



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 42, Bldg A10, Ste 10210, Alhambra, CA 91803 Phone: (626) 564-9702 FAX: (626) 564-1116 E-Mail SGV@sgvcog.org

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

Sam Pedroza, Chair
Denis Bertone, Vice Chair

AGENDA

September 19th, 2011
3:00 pm

Monrovia Public Works Yard
600 S. Mountain Ave
Monrovia, CA

Please park in the rear of the building in the southeast corner along the wash

- 1.0 Preliminary Business
 - 1.1 Call to Order
 - 1.2 Self-Introductions
- 2.0 Public Communications
- 3.0 Consent Items
 - 3.1 July 28th, 2011 Meeting Minutes (*Page 1*)
 - 3.2 Correspondence (*Page 3*)
- 4.0 Discussion Items (*It is anticipated that the EENR Committee may take action on the following matters:)*
 - 4.1 Duck Farm Presentation
Debbie Enos, Watershed Conservation Authority
 - 4.2 Green Technology Residential Outreach and Education Presentation (*Page 17*)
Michael Huls, Green Technology
 - 4.3 Climate Change and Energy Working Group
 - 4.4 Open Space Working Group
 - 4.5 Solid Waste Working Group
 - i. CalRecycle HHW Grant
 - 4.6 Water Resources Working Group
 - i. Watershed Coordinator (*Page 20*)
 - 4.7 Goals & Objectives Status (*Page 22*)
- 5.0 Items for Future Meetings
- 6.0 Set next meeting date
- 7.0 Adjournment

PLEASE RSVP BY PHONE OR E-MAIL: sgv@sgvcog.org or (626) 457-1800

Note: City Clerks please post this agenda.



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Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

Sam Pedroza, Chair
Mary Ann Lutz, Vice Chair

MINUTES

Thursday, July 28th, 2011
3:00 pm

Monrovia Public Works Yard
600 S. Mountain Ave
Monrovia, CA

1.0 Preliminary Business

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm.

1.2 Self-Introductions

The following individuals were in attendance:

R. Yeung	AQMD
S. Pedroza	Claremont
R. Ketcham	Consultant to Michael Cacciotti
L. Winner	LACSD
B. Hewitt	LACSD
H. Maloney	Monrovia
M. Lutz	Monrovia
M. Clark	Rosemead
D. Bertone	San Dimas
N. Walsh	Sierra Madre
R. Romanek	Watershed Conservation Authority
B. Cooke	SGVCOG staff

2.0 Public Communications

AQMD staff announced that the AQMD Energy Policy has recently been revised to incorporate changes that address concerns expressed by The Gas Company. The draft policy will now go before the AQMD Stationary Source Committee.

3.0 Consent Items

3.1 June 29th Meeting Minutes

3.2 Correspondence

3.3 AQMD PEV Infrastructure Letter

There was a motion to approve the consent calendar (M/S/C: Bertone, Lutz, Unanimous).

4.0 Discussion Items

4.1 Sanitation Districts' Clearwater Program

LACSD staff provided an overview of this program and discussed the Master Facilities Plan that is currently under development. As part of this planning effort, LACSD must determine how to update the joint outfall system and specifically the

tunnel conveyance system that needs repair. Four alignment alternatives were reviewed. **There was a motion to recommend that the Governing Board send a statement of support for the project and proposed Alignment #4 as well as to encourage LACSD to maximize opportunities for recycling and reuse of water, where possible (M/S/C M. Lutz, D. Bertone, Unanimous).** Committee members requested that this presentation be given to the Governing Board at a future meeting at the same time as their recommendation is considered for action.

4.2 Climate Change and Energy Working Group

i. DOE SunShot Initiative: Rooftop Solar Challenge to Induce Market Transformation

Staff reviewed the purpose of this grant application. There was discussion regarding whether the grant effort would result in added regulation for local governments. Staff indicated that it would only affect those jurisdictions directly participating as a partner in the work plan. **There was a motion to recommend submittal of a letter of support to the Governing Board (M/S/C: D. Bertone, M. Clark, Unanimous).**

ii. Energy Upgrade California

4.3 Open Space Working Group

The working group chair reported that a new Executive Director has been hired by the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy. He would introduce this individual to the COG Governing Board, EENR Committee, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, among other agencies, as soon as possible.

4.4 Solid Waste Working Group

i. CalRecycle HHW Grant

Staff referred Committee members to the flyer in the packet advertising a fluorescent lamp recycling event in conjunction with the SCE Lamp Exchange in Covina on September 24th – 25th. The solid waste working group chair reported that as a result of a survey of the cities, it was determined that there is not enough level of interest to pursue implementation of the proposed solid waste management options and conversion technology feasibility study. The working group will continue analyzing solid waste management alternatives given the closure of Puente Hills landfill in 2013.

4.5 Water Resources Working Group

The working group chair gave an update on the water project priority list development, IRWM planning effort, and MS4 Permit process.

i. Watershed Coordinator

The Watershed Coordinator reported that the WCA and COG submitted a grant to the Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Planning program for the San Jose/Thompson Creek Corridor. The COG Governing Board adopted an open space policy at the last meeting. GIS analysis is currently underway for community garden opportunities.

4.6 Goals & Objectives

Committee members reviewed the objectives related to the environment that were developed at the strategic planning session on 7/27.

5.0 Items for Future Meetings

No new items were identified.

6.0 Set next meeting date

Staff will poll committee members on their availability for the next meeting date.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

8 August 2011

Nick Conway
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
1000 S. Fremont Avenue
Building A10, Suite 210
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Mr. Conway:

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our community interviews for the San Gabriel Valley Area 3 Superfund Site (Area 3) earlier this month. I enjoyed speaking with you and learning about your concerns regarding the site and its potential impacts on the community you represent.

