



DATE: September 8, 2016

TO: Planning & Organization Committee/Recycling Board

FROM: Wendy Sommer, Executive Director

BY: Meghan Starkey, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Municipal Panel: Organics Recycling

SUMMARY

Once per quarter, 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 September Municipal Panel is Organics Recycling. Representatives from Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Livermore and Union City will participate, sharing their experience and insights on the opportunities and challenges of organics diversion in their jurisdictions, especially in light of the mandatory recycling ordinance.

DISCUSSION

Organics recycling has been a long standing and major focus of the Agency and the member agencies, due to its preponderance in the waste stream. It is also now a priority topic at the state and national levels due to the climate change impacts of landfilled organics. A number of factors affect successful organics recycling locally, including impact of the mandatory recycling ordinance, technical assistance, cost of service, promotion and outreach as well as local policies and programs. The panelists will share the current issues and solutions from their perspectives as front-line staff, whose job it is to monitor and promote organics diversion.

One factor affecting participation in organics diversion is the status of mandatory recycling requirements. The table below summarizes the current state of participation in the ordinance by jurisdiction. Also included is information on commercial rates incentives (if any) for organics service as compared to garbage.

	MRO Organics?	Commercial Rate Incentives	Kitchen Pails for Multifamily
Alameda	Yes	96g free; then 20%	Yes
Albany	Yes	50%	Yes
Berkeley	Yes	20%	Yes
Castro Valley	Yes	100%	Yes
Dublin	No	50%	Pilot
Emeryville	Yes	50%	Yes
Fremont	Eff 7/1/17	3%	n/a
Hayward	Yes	50%	Yes
Livermore	Yes	96g free; then 50%	Case by case
Newark	Eff 7/1/17	n/a	n/a
Oakland	Yes	25%	Yes
Oro Loma (Unincorp)	Eff 7/1/17	96g free	No
Piedmont	Yes	100%	Yes
Pleasanton	Eff 7/1/17	25%**	
San Leandro	Yes	96g free; then 20%	No
Union City	No	40%	No

***Yard Debris only*

Supplementing enforcement of the mandatory recycling ordinance, StopWaste provides technical assistance to businesses and multifamily properties, concentrating on those accounts which have received some type of enforcement action. In the last fiscal year, the technical assistance team reached 1,400 businesses, providing assistance to more than 700 of them. Nearly 100 businesses or multifamily properties added or increased organics recycling service as a direct result of technical assistance. StopWaste distributed free food scrap bins to nearly 300 businesses during the same time period. All of this activity is in addition to assistance and outreach provided by member agencies and haulers.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.