

Multifamily Recycling Program

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



SANITATION
D E P A R T M E N T O F
PUBLIC WORKS

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Goal of the Program

- To provide recycling services to Multifamily residents who currently have no option to recycle.





Why is Los Angeles implementing Multi-Family Recycling?

- The City of Los Angeles' diversion rate alone was 62% in 2002
- As a member of the Los Angeles Area Regional Agency (LARA), our combined rate for 2004 was 61%
- Hundreds of residents call each year asking to recycle
- Landlords mostly have not implemented programs because of the additional cost
- Haulers in Los Angeles are licensed, not under a franchise contract, and so are not required to recycle



Existing Conditions

- The Bureau of Sanitation services single and multifamily residences of 4 or fewer units
- City charter limits City collection to residential
- Private waste haulers service multifamily dwellings of more than 4 units– considered commercial buildings
- About 550,000 tons of trash are disposed each year from privately served multifamily homes.



Pilot Multifamily Recycling Program

- In April and May 2004, five personal service contracts were executed to begin implementation of pilot programs.
- Methodologies tested: Blue Bag, Source Separated, and Dirty MRF.
- Over 70,000 units enrolled in the pilot program.
- Pilot will roll into the permanent program in 2007.

Service Methodologies

1. **Blue Bag** – Implemented in a test area.
 - Canvassing and education were fairly extensive
 - Bags were a target for scavengers
 - Low recovery/participation caused pilot to fold
2. **Dirty MRF** – Implemented in a pilot area
 - No outreach
 - Recovery ranged from 16-21% as reported
 - Processing capacity limited – only in two areas
3. **Source Separated** – selected by most participants
 - Included 60 or 90 gallon containers or larger bins if possible
 - Average recovery 6-10%, some affluent areas estimated 17%



Options for Providing Service

- Exclusive Franchise
- Expansion of AB939 Permit System
- Contracting with Private Waste Haulers for Recycling Services
- Recycling Mandate on Apartment Owners
- Provision of Multifamily Recycling Services by City Forces

Pilot Findings

- Outreach/education is a necessary component, but moderate outreach is enough
- A voluntary program has better participation and lower contamination than a mandatory program
- A source separated program, with blue containers/bins, can complement school and other residential education programs by accepting the same materials
- The lowest cost option is to have waste haulers collect the recyclables and City forces perform outreach and education.

Examining the Options...

- Exclusive Franchise – Needs five year notice. Mayor wants program by 2008. Small haulers would be shut out.
- Expansion of permit system to require recycling. Would be implemented by many haulers, difficult to quantify success and impossible to perform outreach.
- Recycling mandate on Apartment Owners. Would cost additional \$\$, again with many different programs

Examining the Options.....

- Provision of Recycling Services by City forces. Issues of capacity in trucks, personnel, maintenance by 2008. Cost issues.
- Contracting with Private Haulers for Services. Selected option. Haulers provide bins and collection, City pays cost per unit. City provides outreach that complements existing LAUSD and single family residential programs.



Program Funding

- In 2002, the City approved a 10% gross receipts fee on private haulers.
- These special funds are only to be used for AB939 compliance and recycling for customers of private haulers.
- Provision of multifamily recycling programs was directed by the City Council.
- The program, if implemented to 540,000 units, could cost \$10 million per year



Next Steps

- Proposals have been received for the permanent program.
- Cost proposals range from \$1.11 per unit to over \$6 per unit per month.
- Possibly three different contractors – 5 year agreements, with two-two year extensions
- After seven years, the City can go to another system if necessary.