Your answers to EPA's questions will remain confidential. We will combine the information gathered from all interviewees to help in updating the community involvement plan designed for Area 3.

I will stay in contact with you regarding developments in Area 3 during the feasibility study and the future public comment period on the proposed plan. Please feel free to reach me at 415-972-3152 or hanusiak.lisa@epa.gov if you would like to discuss any questions or concerns about EPA's Area 3 project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Hanusiak", is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Hanusiak
Remedial Project Manager
California Site Cleanup Section 3
Superfund Division

Why recycling in Los Angeles is so confusing

For one thing, major new products made of mystery materials keep everyone guessing.

By Susan Carpenter, Los Angeles Times

August 12, 2011

It seemed like a simple exercise for the Home section: Publish a short weekly feature called "Can I Recycle" that said whether a particular item — drycleaner bag, cereal box liner, milk carton — should go in the recycling bin or the trash can.

But figuring out what's recyclable and what's not proved to be surprisingly complicated. The system seemed to discourage the very endeavor it was trying to encourage. Some plastics were labeled "compostable" but were not, in fact, compostable. Plastic utensils were not marked with recycling symbols but could indeed be recycled — but only if you lived in certain cities.

Why is it all so confusing? And what will it take to make recycling easier?

First, the good news. Los Angeles recycled 211,300 tons of trash through its curbside program in the most recent fiscal year and diverted 65% of its total waste from landfills. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa wants that rate increased to 70% before by 2013. But how can residents do that when so many products and types of packaging confuse consumers and recycling companies alike?

"Twice a month, if not more frequently, we come across major new products that are using new materials, and we don't readily know what they're made of," L.A. Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique Zaldivar said.

Just one person in Sanitation — an environmental engineer — is tasked with identifying new materials and figuring out if they are recyclable in the four materials recovery facilities contracted by the city. "Poor guy," Zaldivar said. "He cannot keep up."

Zaldivar cited a compostable SunChips bag and the new Dasani and Odwalla plastic PlantBottles as proof that manufacturers and recyclers need better communication to identify what is and is not recyclable.

The SunChips bags are not recyclable, nor are they compostable in L.A.'s curbside bins because the packaging doesn't break down fast enough in the city's industrial composters. The PlantBottles, introduced in the L.A. market in April, were approved for the city's blue bin only this week, after Sanitation could confirm the composition of the plant-based plastic.

Zaldivar said neither company reached out to the city before introducing their products to market, despite L.A.'s status as the largest municipal recycler in the U.S. It was the SunChips bag, he said, that got the department to ponder how it could make the most of manufacturers' good intentions and increase recyclability without stifling business or inviting government regulation.

According to Scott Vitters, general manager of the PlantBottle packaging platform for the Coca-Cola Co., owner of Dasani, PlantBottle representatives met with academicians, World Wildlife Fund officials and leading recyclers in L.A. but not city officials before the bottle hit the marketplace. Vitters suggested a third-party certification system, perhaps run by a credible environmental organization, would help.

There is so much confusion in the marketplace that consumer education is key, Vitters added. Yet that education falls to myriad entities: manufacturers (who label products with recycling symbols at their discretion) as well as the municipalities and individual recyclers handling the materials.

"We've got to do more about reducing consumer confusion from the moment somebody picks something up from the store," Zaldivar said.

Costs coupled with industry apathy account for part of the problem. Manufacturers of toothpaste, stilettos and so much more still haven't figured out how to make more products recyclable.

A larger problem: the lack of uniformity about what can be recycled from city to city. What's accepted in L.A.'s blue bins can be vastly different from what's recyclable in New York or San Diego or even Long Beach because recycling is, in part, a market-driven business. In theory, anything could be recycled — not just obvious items like cardboard boxes and plastic bags, but also that toothpaste tube or a toy that's a combination of plastic and metal.

The question is whether the material has enough value to be worth recycling. Although 1 ton of recycling can generate \$25 in revenue and save \$40 in landfill costs, some items are less valuable than others. They're less costly to dump than to recycle.

That is why so much of recyclers' equipment is designed to extract the items of highest value first, such as aluminum cans and plastic bottles.

Recycling's gray area is filled with packaging and products made of mixed materials that are costly to separate (think paper envelopes with plastic padding) or low-value commodities that have few buyers (polystyrene peanuts and food containers). Some cities' recyclers can find a market for these materials. Others don't.

To help consumers better understand what can and can't be recycled, the city of L.A. instituted a Recycling Ambassador program in 2006. Modeled after electrical utilities that help homeowners identify potential areas of energy conservation, the ambassadors are seven individuals who visit and educate homeowners by request or by necessity, targeting areas that have a history of badly contaminated bins or low recycling rates. The Department of Public Works also provides

residents with stickers they can place on their blue recycling bins that explain what can be placed inside.

Additionally, Zaldivar proposed a system similar to the United Laboratories certification for product safety (the UL symbol you might find on, say, an extension cord) or the USDA's organic label. He said the city is looking for a retail partner to pilot a program that would place blue dots on everything that can go in the blue bin. The questions are: Who adds the blue dot and, even more important, who pays for it?

"Retailers are already required to do a number of things in their stores, so to add another responsibility will take more time, more labor and it would have some sort of impact on cost," said Dave Heylen, vice president of communications for the California Grocers Assn. in Sacramento. Heylen suggested the responsibility of labeling recyclable products or packaging might be better placed upstream, by the manufacturer.

