

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Innovative Environmental Solutions



ANNUAL REPORT

Solid Waste Management Services

Fiscal Year 2014-15

(July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015)

This Annual Report describes the services, including performance measurements, provided by the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RR&WMD) to the communities of Buellton, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Solvang and the unincorporated areas during fiscal year (FY) 2014-15 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). Some of the cities, such as Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang receive an array of services through different programs and facilities and other communities such as Lompoc and Santa Maria receive more limited services as they provide many solid waste management programs on their own.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The RR&WMD provides a wide variety of community programs to the region overall as well as services specific to the unincorporated areas of the County. The Division is paid for these services through service contracts with the different cities and as a part of the waste collection bills paid by unincorporated residents and businesses.

Waste Collection

The County administers two waste collection permitting systems in the County unincorporated area. The County maintains exclusive franchise agreements with private hauling companies to provide the regular collection of waste, commingled recyclables, and green waste from residents and businesses. For the collection of bulky, construction related, or large quantities of organic refuse, the County has designed a collection system by issuing permits to a limited number of businesses (referred to as unscheduled haulers) who are allowed to collect this irregularly generated material with roll-off containers.

REGULAR COLLECTION OF TRASH, RECYCLABLES AND GREEN WASTE

RR&WMD staff is responsible for managing exclusive franchise agreements for the collection of solid waste materials from residents and businesses in the County unincorporated areas. Management responsibilities include identification of services to be provided, negotiation of service agreements, development of rates, mediation of customer complaints/service issues, and performance tracking. The following highlights some accomplishments of the franchised waste haulers, MarBorg in the South Coast and Waste Management in the North County, in key performance areas for FY 2014-15:

- **Sharps Collection Containers:** 271 customers in the North County and 131 customers on the South Coast requested and received postage prepaid sharps collection containers.
- **Household Batteries:** Residents are encouraged to put their unusable batteries in a clear closed bag and to set the bag on top of their curbside recycling container on collection day. 2,100 pounds of batteries were collected curbside in the North County and 4,138 pounds of batteries were collected curbside on the South Coast.
- **Bulky Items:** Residents are allowed to request twice each year the curbside collection of bulky items that cannot fit into their trash container. 1,105 pounds of bulky items were collected curbside in the North County and 2,305 pounds of material were collected curbside on the South Coast.
- **CNG Vehicles:** The County requires its franchised waste haulers to operate clean burning condensed natural gas (CNG) trucks rather than diesel fueled vehicles. The nearly 40 trucks needed to service the unincorporated area save 400 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. This translates into an annual environmental benefit equal to taking 84 vehicles off of the road each year. The CNG fuelled trucks are also less expensive to fuel, which is a savings that helps keep solid waste rates down.



- **Recovery of Waste Material:** Each service provider is required to recover or divert from landfilling a specific percentage of material collected in each service area. These requirements are part of the County's overall program for meeting the state's goal of diverting 75% of the waste generated from landfills. The diversion requirements vary in different zones based on the characteristics of the waste collected. Overall, the County's franchised collection system diverted 27,765 tons of yard trimmings from the landfill in FY 2014/15 and 21,122 tons of recyclables in the same time period. The following provides the overall recovery rates (comparing tons of recyclables and green waste to trash) in the two broader areas of the County for FY 2014-15.

AREA SERVED	TRASH	RECYCLING	GREEN WASTE	RECOVERY RATE
North County	61%	20%	19%	39%
South Coast	38%	30%	32%	62%
Countywide	50%	27%	23%	50%

UNSCHEDULED SOLID WASTE HANDLING SERVICES

The RR&WMD manages the Unscheduled Solid Waste Handling Services Permit Program. Under this program, the Division issues and manages permits granted to local businesses that rent roll-off bins in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County. The program has the following components:

- A roll-off business must have a permit to operate in the unincorporated area; the RR&WMD issues five-year permits;
- Permit holders are:
 - Limited to providing up to 20 unscheduled pickups per calendar year from a customer, unless they are collecting waste that is exempt from this regulation; and
 - Required to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all waste they collect through the rental of roll-off containers on an annual basis.
- RR&WMD staff conducts an annual audit to ensure that the unscheduled haulers are recycling the majority of the material that they collect.

Recycling and Organics Programs

The RR&WMD provides resources to the community to ensure that the maximum amount of recyclables and organics are diverted from being disposed. These programs are targeted for residents, businesses, schools, and construction projects. Resources include a variety of educational materials, indoor and outdoor recycling and composting containers, and responses to a variety of public inquiries regarding the reuse, recycling, and composting of materials.

MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

In 2003, the County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance banning the disposal of recyclables by commercial customers. RR&WMD staff worked with local chambers of commerce, property management companies, and the franchised service providers to develop a convenient collection program to service the commercial sector. Staff from the franchised service providers and the RR&WMD worked closely with each commercial customer in an effort to accurately modify trash and recycling service levels to ensure compliance with the ordinance. Oftentimes, these efforts led to cost savings for the customer. Each year, RR&WMD staff reviews customer lists and service levels and meets with new businesses to ensure compliance with the ordinance. Staff provides indoor recycling collection containers, as well as stickers, posters, and other outreach materials to facilitate the implementation of a recycling collection program at a business.

