



**CITY OF ALBANY  
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 16, 2011  
TO: Albany Sustainability Committee  
FROM: Nicole Almaguer, Environmental Specialist  
SUBJECT: Overview of City Waste Diversion Programs

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Per County Measure D, all jurisdictions within Alameda County are to achieve a 75% diversion rate by 2010. As of the 2010 annual waste disposal data, the City has achieved an 83% diversion rate. The City's Climate Action Plan calls for a zero waste goal (90% diversion).

The City has several existing programs in place intended to help facilitate increased diversion as outlined below:

- Schools: the City has worked collaboratively with the schools and all schools now have both recycling and organics collection services. The City continues to provide technical assistance to the schools, educational lessons, and monitoring during lunchtime/snack time to help sustain success of diversion programs.
- Commercial: the City works with the commercial sector to encourage utilization of recycling service (provided at no extra charge for businesses) and organics service (subsidized 50%). There are a total of 270 commercial accounts within the City, 207 of these accounts utilize recycling, and 50 utilize organics.
- Policy: The City has adopted a number of policies related to waste reduction and diversion including: Climate Action Plan, Environmental Preferable Purchasing policy, Polystyrene Ban, Construction & Demolition Debris Recycling, Bay Friendly Landscaping and Green Building Ordinance. Additionally, Stopwaste.Org (Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Source Reduction and Recycling Board) is currently pursuing two countywide ordinances 1) Single use plastic bag ban, 2) Mandatory commercial recycling. A staff report provided to City Council regarding these proposed ordinances is attached to this memo to provide further detail.

The City Council recently approved a new franchise agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County. The agreement is in effect as of November 1, 2011 and offers a number of new service programs for the community:

- Solar trash/recycling compactor units (15) along Solano Avenue

- Residential curbside collection of household batteries, fluorescent bulbs and cellular phones
- Community compost give-away events (2 per year)
- Public education programs including an outreach campaign to inform the community about new services
- Focused outreach program to increase diversion within the Multi-Family sector
- Annual on-call bulky pickup (1 per year), with optional second on-call bulky pickup, and increased outreach regarding this service
- Funding to the City for staff support to help cover the cost of program implementation
- Funding to cover the expense of consultant fees throughout the negotiation process
- Acceptance of all plastics within the recycling container (except plastic utensils and hangers)