Yet "rarely" does end-of-life recyclability come up in discussions with manufacturers, said Rodney Linn, who sells paper, plastic and cardboard packaging for the packaging distributor Morgan Chaney in Phoenix.

"Our clients want to tell people they're doing their part to save the environment," Linn said, but that discussion is usually about recycled content on the front end, not the back. They might consider packaging made of recycled material, but they care less about whether that material is recycled again. Decisions are largely dictated by cost. "The end user? Where do they take the package when they're done with it? That question is not brought up," Linn said.

So where does that leave recycling? Mostly in the hands of L.A. consumers. Still.

Los Angeles' trash and recycling policies for apartments debated

As city leaders contemplate changing the system for collection services that serve large multi-unit buildings, they hear from environmental activists, truck-weary residents and garbage companies.

By Mary MacVean, Los Angeles Times

August 13, 2011

Empty soda bottle? Blue bin. Small wood box? Black bin. Magazine? Blue again. It's become part of life for millions of L.A. residents to sort their trash based on what can be recycled and what can't. How much gets diverted from the landfill gives L.A. some bragging rights: It's at the top of the charts among major cities. More than 450 natural gas-powered trucks make a coordinated effort to divert about 65% of the city's trash from landfills.

But that's just for single-family homes. The city's 600,000 apartments are served by more than 50 trash collection companies. In some neighborhoods, several trucks rumble along the same street, spurring residents to complain about noise and inconvenience. And for about 180,000 apartments, recycling isn't even an option.

The Bureau of Sanitation seeks to change the landscape, as has been mandated by the state, and move toward Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's zero-waste goal.

For now, officials are doing a lot of listening — to residents unhappy with the private hauler trucks that they say clog their streets, especially in the San Fernando Valley, where much of the trash winds up; to small hauling companies who worry they could be put out of business; to landlords who want to retain the power to manage the trash in their buildings; to environmentalists who want polluting trucks off the roads.

"As a city overall, we're doing very well compared with other large cities. But in our quest to improve our diversion statistics, obviously we could do much better. The obvious direction we're going is to do multifamily," said Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar, later adding, "It makes sense for the consumer. It makes sense for the environment."

The city is close to its 2013 goal of diverting 70% of its trash to recycling or compost, said Alex Helou, assistant director of the Bureau of Sanitation.

"Residents by and large, they do want recycling in their apartment buildings," Helou said.

But businesses and large apartment buildings still create more than 2 million tons of trash each year — a \$250-million annual market for private waste haulers.

"What we are looking for is that we have fewer trucks on the road," Helou said. That would reduce emissions, wear and tear on pavement, traffic congestion and noise.

Few would argue with the potential improvements, but there is resistance to change, led largely by the trash haulers. Some businesses could be hurt by consolidation, especially smaller operations with a couple of trucks, Helou acknowledged. "This is going to shrink the market."

It's been a long process. In 2006, the city warned that in seven years its system for most apartment buildings could change. The notice dovetailed with haulers' cycle for replacing trucks, so they could consider the future. This April, the city gave similar notice for commercial buildings. (New regulations won't cover what's called construction and demolition trash.) All told, about 140 trash companies work in the city.

It could be a year before the City Council decides what to do, but on the table are two scenarios: an exclusive system, in which haulers bid to be the sole franchise in designated parts of the city, versus a nonexclusive system, in which an unlimited number of haulers who meet certain criteria can work. New rules could govern environmental and recycling standards for trucks and the fees that could be collected.

"This is a fundamental issue. If we don't act aggressively, we are asleep at the wheel," said Greg Good, who leads the waste and recycling project at the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy. The group's Don't Waste L.A. campaign has called for the exclusive franchise system, awarded through a competitive bidding process that the alliance said will add green jobs and could increase recycling rates. The group said the permit system now in place lacks standards and accountability.

"This is about our environment, our workers, our communities, our future," he said.

Hillary Gordon lives in Westwood in an apartment building small enough that city trucks collect her trash. (Buildings with four units or fewer are treated like single-family homes.) But her narrow street includes larger buildings too, so trucks are there "pretty much every day" on no discernible schedule, she said. Sometimes that means she cannot drive down her own street.

She would like to see regulations that would put an end to that, she told officials at a recent hearing.

Tomas O'Grady represented the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council at the hearing, saying the group supports the proposal from Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy. He noted that a neighborhood middle school is beginning an environmental program, and it would be counterproductive for those students to learn about the environment in class and see less than a model system when they walk outside.

"It's just not good enough to have all those trucks," he said. "It makes us look stupid as a city."

There are many signs, advocates for a new system said, that the current one is broken. In the same neighborhood, one customer might pay \$100 and another could pay \$400 for essentially the same service, Good said. Meanwhile, the landfills are filling up, he said.

"Folks don't really know what happens with their trash," Good said. Workers at collection facilities who sort recyclables from apartment building trash, he said, are "dealing with needles to carcasses to everything else."

Not surprising, but the haulers see the situation with a different perspective.

"The city of Los Angeles and the job on the commercial sector is second to none in the country," said Ron Saldana, executive director of the trade group Los Angeles County Disposal Assn.

"We are all working toward the same thing. We are all working toward a cleaner environment," Saldana said. "We don't believe you have to put 135 companies out of business to create some green jobs."

Daniel Agajanian, the founder and president of Direct Disposal, said the current system gives customers the chance to choose the company that best suits their recycling needs.

"People don't like to be told whom to use. We all compete," Agajanian said. "To limit haulers would be a mistake for the city of Los Angeles."