COUNTY BUILDING RECYCLING

Additionally, recycling collection is provided at all County facilities, and the RR&WMD provides free indoor recycling collection containers upon request. During FY 2014-15, **83 such containers were provided to nine County departments.**

SCHOOL RECYCLING

The RR&WMD provides two types of school recycling services. The first service pertains to starting and maintaining recycling programs at schools located in the unincorporated areas and the cities of Goleta and Solvang. The Division provides indoor and outdoor recycling containers, educational materials such as stickers and posters, and makes presentations to school classes and assemblies. In FY 2014-15, **174 recycling containers were delivered to 12 different schools.** The second type of school recycling service relates to education and a full description is provided under Education below.



CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

In 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved a program that requires proposed construction projects that exceed 350 tons of waste material to prepare a waste management plan prior to the initiation of the project. RR&WMD works with the Planning & Development Department to review the management plans and offer assistance to the project applicant in order to comply with the requirement. In addition, companies that haul construction waste material are required to have a permit to operate in the County unincorporated areas and must divert from landfilling at least 50% of the material that they collect from construction sites, if feasible. Staff works regularly to maintain these two construction debris management programs, as well as the statewide mandatory Green Building Standards with the County Planning & Development Department.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

The County purchases composting bins that are made available to the public year-round at a reduced cost of \$40 versus over \$80 at retail stores. The RR&WMD sold **288 discounted composting bins to South Coast residents and 30 to North County residents** in FY 2014-15.

To educate residents regarding backyard composting, the County:

- Includes extensive information on its waste reduction/reuse/recycling website, **LessIsMore.org**,
- Prepares and distributes a composting booklet, entitled **Composting ABC's**, and
- Holds educational workshops. During the spring and summer of 2015:
 - 7 public workshops on composting were held (4 on the South Coast and 3 in North County) with a total of 116 residents attending, and
 - A special workshop on vermicomposting was held in the North County with 20 residents attending.
- Places print ads and on-line ads;
- Conducts outreach through e-mails;
- Distributes handouts (e.g. flyers, **Recycling Resource Guide for Santa Barbara County**) at events (e.g. Earth Day events and Farmers' Markets);
- Places notices in newsletters of franchise waste haulers;
- In addition, approximately 1,690 members of the public received information on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling by visiting the RR&WMD's booth at the South Coast Earth Day (300), participating on tours of the Tajiguas Landfill (1,100) and South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station (130), and 160 students received presentations at various schools.



FOOD FORWARD FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

In FY 2013-14, RR&WMD launched a program to encourage and educate households and businesses to prevent and reduce the generation of food waste and to recycle or reuse the food scraps that they do generate.

This program's components include the following:

- Identifies simple ways households can reduce their food waste;
- Explains food expiration phrases used on products to discourage the premature disposal of food;



- Provides the general criteria and incentives for donating prepared and unprepared food;
- Lists places in Santa Barbara County that accept donations of prepared and/or unprepared food;
- References organizations in Santa Barbara County that accept food scraps to feed animals;
- Provides the criteria for participating in a pilot collection program for commercial food scraps; and
- Encourages the continued practice of backyard composting.

Since the implementation of the program, the following has been accomplished:



- Development of a brochure and page on the **Lessismore.org** Website highlighting the components of the program;
- Solicited businesses and schools on the South Coast to participate in a pilot commercial food scraps collection program described below;
- Partnered with the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County (Foodbank) by participating in Healthy School Pantry events and with their Master Gardener program to distribute educational materials about the Food Forward program and Backyard Composting to event participants; and
- Participated in workshops to develop a Food Action Plan for Santa Barbara County cosponsored by the Community Environmental Council, the Foodbank, and the Santa Barbara and Orfalea foundations.

PILOT COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION (SOUTH COAST)

In 2014, the County began a pilot food scrap collection route for customers in Goleta and the unincorporated areas who wanted to see their food waste repurposed for a beneficial reuse in the community rather than be buried in the landfill. **The route currently has 10 customers who are diverting one ton per week of food scraps.** The diversion from landfilling of this quantity of food waste is equivalent of taking 11 cars off of the road or providing the electricity for five homes for a full year.

MANURE AND BEDDING MATERIAL COLLECTION (NORTH COUNTY)

The County has worked with Waste Management to implement a horse manure and bedding collection program to compost these organics in the areas of the North County that have large quantities of horses on site. **This program annually diverts more than 500 tons of material from the landfill each year,** the greenhouse reduction equivalent of taking 100 cars off the road for a year.



Hazardous Waste Collection

More and more materials are considered to not be appropriate for landfilling due to toxicity, corrosivity, and reactivity. Some materials are highly toxic and generated on a more limited basis while others like batteries are widely generated by the community. As such, the RR&WMD provides an array of opportunities for members of the public to appropriately manage their hazardous waste.

COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER

The RR&WMD contracts with UCSB to house the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center (CHWCC) open to residents and small businesses for the collection of hazardous waste. Communitywide participation at the CHWCC continues to be strong. In FY 2014-15, **8,029 participants (7,675 residents and 354 businesses) disposed of a total of 597,527 pounds of hazardous waste at the CHWCC.** The table below shows the breakdown of residential participation:

JURISDICTION / UNINCORPORATED AREAS AND OTHER COMMUNITIES	NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL PARTICIPANTS	PERCENTAGE
Goleta	1,996	26%
Santa Barbara	2,763	36%
South Coast Unincorporated Areas/ Solvang/Other Communities	2,916	38%
TOTALS	7,675	100%

COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Due to the remoteness of some areas of the County, the RR&WMD holds hazardous waste collection events to ensure that all parts of the community have easy access to appropriate methods of disposing of hazardous waste. RR&WMD held 2 hazardous waste collection events at the **Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station with 463 residents and businesses participating and collected a total of 38,357 pounds of hazardous waste.** The Division also held 1 collection event in **New Cuyama with 27 residents and businesses participating and collected 2,131 pounds of hazardous materials.**

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The County applied to be an authorized collector of Covered Electronic Devices when the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) established a statewide electronics recycling program in 2005. As an approved collector, the County receives reimbursement from CalRecycle for collecting electronic equipment containing cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and other covered electronic devices for recycling, resulting in no net costs to participating jurisdictions for the services provided. Additionally, as the program has matured, the County's electronics recycler has agreed to pay for other types of electronic equipment and materials, and this revenue is shared with the County's partner cities. The table below shows the breakdown for the total pounds of electronics collected for recycling during FY 2014-15:



FACILITY / COLLECTION EVENT	POUNDS OF ELECTRONICS COLLECTED
South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station	520,438
Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station	83,143
Santa Ynez Valley Collection Events	21,710
Cuyama Valley Collection Event	450
TOTAL	625,741

SHARPS COLLECTION

RR&WMD partners with the County Public Health Department (PHD) to provide a used sharps (needles) collection program to the region. RR&WMD provides containers that participants can take home to store their used home-generated sharps. When the container is full, they can return the container to a County PHD clinic for disposal free of charge. Participation in the sharps collection program has remained steady. Countywide, **a total of 3,092 sharps containers were distributed to the public and 3,309 pounds of sharps were collected from County clinics** during FY 2014-15. Also, sharps disposal flyers/brochures continued to be distributed at medical facilities, pharmacies, solid waste transfer stations, hazardous waste collection facilities, and at public events.

In addition, the RR&WMD procured new franchise collection services that went into effect in July 2011. One added service is the provision of postage pre-paid sharps collection containers that are available to franchise customers upon request. In FY 2014-15, **402 customers requested sharps containers** from the franchised service providers (271 in North County and 131 in South County).

PHARMACEUTICALS COLLECTION (OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET)

In FY 2009-10, in coordination with the County Sheriff's Department, the County Public Works Department launched a countywide pharmaceutical collection program called Operation Medicine Cabinet. Collection containers have been installed at all 9 Sheriff's substations, where residents can drop off pharmaceuticals of any kind. In addition, educational materials have been developed to make the public aware of the program. In FY 2014-15, an estimated **8,000 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected** through this program.



USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION

The County serves as the regional coordinator for a used motor oil collection program funded by CalRecycle for the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Solvang, and the County unincorporated areas. This program supports 10 certified used oil collection centers that accept used motor oil and oil filters from the public for proper disposal, in addition to the area's hazardous waste collection facilities. **A total of 13,007 gallons of used motor oil and 3,599 used motor oil filters were collected** from these centers in FY 2014-15. Motor oil and oil filter collection containers, as well as funnels for people who change their own motor oil, were also purchased and distributed under this program. RR&WMD also conducted a countywide media campaign to promote the recycling of used motor oil and to raise awareness among the public regarding the availability of these collection centers.

RR&WMD also continued to implement a program targeting those members of the community who are newer to the United States and that surveys have indicated is the population most likely to change their own motor oil rather than use an automotive service. In this program, Santa Barbara City College and Allan Hancock Community College train teachers of English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) students on a used motor oil curriculum, and the teachers then convey this information to their students. **A total of 1,565 students received instruction in this curriculum** and benefited from learning how to manage used motor oil in our County.

Public Information and Education



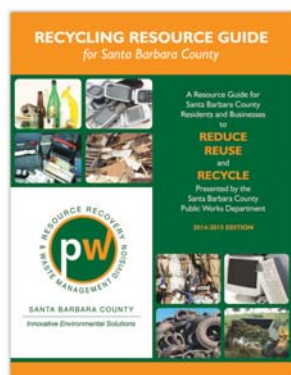
For more recycling information please visit:
www.LessIsMore.org

The RR&WMD uses a variety of ways to communicate with the public regarding the different solid waste management programs and services that are available to them. The following means were used to provide information to the public during FY 2014-15:

LESSISMORE.ORG

LessIsMore.org is the region's primary on-line information source for solid waste management in the County. The Division's website provides a wide range of information including:

- Identifying materials accepted for recycling in Santa Barbara County;
- Listing locations where households can take used motor oil and all types of hazardous materials for recycling or proper disposal;
- Tips to prevent or reduce waste and to reuse materials;
- Electronic versions of the ***Recycling Resource Guide for Santa Barbara County*** in English and Spanish.



