recovery.

What's next?

In response to the RFP, BOS received 13 proposals from leading firms across the nation and from other countries, providing a diverse array of proven and cutting-edge technologies. BOS is currently evaluating all the proposals, based on the evaluation criteria established in the RFP. BOS is also continuing to outreach to the public about these technologies and how they may benefit us all.

How can I get involved?

If you are interested in the Alternative Technologies Project, you can sign up to be a part of the master project database to be notified of public meetings and updated project information. Please contact Miguel A. Zermeno, Project Manager at 213-485-3611. You can also access the Alternative Technologies website at www.alternativetechnology.lacity.org to review all public documents and find out about upcoming meetings.