Some of his colleagues cited examples to show that competition among haulers works: one that responded to a client's need for a pickup on a New Year's Eve, another whose customers have his home telephone numbers, others who work long hours to keep their businesses going.

Despite exclusive-system proponents' projections of a fee decrease, Jim Clarke, the executive director of the Apartment Assn. of Greater Los Angeles, said such a change probably would cause fees to rise.

"Awarding contracts to a few companies will make it hard to encourage competition," he said. Landlords believe they can negotiate better contracts on their own.

He also said it's harder to get apartment residents to adhere to a recycling routine.

"It's very difficult to condition our tenants," he said. "You can't mandate them to split up their trash in two cans in their units."

The association, Clarke said, encourages its members to set up recycling programs and to educate tenants on how and why to separate their trash. But in some buildings, particularly small garden-style apartments, there is no room for blue bins, he said.

With the sides as far apart as they are, it's perhaps a good thing that — as the stakeholders have been told at the hearings — there's a long way to go before a new plan is in place.

Throwing trash all in one bin works in some cities

At a so-called dirty mixed-waste materials recovery facility, equipment and workers separate paper, glass, plastic, metal and other commodities so residents don't have to sort them into different bins.

By Susan Carpenter, Los Angeles Times

August 13, 2011

When South Pasadena homeowners recycle, it's as easy as throwing their tuna cans and soda bottles into the trash can along with their food scraps and meat wrappers. It's called mixed waste processing, and it's an alternative way some cities have tried to increase recycling rates.

In 2000, just 6% of South Pasadena's single-family residential waste was being recycled under a voluntary program that had residents sort recycling into a separate container. That percentage shot up to 25% in 2001 after the city decided to let waste and recycling go into one bin bound for a so-called dirty MRF, or mixed-waste materials recovery facility, where sorting equipment and trained workers separate paper, glass, plastic, metal and other commodities on the back end instead of the front.

"We didn't do well with the volunteer system. All the recyclables that went into the trash can were being missed," said South Pasadena public works assistant Diana Harder. "Now the recycling program is automatic. Residents don't have to worry about it."

Nor do they have to pay extra. Single-family households pay \$36.49 monthly for the service, about the same as single-family residents in L.A.

The stakes have been high since 1990, when California instituted AB 939, a law that required municipalities to reduce the amount of waste taken to landfills by 25% by 1995 and 50% by 2000 or be fined \$10,000 a day. Recycling wasn't mandated, but the law prompted cities to institute source-separation programs similar to the one in effect in L.A., where residents are provided separate bins for green waste, trash and recycling.

"We all started the same way with a two- or three-crate system for newspaper, glass and plastic food and beverage containers. That was it," said Dennis Chiappetta, executive vice president of Athens Services, a waste collection, recycling and disposal company based in the City of Industry that serves 19 cities, including Riverside, West Hollywood and South Pasadena. For all the work that residents did, less than 5% of residential waste was diverted from landfills in 1990, he said.

Now, about 40% of what's put in a mixed-waste bin is recycled, Chiappetta said. With yard

clippings separated into a green waste bin, landfill diversion in the cities that Athens services rises to at least 50%, and sometimes almost 80%, he said.

CalRecycle, the state agency responsible for regulating disposal and recycling in California, does not keep track of how many cities process their recyclables as mixed waste. But cities of radically different demographic stripes, from West Covina to Beverly Hills, have adopted the approach.

The latter used to ask its residents to sort recyclables into separate bins, but it switched to mixed-waste processing in 2004. Just 13% of Beverly Hills' waste was recycled in 1995. Now the city has a recycling rate of 35% and an overall landfill diversion rate of 78%.

Still, not everyone agrees that mixed-waste processing is a better system. Critics say higher rates of contamination can decrease the value of the recycled materials. The L.A. Bureau of Sanitation prefers its blue-bin system because contaminated materials such as soiled paper cost more to manage, transport and ultimately deposit in a landfill, a spokesman said.

"It's something we grapple with," said Coby Skye, a civil engineer with the environmental programs division of the L.A. County Department of Public Works, which implements the county's recycling program. "It's a trade-off between contamination and participation. The benefit of having everything go in one bin is you have 100% participation whether people want to recycle or not, or whether they know what goes in the right bin or not."

latimes.com/news/local/la-me-grocery-bags-20110907,0,3498662.story

latimes.com

Plastic *and* paper bag ban proposed for Los Angeles

Los Angeles councilman's proposal would allow grocery stores to give away or sell only reusable tote bags, or risk a fine.

By Kate Linthicum, Los Angeles Times

September 7, 2011

Paper or plastic? For shoppers in Los Angeles, the choice may soon be neither.

Hoping to reduce the billions of grocery bags circulating throughout the city, an L.A. councilman Tuesday called for a sweeping ban on single-use paper and plastic bags.

By including paper bags in the ban, the proposal goes beyond similar measures taken recently by other California cities and counties. Although L.A. County, Santa Monica and other municipalities have banned plastic bags in recent years, most have allowed stores to sell paper ones for a small fee.

"With paper bags, you're still generating litter," said Councilman Paul Koretz, who introduced the motion proposing the ban. "We're taking the next step."

Environmentalists celebrated the news and said they hoped that it would push Sacramento lawmakers to enact a statewide ban.

"We're thrilled," said Kirsten James, water quality director for Heal the Bay. "We're hoping that more of these local policies will be a wake-up call."

Her group has been lobbying Los Angeles officials to enact a ban since 2007, the year that San Francisco became the first city in the nation to outlaw plastic bags in supermarkets and drugstores. Heal the Bay and other environmental groups calling for the bans say plastic bags are among the sea's most insidious pollutants.