The site includes the ability to search by key words and to translate the information into Spanish. In FY 2014-15, the Division had a total of **180,998 LessIsMore.org visits from 158,629 unique visitors with 305,380 page views.**

RECYCLING RESOURCE GUIDE

The County RR&WMD continues to annually update and distribute its ***Recycling Resource Guide for Santa Barbara County*** (Guide) throughout the County. The Guide is printed in English one year and in Spanish the following year. Enough copies of the Guide are produced to allow for distribution of a specific version for two years

until the next update. In FY 2014-15, County staff updated the **English version of the Guide and distributed 1,816 copies** in the community. Additionally, **512 copies of the FY 2013-14 Spanish version of the Guide were also distributed**. Area libraries, governmental buildings, and community organizations receive copies of the guide annually and contact our office for replenishment. Other copies are distributed by the waste haulers, at public events, and in response to individual requests. Also, updates to the Guide are posted on LessIsMore.org on an ongoing basis for easy access.

INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

The Division uses various methods to publicize upcoming events, new developments, and reminders about existing programs and services to the community. Outreach efforts include the use of print and electronic ads in newspapers, on radio and television, in organizational newsletters and through news releases and LessIsMore.org. Efforts are made to target the Spanish-speaking population by using Spanish-speaking television and radio stations and providing a Spanish translation device on LessIsMore.org. In FY 2014-15, RR&WMD conducted the following campaigns:

- **Holiday campaign** to encourage residents to recycle their Christmas trees, donate unwanted items to thrift stores, and to remind residents that they can put extra recyclables next to their containers immediately following the holidays.
- **Santa Ynez Valley and New Cuyama Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Events** to make residents aware of the collection days held for hazardous and electronic waste generated in the Santa Ynez Valley (Fall and Spring) and New Cuyama (Fall) areas.
- **Backyard Composting** to advertise the Division's backyard composting workshops held in Santa Barbara, Isla Vista, Solvang, and Orcutt in the spring and summer of 2015, as well as the year-round availability of composting bins for sale at a discounted rate.
- **Used Motor Oil Recycling** to increase the public's awareness of the need to recycle their used motor oil, to not pour it down a storm drain, and to publicize the countywide availability of collection sites.
- **Electronics Recycling** to make the public aware of the numerous locations available to collect their electronic equipment for recycling or reuse.
- **America Recycles Day** was commemorated with ads highlighting LessIsMore.org as the "ultimate recycling resource."



FACILITY TOURS

In FY 2014-15, RR&WMD staff continued to provide solid waste management facility tours to interested members of the community. Tours of the Tajiguas Landfill and the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) were promoted on LessIsMore.org, and outreach materials were prepared and distributed at community events and through our educational contractors. Also, educational posters and handouts were prepared for use during the tours.

For the **Tajiguas Landfill, 33 tours were provided to approximately 1,100 students/community members**. RR&WMD staff explained how waste is managed in our

community, the technical aspects of the facility, and provided tips and guidance on waste prevention and reduction, recycling, and reuse. Similarly, **9 tours of the South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station (SCRTS) were conducted to 130 people.** During the SCRTS tours, RR&WMD staff showed the various types of materials collected for recycling, described the process of collecting, transporting, and sorting the recyclables for sale, and provided tips and guidance on waste prevention and reduction, recycling, and reuse. In addition, at the end of these tours, outreach materials for the County's waste reduction/recycling programs were distributed.

SCHOOL RECYCLING

The County has several programs to educate students about source reduction, recycling, and composting. These services are provided by Explore Ecology through its Art from Scrap (AFS) Program, by Waste Management through an educational mobile trailer, and the County through facility tours described above. Explore Ecology brings students to their facility to learn the basics of integrated waste management and to participate in making art from waste materials. It also visits schools to make in-class presentations. Under a separate contract, Waste Management sites a mobile trailer at interested schools to enable students to learn about source reduction, recycling, and composting. Below is a table showing the results of these programs:

PROGRAM	AREA	# OF SCHOOLS OR CAMPS	# OF STUDENTS	# OF CLASSES
Art from Scrap	Unincorporated South Coast/ City of Goleta	16	2,196	105
Art from Scrap	Unincorporated North County	14	4,431	181
Waste Management	Unincorporated North County	6	NA	NA
TOTAL		36	6,627 +	286 +

RESOURCE RECOVERY & WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION WEBSITE

RR&WMD staff maintains the Division's website that provides the following information:

- Collection services (trash and recycling) and corresponding rates for single-family residential service provided by the franchised waste haulers in the five service zones of the unincorporated areas;
- Descriptions and notices of upcoming activities and events;
- Environmental documents for current and past projects;
- Descriptions of County facilities, including the types of materials accepted and corresponding fees;
- Reporting documents from the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan;
- Links to County's website for information on waste prevention and reduction, recycling, and reuse, LessIsMore.org;
- Link to County's Resource Recovery Project;
- Information on Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration; and
- Overviews of the Laguna County Sanitation District, Street Lighting Districts, Mission Canyon Sewer District, and the Utility Undergrounding Program.



