



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by WMM Date 12/12/08
General Manager

DATE: December 12, 2008
TO: General Manager
FROM: Public Education and Recycling Manager
SUBJECT: Report on Public Education, Recycling and Litter Activities

Monterey Planning Commission Approves Food Packaging Policy

City of Monterey staff prepared a negative declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act for the proposed Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging Ordinance for review by the Planning Commission on December 9, 2008. The Monterey report found that adopting the ordinance would have no significant impact on the environment. The policy is aimed to reduce the preponderance of polystyrene litter on city parks, beaches and streets. Testifying in opposition to the policy were Ryan Kenny from the American Chemistry Council along with David Armanasco and Kristina Chavez-Wyatt from Armanasco Public Relations. Several members of the public testified in support, along with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and District General Manager William Merry. Commission members had several questions for Mr. Merry including how the landfill gas recovery program works and the status of food waste composting at the District. Following this testimony, the commission voted unanimously to approve the negative declaration and send the ordinance on to the City Council. Several commission members expressed concern about the cost impact of alternative products for local businesses, which City staff will research in additional detail to better inform the City Council.

California Ocean Protection Council Releases Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter

Following public comment, the Ocean Protection Council released their Implementation Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter on November 20, 2008. The strategy identifies three key **Priority Actions for**

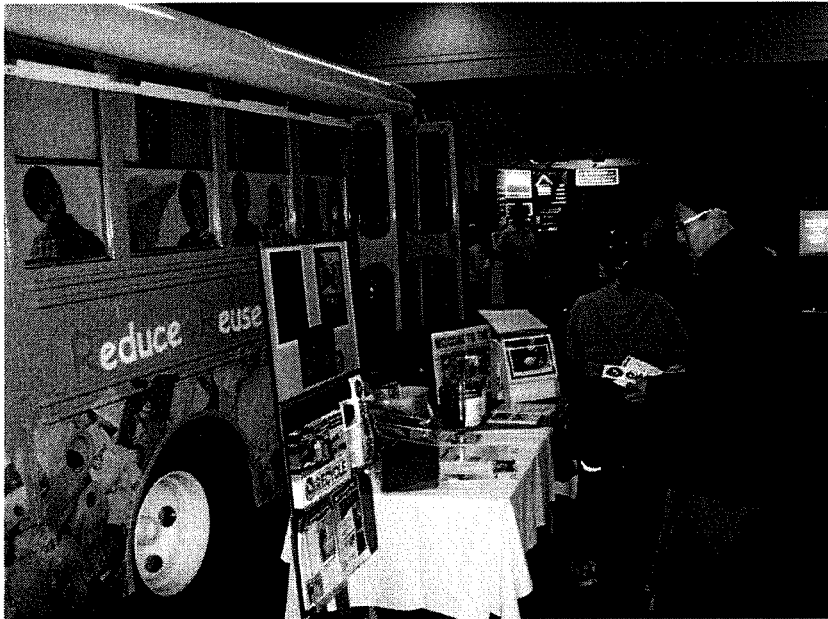
Measurable Success:

1. Implement a producer take-back (EPR) program for convenience food packaging. By placing physical or financial responsibility for collection and disposal on the producer, EPR motivates producers to reduce waste and avoid the costs associated with managing packaging waste.
2. Prohibit single use products that pose significant ocean litter impacts. In particular, the strategy singles out polystyrene fast food packaging for a prohibition, and recommends that a fee be placed on the use of plastic and paper grocery bags at supermarkets.
3. Assess fees on commonly littered items such as cigarettes and convenience food packaging. Funds from litter fees can then be used to support increased enforcement of litter laws, litter cleanup, public education and outreach, funding for research on alternative products, and hazardous waste source reduction.

The issues we are working on locally are the same issues being worked on at the State level, and in communities throughout the West Coast. The complete report can be found at: <http://resources.ca.gov/copc/>.

Monterey Green Building Expo Well Attended

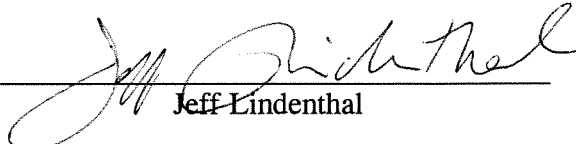
The City of Monterey sponsored their second Green Building Expo on December 3rd at the Monterey Convention Center. The District bus was in attendance as was public education staff. The new green building rating systems allow credit for the use of compost and mulch in landscaping. The focus of the District exhibit was on the cost effective recycled compost and mulch products we have available and how to earn credit by incorporating them into green building projects. The Expo was well attended with a steady flow of people passing by our informational display.



Green Expo attendees check out the MRWMD display.

Strategic Planning Impact

A6a: Program focus on public awareness, increased diversion of organics and commercial wastes, proper management of hazardous and prohibited materials, litter abatement, and sustainability.



Jeff Lindenthal