But lobbyists who work for the plastics industry have said that paper bags are just as bad for the environment because of the energy required to produce them.

Under the L.A. proposal, stores would be permitted to give away or sell only reusable tote bags, or risk a fine. An exemption would be made for small plastic bags meant to keep raw vegetables and meats separated from other groceries to prevent cross-contamination.

Koretz said he thought retailers would welcome the proposal.

"It will save them money" he said. "It will help them make money in the long run."

In the past, large retailers have complained about a city-by-city patchwork of laws that forces them to follow different rules in different places. Instead, they have called for a statewide law that would set guidelines.

Last year, a proposed statewide ban on plastic bags died in the Legislature. It was opposed by the American Chemistry Council, the lobbying group that represents the plastic bag industry.

The California Grocers Assn. supported the bill. In response to the proposed Los Angeles law, spokesman Dave Heylen said, "We look forward to working with the city as they look at options for consumers to transport their goods from stores."

In 2008, the City Council asked the Bureau of Sanitation to report on the proliferation of plastic bags in the city. According to officials, about 2.3 billion plastic bags are used in the city each year, with only 5% recycled, and 400 million paper bags, 21% recycled.

The City Council's Energy and Environment Committee will decide whether to move forward with the proposed ban.

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Los Angeles Times | ENVIRONMENT

Greenspace

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA AND BEYOND

Clean natural gas? Not so fast, study says

September 8, 2011 | 2:02 pm



Switching from burning coal to natural gas won't have an appreciable effect on global warming, at least not in the next few decades, a study suggests.

In fact, cutting worldwide coal burning by half and using natural gas instead would increase global temperatures over the next four decades by about one-tenth of a degree Fahrenheit, according to Tom Wigley, a senior research associate at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Strictly speaking, coal produces more global-warming gas per unit of energy than natural gas. But the tradeoff is complicated by the types of greenhouse gases and other pollutants associated with each of these carbon-based fossil fuels.

"From the CO₂ perspective, gas is cleaner, but from the climate perspective, it gets complicated," said Wigley.

Coal burning is notoriously dirty, producing sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, soot and ash, as well as other pollutants. None are too good for humans or the planet, but the sulfates can act to block incoming solar radiation, with a slight cooling effect. (Before anyone proposes burning more high-sulfur coal, the net effect of burning coal is still warming).

Meanwhile, "clean" natural gas, touted by the industry and T. Boone Pickens, can be a mess to produce. An unknown amount of methane -- a potent greenhouse gas with far more heat-trapping potential than carbon dioxide -- leaks in the process of producing natural gas.

Even assuming there is no leakage -- unlikely, most would agree -- the switch analyzed by Wigley would still add to Earth's overall average temperature through about 2050. After that, temperatures would fall, but only by a few tenths of a degree Fahrenheit. If a substantial amount of methane leaks, the warming trend will last until 2140, he found.

Bear in mind, the most widely reviewed studies predict a global average temperature rise of 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 under current fossil-fuel consumption rates.

"Relying more on natural gas would reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, but it would do little to help solve the climate problem," said Wigley, who is also an adjunct professor at the University of Adelaide in Australia. "It would be many decades before it would slow down global warming at all, and even then it would just be making a difference around the edges."

Let's say the rate of methane leakage could be held to 2% during this great switch to natural gas, a figure Wigley describes as somewhat optimistic. Wigley's model shows a net reduction in the global average temperature of about two-tenths of a degree by 2100. But if the leakage is in the neighborhood of 10% -- an upper bound, according to Wigley -- the warming trend will not abate until 2140.

"Whatever the methane leakage rate, you can't get away from the additional warming that will occur initially because, by not burning coal, you're not having

the cooling effect of sulfates and other particles," Wigley says. "This particle effect is a double-edged sword because reducing them is a good thing in terms of lessening air pollution and acid rain. But the paradox is when we clean up these particles, it slows down efforts to reduce global warming."

When the natural gas industry touts the cleanliness of natural gas, it largely relies on old [data that the Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged are flawed](#).

Peer-reviewed studies place the [methane leakage rate](#) at about 3.6% to 7.9% for shale gas, particularly when hydraulic fracturing methods are used. (About two thirds of the country's gas consumption is expected to come from [shale gas](#) by 2010, according to the American Petroleum Institute. It's now around half.)

Wigley's study is particularly timely as more attention is turned toward shale gas in the sprawling [Marcellus Shale](#) formation underlying New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. There's also a lot of interest in an arch-shaped set of shale formations from northern Alabama through Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. And there is extensive production of shale gas in Wyoming's Powder River basin.

The effects of the shale gas industry were recently the focus of an Oscar-nominated film, [Gasland](#).

-- Geoff Mohan

ALSO:

[24.5-million settlement proposed for Chevron](#)

[Natural gas fracking needs to be monitored, panel says](#)

[Keystone pipeline backers use anti-Saudi message for oil sands](#)

Photo: A natural gas well pad sits in front of the Roan Plateau near the Colorado mountain community of Rifle in a 2008 photo. Credit: David Zalubowski / Associated Press

Comments (5)

STATE&NATION

Get the late

Utility surcharge not renewed

STATE: Gov. Brown's alternative energy plan for California hits big roadblock.

By Judy Lin
The Associated Press

Lawmakers failed to renew a statewide utility surcharge before the end of their session, dealing a blow to Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to promote alternative energy and keep California at the forefront of the industry.

Brown sought to extend a public goods charge that adds \$1 to \$2 to the average monthly household utility bill and has been in effect since 1997.