Community Clean Up

Litter and illegally dumped materials are a blight on our communities. The RR&WMD provides several programs targeting the elimination or removal of waste materials found on roadsides, on private property, and on area beaches.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Division is responsible for enforcing Chapters 17 (the appropriate management of solid waste such as removal of accumulated refuse) and 23 (the removal of abandoned or inoperable vehicles) of the Santa Barbara County Code for the unincorporated areas of the County, as well as mitigating illegally dumped materials along County roadsides. Here are the results of those efforts for FY 2014-15:

UNINCORPORATED AREA	CODE VIOLATIONS IN ISLA VISTA (IV)	CODE VIOLATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTY	ILLEGAL DUMPING	ABANDONED/ INOPERABLE VEHICLES	TOTAL
North County	Not applicable	60	141	53	254
South County	144	19	37	2	202
Countywide	144	79	178	55	456

COASTAL CLEAN UP DAY

The RR&WMD sponsored the implementation of Coastal Clean Up Day (CCD) in Santa Barbara County by providing funding to Project Clean Water who contracted with Explore Ecology to roll out the event on September 20, 2014. The California Coastal Commission provided bags, gloves and other materials for each clean up location. Explore Ecology recruited and coordinated the beach captains and volunteers and conducted the advertising campaign for the event. **A total of 1, 176 volunteers participated, cleaning 29 different sites over 41 miles, and collected 6,691 lbs. of material (5,283 lbs. of trash and 1,408 lbs. of recyclables).**

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAG BAN

Shortly after FY 2014-15, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors adopted a local ordinance banning single-use plastic bags in some stores in the unincorporated areas of the county. This ordinance is intentionally similar to other locally approved bans in the Cities of Santa Barbara, Ojai, and Carpinteria as well as the potential state-wide ban that will be on the November 2016 ballot. This ban affects supermarkets, pharmacies, food markets, and liquor stores. These stores will eventually offer only reusable bags for sale or bags made out of recycled paper that will cost 10 cents per bag. Larger stores like supermarkets and large chain

pharmacies will be impacted by this law on March 22, 2016. Smaller stores, like neighborhood markets and liquor stores, will be affected on September 24, 2016. County staff estimates that 8 larger stores and 66 smaller stores will be affected within the unincorporated areas of the County. This ordinance was developed and will be administered by the RR&WMD.

Regional Coordination

The County RR&WMD administers a variety of regional waste-related programs that involve the participation of several different entities. These programs are either most efficiently administered on a regional basis or are required by the state to be managed by the County.

GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

The County RR&WMD continues to administer the countywide Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County (GBPSBC) and contracts with a consultant to serve as the Program Director. Under the GBPSBC, businesses are offered positive incentives and assistance to implement actions that protect, preserve, and improve the environment above and beyond their compliance with applicable regulations. Upon completing the necessary mandatory and a minimum number of voluntary measures in the following areas, businesses will be certified as “green” businesses:

- Solid waste reduction and recycling;
- Environmentally preferable purchasing;
- Energy conservation;
- Water conservation; and
- Pollution prevention, which includes storm water runoff and using alternative forms of transportation.



Businesses achieving certification are subsequently given a sticker for display at their business, a certificate recognizing their achievement, and are honored at the annual GBPSBC Luncheon. They also receive free advertising by being listed in the directory of certified businesses on the GBPSBC website, recognition on chamber of commerce websites, and being highlighted through free print and on-line ads.

Currently, 30 agencies and organizations provide financial support and/or in-kind contributions to the program. In an effort to address the growing demand from businesses applying for certification, the Steering Committee of the GBPSBC has worked over the past year to develop a strategic plan, which includes several changes that will be implemented in FY 2015-16. Despite these organizational efforts, during FY 2014-15, **7 businesses were certified and 2 businesses were recertified, resulting in a grand total of 94 businesses achieving certification/recertification since the program began in December 2008.**

RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Division applied for and received approval for a renewal of the 10-year designation of the Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) from CalRecycle in FY 2005-06. The Santa Barbara Regional RMDZ is comprised of the County of Santa Barbara (covering the unincorporated areas) and the cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria. The purpose of the RMDZ program is to offer low interest loans to businesses that use recycled materials that would otherwise be landfilled as a feedstock to make a new commodity or to purchase machinery that could prevent or reduce the amount of waste from the manufacturing

process. For example, a company would be eligible to apply for a low interest loan from CalRecycle to purchase equipment to make reusable bags out of upholstery material scraps.

Serving as the Zone Administrator, RR&WMD staff continues to represent the Santa Barbara Regional RMDZ by:

- Responding to inquiries from businesses seeking more information about the RMDZ program;
- Conveying information on technical assistance available through the Santa Barbara Regional RMDZ and other programs of financial assistance;
- Conducting outreach to manufacturers by making presentations to area chambers of commerce and business associations and promoting the RMDZ program at trade shows and conferences; and
- Attending semi-annual Zone Works Training Workshops, sponsored by CalRecycle.

LOCAL SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE

The County RR&WMD continued to administer the Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Local Task Force (LTF), a group mandated by CalRecycle and comprised of representatives from each of the nine jurisdictions, as well as Vandenberg Air Force Base and the Water Districts. The LTF discusses and comments on proposed facilities, regulations, and local programs. During FY 2014-15, **the County held 3 LTF meetings to review and discuss updates on solid waste management efforts in various jurisdictions in the County, statewide legislation, and extended producer responsibility initiatives.**

STATE DOCUMENT PREPARATION

In FY 2014-15, the County RR&WMD staff continued to prepare several regional reports for submittal to state agencies:

- Quarterly disposal reports for all jurisdictions in the County were submitted to CalRecycle;
- Annual Reports for the cities of Solvang and Goleta and County unincorporated areas were submitted to CalRecycle;
- Annual Hazardous Waste Report (Form 303), encompassing the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Solvang and the unincorporated areas was submitted to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control; and
- Storm water reports for the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and the unincorporated areas were prepared for local water agencies to submit to applicable state agencies.

