



DATE: October 12, 2023
TO: Planning Committee/Recycling Board
FROM: Robin Plutchok, Program Manager
SUBJECT: Municipal Panel: Member Agency Schools Programs

SUMMARY

StopWaste staff periodically organize a panel of municipal staff to speak to the Recycling Board about programs and initiatives implemented by member agencies. The topic for the October Municipal Panel is Member Agency Schools programs. Representatives from Fremont, Union City, and Oro Loma Sanitary District will share their experiences and insights on the opportunities and challenges of implementing recycling, organics, and sustainability programs in their schools.

DISCUSSION

School programs have been a long-standing focus at StopWaste, and the Agency has worked collaboratively with schools and school districts for over 25 years. While the Agency provides direct services to public schools – ranging from infrastructure support, field trips to the Davis Street and Fremont transfer stations, and hands-on climate action projects with classrooms, schools, and their communities – several member agency staff also work directly and in partnership with schools and school districts.

Public schools are regulated by the state government and are exempt from local ordinances and the Agency's Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance (ORRO) but are required to comply with SB 1383 regulations and must have edible food recovery programs starting in 2024. Some schools may receive service from the jurisdiction's franchised service provider, although often schools contract separately for service.

At the October meeting, member agency staff will present on how they work with local schools to provide technical assistance to help schools comply with SB 1383 requirements, advance city climate action plans, and help transition schools from single-use disposables to reusables in the cafeteria. The collaboration and partnerships among member agencies, schools, and StopWaste collectively support the engagement of youth and reinforce waste reduction practices at home.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.