He wanted to use about \$400 million in annual proceeds to fund renewable energy and efficiency programs.

"The public goods charge debate is not done; just call it a major bump in the road," Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said Monday.

The California Energy Com-

mission says California receives more electricity from renewable resources than any other state.

Supporters say the surcharge has helped California earn that title because it pays for programs that make homes and businesses more energy efficient and subsidizes renewable energy research.

The commission says the state has used more than \$700 million from the surcharge to fund alternative energy research, creating jobs, spawning new industries and attracting investors.

The state has set a goal to generate one-third of its electricity from renewable resources such as wind, solar and geothermal by 2020.

Some opponents of the surcharge called it redundant to the state's environmental efforts.

Unless lawmakers find a way to revive it, it will expire at the end of the year.

"In this economy, you just can't keep adding ratepayer charges," said Sen. Tony Strickland, R-Thousand Oaks. "There's going to be revolt among ratepayers."



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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Date: September 13, 2011

To: Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

From: Nicholas T. Conway, Executive Director

Re: Green Technology's "Only You...Can Save Energy" Campaign

Recommended Action:

Discussion Only

Overview:

Green Technology is a non-profit initiative that is designed to help governments move towards sustainability by providing a forum for communication between government officials and those in the private sector who are developing and distributing green technology. Their current initiative is the "Only You...Can Save Energy" campaign, which uses new media to distribute education and informational resources to residents. The initiative includes an interactive website, which features videos including energy saving tips, information about green jobs and training, and Celebrity Public Service Announcements in support of energy efficiency, social media and a CD Video Magazine that is delivered to every home and every apartment in a city. The CD, which is co-branded with local communities, provides energy efficiency resources.

The campaign is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Southern California Edison (SCE), the Gas Company, the Municipal Water Districts, Clean Tech OC and LA, Energy Upgrade California, Engage 360, the California Energy Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and many large and small businesses.

Local Government Support:

The "Only You...Can Save Energy" campaign requires cities to provide residential addresses to distribute the CD Video Magazine. Green Technology is asking for the support of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to reach out to member cities for this project.

Please see the attached document for more information about the project. For cities interested in participating, please contact Michael Huls of Green Technology at mhuls@green-technology.org or (213)840-9279.



HOME

Questions? Call 626.577.5700



Energy efficiency doesn't just save money – it offers a fast track to economic growth, resource conservation, greenhouse gas reduction and job creation.

There is universal agreement about the importance of energy efficiency. It is understood to be the "low hanging fruit" in efforts to preserve the environment. Because energy consumption accounts for over 80 percent of green house gas emissions, improving energy efficiency is essential to climate action.

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy has estimated that achieving 15 percent electricity savings and 10 percent natural gas savings could save Americans almost \$170 billion, create over 220,000 jobs and reduce greenhouse gas pollution by 262 million metric tons, while eliminating the need to build 390 power plants.

In many instances, energy efficiency promises almost immediate financial benefits – most residential and non-residential users alike can achieve savings through behavior change alone. Responding to the potential of this sector, venture capitalists have begun to focus on energy efficiency; in 2010, the CleanTech Investment Group reported that energy efficiency was poised to overtake solar as a top investment category.

Nonetheless, progress toward greater energy efficiency is inadequate. Although California has maintained a lower rate of energy consumption than any other state in the US for the past 30 years, a recent report from the non-profit Next 10 found that energy efficiency improvements in the state's commercial buildings could cut energy use by 80 percent.

Assembly Bill 758, passed in 2009, marked the beginning of a new wave of energy efficiency programs for the Golden State. It requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a statewide program for existing buildings. Seventy-two percent of the 13 million residential buildings in California, and over 5 billion square feet of commercial structures, were built before the implementation of California's energy efficiency building code in the early 1980s. The CEC program is just being launched, and the potential for additional savings is enormous.

Energy security, job creation, significant savings for individuals and businesses, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and economic growth are all within reach if energy efficiency programs succeed.

If any state can produce the template for such success, it is California. Its energy standards are already decades ahead of the rest of the country. It has an unequalled green policy climate, including the nation's first greenhouse gas reduction law (AB 32), the nation's first green building code, and recent legislation aimed at improving energy efficiency in the commercial building sector. Of the \$1.5 billion in US cleantech investment in the first two quarters of 2010, \$1.1 billion went to California companies.

There is no shortage of know-how regarding energy efficiency. As with all policy or public interest initiatives, the challenge is raising awareness and encouraging enough participation that attitude and behavior changes will result.

The Campaign

Only You...Can Save Energy uses the power of new media to speed the distribution of information and education resources regarding energy efficiency.

The campaign is built on collaborative efforts with utilities, government agencies, corporations and other partners. By aggregating stakeholder energy efficiency resources and providing a cost-effective and scalable distribution model, it is able to reach many more homes and businesses. The campaign also utilizes the voices of celebrities to deliver simple, engaging messages about the importance of saving energy.

Campaign Elements

Content

Only You...Can Save Energy draws upon the best materials created by energy experts from utilities, government, academic institutions and public interest groups and supports their efforts to get these materials into the hands of energy consumers. It is a unique and engaging carrier wave for these resources, a marketing asset that is much appreciated by energy efficiency stakeholders.

CD Mailing

The leading edge of the campaign is the mailing of interactive CDs to every home and business in a targeted community. The CDs contain a compilation of the best-available energy efficiency resources, leveraging millions of dollars of investment and decades of experience in the utility, non-profit and research communities. They can be personalized for each participating city. This marketing strategy has been utilized in awareness campaigns for some of the most successful films and television programs of recent years. The mailing is conducted in partnership with local jurisdictions, which supply the addresses at no cost.