Notably, the City of Goleta and the County of Santa Barbara have formed a Regional Reporting Authority. According to CalRecycle, the quantity of material landfilled for 2014 was 3.9 lbs. per capita, **equivalent to a diversion rate of 75 percent.**



Open Space / Restoration Areas

In addition to offering solid waste management services, the RR&WMD has created the opportunity for the public to enjoy new open spaces and has established restoration areas in many sensitive habitats in our community. These projects have been done in partnership and coordination with many other local, State and Federal agencies as well as local non-profit organizations.

BARON RANCH TRAIL AND NATURAL AREA

The Baron Ranch (Ranch) trail is a 6-mile loop contained within the property boundaries of the Ranch and is currently open only to hikers Saturday-Monday of each week, from dawn to dusk. The RR&WMD has received a proposal to connect this trail to the Camino Cielo jeepway at the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains on U.S. Forest Service land. Such a connection would result in the trail and the Ranch itself becoming accessible to the public seven days a week and expand the use of the trail to include bicyclists and horseback riders in an unsupervised setting. Since the trail runs along the eastern side of the Arroyo Quemado Creek, it poses challenges to the commercial agricultural operations on the Ranch (e.g. conflict with orchard operations, theft, etc.). Further, daily use of the trail will require greater protections for the agricultural operations than is currently possible.

In consideration of these various uses, the Public Works Department, in consultation with County Parks personnel and trail user groups, is considering moving the trail to the western side of the creek, thereby separating the commercial agricultural operations from the trail. This action would also enhance the user experience through the Arroyo Quemado riparian corridor, where the Public Works Department has been conducting a large-scale native plant restoration. This trail expansion will be brought before the County Board of Supervisors in FY 2015-16 for their consideration.

FOOTHILL OPEN SPACE AREA

The Foothill Open Space Area, once a regional landfill, is located between the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta, and served the south coast of Santa Barbara County before Tajiguas Landfill opened in 1967. The site is now a valuable urban open space resource that houses two non-profit organizations: HEARTS, a therapeutic riding program for children and adults with disabilities and Growing Solutions Restoration Education Institute (Growing Solutions), a non-profit nursery specializing in native plant propagation. RRWMD also has given Biofuel innovator Russell Teall the use of an area at Growing Solutions to grow jatropha plants, whose seeds hold great potential as a viable alternative fuel source. RRWMD received two grants to conduct re-vegetation/restoration of the area. These grants, in combination with over 30 community planting days sponsored by the RR&WMD and included neighbors and other community members, helped restore the former landfill site with native plants and enhance the system of on-site trails.

CARPINTERIA BLUFF NATURAL AREA

The RR&WMD was responsible for cleaning up and re-vegetating an abandoned burn dump near the City of Carpinteria in 2005. Used for decades by local residents and nearby oil extraction facilities as a place to burn garbage, this seaside property is now successfully restored and contributes aesthetically and biologically to the City of Carpinteria's bluff open space and trails, providing access to community beaches and offering panoramic views of the Santa Barbara Channel.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT & WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Waste management services are provided by the County RR&WMD to the cities of Buellton, Solvang, Goleta and Santa Barbara in addition to the unincorporated areas of the County. Waste management services consist of transferring and burying trash, sorting material for recyclables such as metals, wood, green waste, tires, dirt, drywall, electronics, cardboard, mattresses, etc., processing and marketing green waste, and contracting for and transporting commingled recyclables to be processed and marketed. Additionally, the County accepts self-haul trash from the general public originating from all communities in the County. The following highlights the quantity of the material managed at these facilities for FY 2014-15 as well as a breakdown of certain material types. Additionally, the RR&WMD is continuing a multi-year procurement for a state-of-the-art processing facility to sort all waste currently being buried at the Tajiguas Landfill.

In addition to waste management facilities, the RR&WMD operates a wastewater treatment plant, the Laguna Sanitation Treatment Plant, that services wastewater generated by the Orcutt community.

Waste Burial — Tajiguas Landfill

Waste generated by the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, Solvang and some parts of the unincorporated areas of the County are disposed at the County operated Tajiguas Landfill. In addition to receiving waste directly delivered by the public and private hauling companies, the landfill receives waste collected from the South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station, the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station, and the New Cuyama and Ventucopa transfer stations.

In FY 2014-15:

- 180,958 tons of material was buried at the landfill,
- 27,000 tons of green waste was ground and distributed regionally as a mulch product (more detail on this program is provided below), and
- 25,000 tons of material from MarBorg's construction and demolition debris facility was used as alternative daily cover.

Over the past 15 years, methane gas has been collected at the Tajiguas Landfill and used as fuel to power an engine-driven turbine to produce 2.8 megawatts of electricity for approximately 2,500 homes. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, capturing this methane gas is equivalent to planting over 44,800 acres of trees per year or removing the annual emissions of over 33,800 vehicles.

RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATIONS

The RR&WMD operates four recycling and waste transfer stations in the County. The County owned and operated facilities work to remove items from the waste



stream that can be reused, recycled and, in addition, act as revenue streams.

