



DATE: March 9, 2017

TO: Planning & Organization Committee/Recycling Board

FROM: Tom Padia, Deputy Director

BY: Meghan Starkey, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Municipal Panel: Commercial Organics

SUMMARY

Several times a year, staff assembles a panel of representatives from the member agencies to speak on a topic previously selected by the Recycling Board. The topic for the March Municipal Panel is commercial organics. Representatives from Albany, Berkeley, Dublin and Union City will share their experiences and insights on the opportunities and challenges of diverting commercial organics in their jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION

While commercial organics collection programs have been in place in these jurisdictions for many years, the cities vary widely in their commercial bases, requirements and rates. Figure 1 includes a brief snapshot of the cities to give an idea of how they vary from each other. One important way in which they differ is the degree to which they have opted in (or not) to the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance. Albany and Berkeley opted into Phase 2 of the ordinance, effective July 1, 2014, thereby requiring commercial accounts to divert organics. Dublin has not opted into either phase of the mandatory recycling ordinance. Union City has opted into Phase 1, including commercial recyclables only (no organics). Nevertheless, both Dublin and Union City have organics service available to businesses on a voluntary basis.

In addition to highlighting both the general successes and challenges of organics programs, panelists will present case studies from a few businesses.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

Figure 1: Commercial Sector Characteristics

Characteristics	Albany	Berkeley	Dublin	Union City
Total Comm'l Refuse Accounts	263	4,574	524	608
# Accounts < 4CY	241	3,711	274	370
# Accounts 4+ CY	22	863	250	238
Tons Franchise Disposal (All Sectors)	4,315	33,360	28,435	30,513
Service Provider	Waste Management	City and others via non-exclusive franchises	AVI (Amador Valley Industries)	Republic Services
Recycling				
Subject to MRO for Recycling?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
% Comm'l Customers with Recycling	86%	See note	85%	Phase 1: 86%
Rate Incentive (Recycling)	Free	Free to City-serviced accounts	Cart service at no additional charge	40% discount
Organics				
Subject to MRO for Organics?	Yes	Yes	No	No
% Comm'l Customers with Organics	34%	46%	9%	12% (50% of HOGs)
# High Organics Generating Businesses (HOGs) identified by SW	63	29	n/a	68
Rate Incentive (Organics)	50% discount	20% discount	50% discount	40% discount

Notes:

Albany: Commercial numbers contain some multifamily accounts with bin service. Many small commercial accounts share recycling and organics service, but have their own trash accounts.
 Berkeley: Account numbers reflect City of Berkeley accounts only, although other haulers service the commercial sector. Percent of customers with recycling service will be available at the meeting.