Website

The Only You...Can Save Energy website supports the mailings, providing links to content that is on the CD, as well as additional resources. It also stands alone as a resource for information and education on energy efficiency. Like the CD, it offers a compilation of the best-available material.

Celebrity and Stakeholder PSAs

The campaign also utilizes Only You...Can Save Energy video PSAs to spread its message. These can be distributed through the internet (including the campaign website) and through broadcast. Dozens of PSAs have already been filmed featuring current television personalities and green leaders.

Social Media

Celebrities who have filmed PSAs for the campaign are already distributing them through their FaceBook pages and other outlets. Campaign materials include links that make it possible to share content instantly through social networking sites.

Smartphone Applications

Smartphone applications make it possible for targeted publics to access materials wherever they are, to forward them, and to share them via social networks.

For more information:

[Only You...Can Save Energy website](#)

Green Technology Smart Media

626.577.5700

smartmedia@green-technology.org

Only You...Can Save Energy is an initiative of Green Technology, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. www.green-technology.org

Memorandum

Date: September 12, 2011
To: Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee
From: Rob Romanek, Watershed Coordinator
Subject: Watershed Coordinator Program Update

Progress in implementing the task outlines in the Watershed Coordinator Work Plan is ongoing. Since the last meeting of the EENR Committee the Watershed Coordinators are nearing completion of a report which promotes the development of community gardens within the San Gabriel Valley. Efforts have also focused on the development of a matrix of policy/BMP that address water quality issues, and on various GIS mapping tasks that support the programs efforts in identifying opportunities to protect and enhance open space and habitat area.

GIS analyses have been completed in support of the Watershed Coordinators' task to promote the development of community gardens. These analyses have identified the need, site consideration, and opportunities for community gardens within the San Gabriel Valley. Maps resulting from the analyses, such as the need analysis attached as Figure 1, are being combined with a case-study of the development of the Azusa Community Garden and a list of resources to develop this report.

A matrix of best management practices (BMPs), policies, and model ordinances to improve water quality is also in development. This matrix is being developed as a resource to the San Gabriel Valley and the SGVCOG member agencies in their consideration of adopting additional program and policies to encourage improved in-stream water quality throughout the Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Watersheds. The completed matrix will discuss the applicability of BMPs / policies / model ordinances within the San Gabriel Valley, identify specific benefits and provide links to additional resources.

Various GIS mapping tasks in support of the programs efforts in identifying opportunities to protect and enhance open space and habitat area are also underway. Current data collection tasks include identifying wildlands, fragmented open space, urban/wildland interface areas, and opportunities for habitat connectivity. Additional updates will be provided as progress is made.

Contact information: Rob Romanek, Watershed Coordinator at 626.815.1019 x108 or Rromanek@wca.ca.gov.

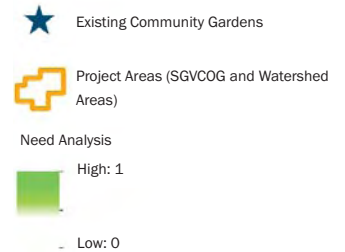
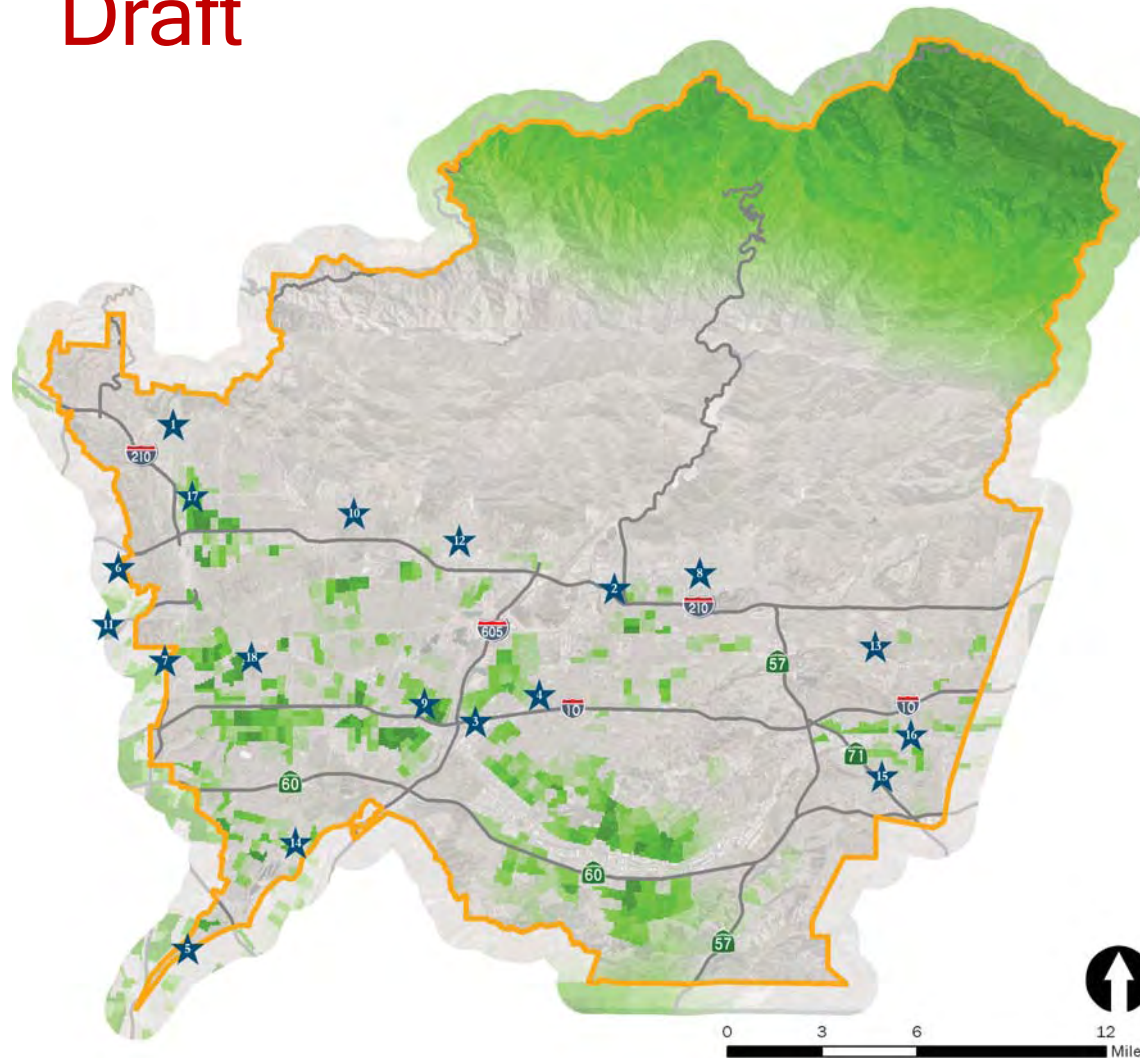
IDENTIFYING NEED