In FY 2014-15:

- 21,699 tons of commingled recyclable materials were delivered to a County facility and were sent to processors for sorting into marketable commodities;
- 36,017 tons of greenwaste was delivered to County facilities which were subsequently cleaned to remove contaminants and ground into a mulch material. This mulch material was either sold to small and large scale customers or made available for free pickup by the public. Of some note is the partnership the County has with the City of Santa Barbara WasteWise Program for which the County provides two free loads of mulch to water customers and the County is reimbursed for the delivery costs as a result of the ongoing drought;
- 7,500 tons of construction and demolition debris was recycled;
- 603,581 lbs of electronics were sent to be processed to recover recyclable or reusable components; and
- 2,618 tons of miscellaneous materials such as tires, mattresses, and metals were recovered and sent to recycling facilities.

SOUTH COAST RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION

The South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station received 70,279 tons of material in FY 2014-15. Of that material:

- 20,867 tons were transferred to Tajiguas for burial,
- 21,699 tons of commingled recyclables were transferred to Gold Coast Recycling for processing,
- 27,177 tons of green waste were either processed on-site or transferred to another County facility for processing and marketing, and
- the remaining 536 tons were recovered for recycling.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION

The Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station received 23,100 tons of material in FY 2014-15. Of that material:

- 8,663 tons were transferred to Tajiguas for burial,
- 14,227 tons of green waste were either processed on-site or transferred to another County facility for processing and marketing, and
- the remaining 210 tons were recovered for recycling.

NEW CUYAMA AND VENTUCOPA TRANSFER STATIONS

The New Cuyama and Ventucopa transfer stations are located in a remote area of northeastern Santa Barbara County. The material collected at these facilities is hauled to Tajiguas for disposal and to MarBorg's sorting facility to recover recyclables. In FY 2014-15, 543 tons of material were received at New Cuyama and 120 tons of waste was received at the Ventucopa facility.

Planning for Future Resource Recovery Project

The County RR&WMD, in collaboration with the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Buellton and Solvang, has been working on the potential development of the Resource Recovery Project (RRP) over the past seven years, as a result of researching a financially and environmentally responsible long-term solution to managing our community's waste. The RRP will process municipal solid waste currently disposed at the County owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill, as well as source-separated material currently collected under the area's waste collection programs, such as recyclables and organics. The RRP is proposed to be a public/private joint venture whereby it may be publicly owned but designed, built, and operated by a private company. The RRP consists of a materials recovery facility to process mixed municipal solid waste, as well as source-separated recyclables and an anaerobic digester to process both mixed and source-separated organics. The end products of these processes will be the recovery and sale of additional recyclables, green energy, compost, and soil amendments. It is anticipated that the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with this project is equivalent to taking 25,000 vehicles off of local roadways. Residue from the facility will continue to be disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill.

During FY 2014-15, RR&WMD distributed a draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the RRP to the public. The private company also provided an updated proposal during this time, which led to negotiations with the participating public jurisdictions and the consideration by the Board of Supervisors to publicly finance the facility in order to reduce costs to the ratepayer.

Wastewater Treatment — Laguna Sanitation Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Laguna County Sanitation District (District) is a dependent special district of the County and provides wastewater management services to residential and business customers in the Orcutt and unincorporated Santa Maria areas. The District currently owns and operates approximately 129 miles of sewer lines and one lift station as well as a plant capable of treating up to 3.7 million gallons of wastewater per day. Wastewater is treated to disinfected tertiary levels capable of reuse as recycled water for agricultural and industrial uses. In 2012, the District installed a solar facility which generates 1 megawatt of electricity that is used to power portions of the treatment plant facility along with a natural gas and biogas system. Biogas is generated from the anaerobic digester. Digested biosolids are trucked to Engel & Gray for composting.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGES

As both federal and state agencies grapple with climate change, there have been an increasing number of policies and laws implemented to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by eliminating the disposal of organics in our landfills.

On a state level, California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) passed in 2006 is a state mandated reduction of GHGs to pre-1990 levels. In order for the State to achieve this goal, getting organics out of landfills has been specifically targeted in many pieces of subsequent policy and legislation. AB 32's "Scoping Plan" adopted by the California Air Resources Board specifically identifies the need to divert 22 million tons of organic material from landfills. This Plan has been amended in recent years and has included specifics related to diverting organics from our waste stream and has identified the need to expand the State's ability to compost diverted organics, specifically through anaerobic digestion and composting as is proposed in the Resource Recovery Project.

CalRecycle has implemented a State-wide Anaerobic Digestion Initiative under its Strategic Directive 6.1 which seeks to reduce by 50% the total amount of organics currently landfilled by 2020. To further this directive, CalRecycle has released a state-wide programmatic EIR to assist local jurisdictions in developing facilities at existing waste management facilities like landfills, similar to the proposed Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project.