As Interest in community gardens builds throughout the San Gabriel Valley and city staff/elected officials receive request for, and consider the development of these facilities in their community they must first determine the level of need that exist. One simple method in determining need is to compare locations of existing community gardens with location of greatest need. The GIS analysis discussed below does this by comparing the relationship between existing community gardens and population density.

In determining the need for community gardens two variables (population density and existing community gardens) were compared by assigning values ranging between 1 and 0 to each, with the lowest values (i.e. 0) indicating the lowest need and the highest values (i.e. 1) indicating the highest need. The analysis was conducted within the project area with an additional one mile buffer to counteract edge effects. For population density, U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2010 Census Summary File 1 block group level was joined with 2010 TIGER/Line® Shapefiles (see <http://census.gov> for more information) and population per square mile was determined. The shapefile was then converted to a 100-meter resolution raster layer and scaled into 11 equal interval categories (i.e. 0, 0.1, 0.2) based on natural breaks (Jenks) classification method.

The geographical area services by existing community gardens was determined by first identifying the location of existing sites through personal interviews and internet research. Once identified, the Euclidean Distance tool in ArcGIS 10 was then used to generate a 100-meter resolution raster layer representing the distance from each cell/area to the community gardens. The raster layer was then divided by 1-mile to convert the values to a range between 1 and 0 with the cell/area directly surrounding the garden receiving a value of 0 with higher values assigned to cells/areas further away from a garden. Cells over a value of 1 were reclassified as 1. The two resulting raster layers were combined and the resulting values were divided by two, representing the two independent variables, to create a layer depicting the need for community gardens. This resulting raster layer is displayed in the adjacent map as Need Analysis. Note the false 'high need' within the upper watershed resulting from distances greater than 10-miles from an established community garden, regardless of low population density and subsequent low need in this area.

Draft



MAP ID FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

1. Altadena Community Garden
2. Azusa Community Garden
3. Baldwin Park Community Garden
4. Baldwin Park WIC Community Garden
5. Bell Garden Community Garden
6. Eagle Rockdale Community Garden & Art Park
7. El Sereno Community Garden
8. Glendora Community Garden (CSA) - Church of the Brethren
9. La Madera Community Garden
10. Memorial Park Community Garden
11. Milagro Allegro Community Garden
12. Monrovia Community Garden - Monrovia United Methodist Church
13. Peace and Carrots Community Garden - La Verne Church of the Brethren
14. Pico Rivera Community Garden
15. Pomona Community Garden
16. Pomona Community Garden - First Presbyterian Church of Pomona / Pomona Hope
17. Summit Avenue Community Garden
18. Winston Smoyer Memorial Community Garden



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Disclaimer

The statements and conclusions of this report are those of the Grantee and/or Subcontractor and not necessarily those of the Department of Conservation, or its employees. The Department makes no warranties, express or implied, and assumes no liability for the information contained in the succeeding text.

Six-Month Strategic Objectives

July 27, 2011 - February 1, 2012

Exhibit 1

Page 5 of 5.

Three-Year Goal: Develop and Implement Regional Solutions and Partnerships for The Environment

When	Who	What	Status			Comments
			Done	On Target	Revised	
Within in two months of selection	Denis Bertone	Introduce the new RMC Executive Director to the COG Board and the San Gabriel Valley stakeholders.	✓			This item is scheduled for the September Governing Board meeting.
October 31, 2011	Executive Director	Identify needs and provide assistance to MS4 Permit Coordination Group in an effort to develop an achievable, fundable MS4 Permit.		✓		This items has been agendized for discussion at the City Managers and Public Works TAC meetings in September.
December 1, 2011	Solid Waste Working Group (Sam Pedroza - lead)	Update the Governing Board and member cities on the impact of the closure of Puente Hills.				
February 1, 2012	Energy Working Group	Market rebates from Energy Upgrade California and funding opportunities from PACE.		✓		
February 1, 2012	Water Resources Working Group (Mary Ann Lutz - lead)	Present to the Governing Board for action a water project priority list.		✓		This item is being discussed at the September Water Working Group meeting.