The State's Public Resource Code has also been amended to reflect this shift towards increasing recycling and diverting organics through AB 341, specifically identifying composting of organics as a way to achieve the State's goal of recycling 75% of waste generated. The recent passage of AB 1826 requires businesses to divert organic waste they generate from disposal beginning in 2016 for larger generators extending to smaller generators through 2019. In addition, the State Air Resources Board, in conjunction with CalRecycle, is currently considering additional regulation to be passed in 2018 that would effectively eliminate all organics from disposal in landfills by 2025. Most recently, on October 8, 2015, Governor Brown signed into law two more bills directly targeting organic waste: AB 876 which requires local governments to plan for 15 years of organic waste recycling infrastructure; and AB 1045 which requires state agencies to work together to support the diversion of organic waste from landfills.

The federal government has followed California's lead establishing policies to remove organics from landfills. On September 15, 2015 the U.S. EPA in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the United States' first-ever national food waste reduction goal calling for a 50% reduction of food waste by 2030.

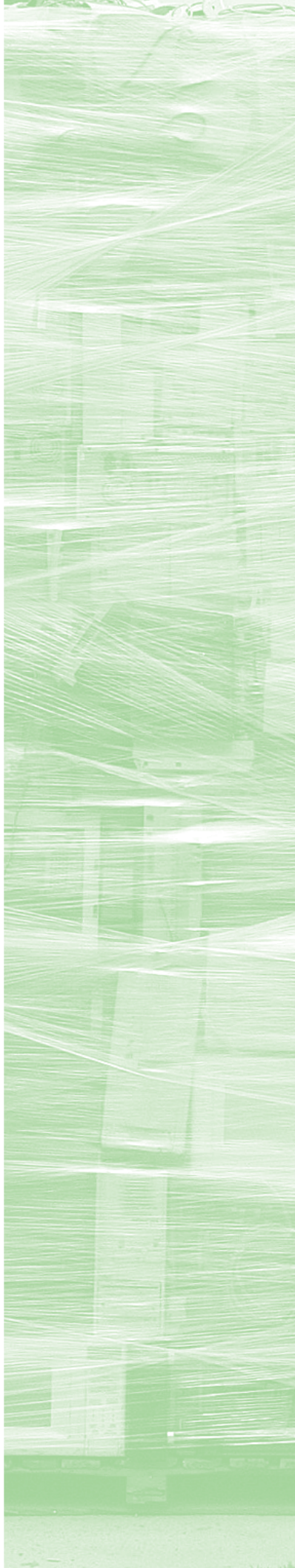
It is clear that managing organic waste is a rapidly expanding area of policy and law that will require local jurisdictions to develop needed infrastructure and will most likely add more cost to waste management systems. Santa Barbara County is not alone in addressing these policies by proposing to establish an AD facility. As of 2014, CalRecycle identified 12 AD facilities processing organic waste, one under construction, and an additional eight going through the permitting process. Even if the County chooses not to develop the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project, similar facilities will need to be developed locally in order to comply with existing and future State and Federal mandates.

FUTURE NEW PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

While the RR&WMD has already implemented a wide range of programs, due to regulatory changes as well as changes in community needs, several additional programs and facilities have been identified to be pursued in the following and future years. These additions include:

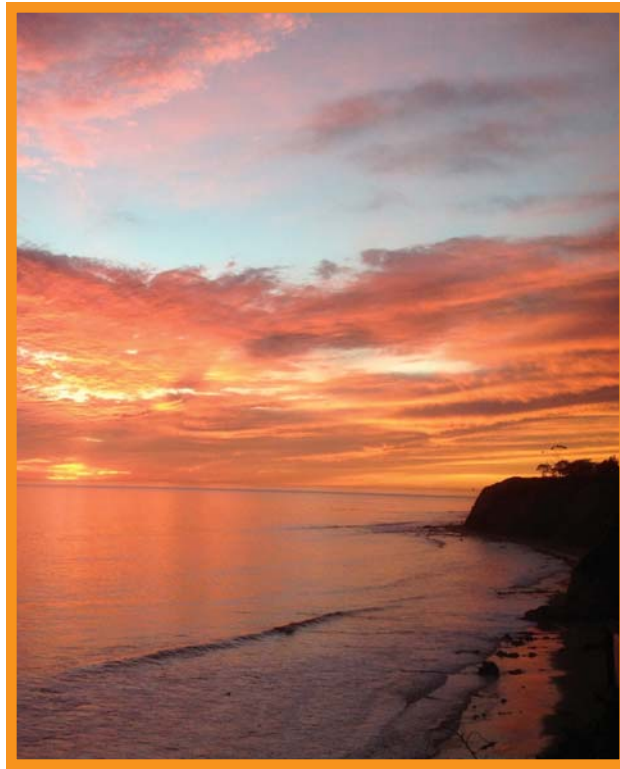
- Expansion of local waste processing capability and reduction in greenhouse emissions related to waste management through completion of the Resource Recovery Project in order to comply with Public Resource Code Section 41721, AB 32, AB 1826 and AB 876
- Expansion of pilot commercial food waste collection program to a permanent larger program in order to comply with AB 1826
- Increased opportunities to appropriately dispose of pharmaceuticals including participating in the County's efforts led by the Public Health Department to develop a pharmaceutical take back ordinance
- Evaluate feasibility of collecting hazardous and other regulated waste from residents unable to use collection centers
- Expansion of the County's recycled-content and environmentally responsible purchasing practices through participation with the County Sustainability Initiatives Team
- Working with the Parks Division to expand the existing public trail on the Baron Ranch







For more information please visit:
LessIsMore.org



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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