



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by: W. M. M. Date: 5.14.10
General Manager

DATE: April 14, 2010
TO: General Manager
FROM: Public Education and Recycling Manager
SUBJECT: Report on Public Education, and Recycling, and Litter

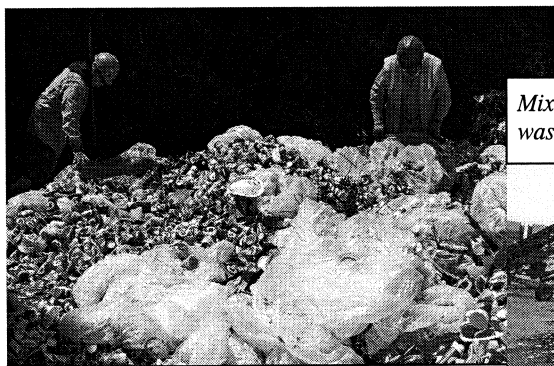
2010 Public/Private Economic Development Partnership Excellence Awards

The District was pleased to be recognized in three 2010 Public/Private Partnership Awards from the Monterey Business Council on April 23rd. The awards recognized the "Food Scrap Compost Pilot Program" operated as a public/private partnership with Keith Day Company, Inc.; the Sand Plant and Recycling Facility, submitted by the Don Chapin Company; and the Waste Free Schools Program, submitted by the Offset Project in partnership with the District.

Big Sur International Marathon Diverts Food Waste and Drink Cups to Compost Program

After runners were done pounding the pavement, the mountain of paper drink cups and banana peels left behind were gathered up and delivered to the District food waste compost program. District staff worked closely with Marathon organizers to maximize the recovery of compostable utensils, paper items and food scraps. New for this event, the District mixed the material with green waste and ran it through the grinder to size-reduce the paper cups and compostable utensils. An earlier test to compost drink cups from last fall's half marathon revealed that, without shredding, the paper cups are slow to decompose.

Marathon organizers were assisted in the event by a large corps of volunteers as well as a grant-funded crew from Ecology Action and staff from Waste Management, Inc. Upon delivery to the District, staff went through the material to remove any residual contaminants before grinding. The subsequent grinding operation went smoothly and effectively reduced the paper items to small shredded bits which will rapidly decompose. Staff is monitoring the material as it composts and will report back to Marathon organizers.



Mixing BSIM compostable material with yard waste prior to running through the grinder.



Removing non-compostable items such as beverage containers, energy gel pouches, and plastic bags resulting from BSIM.

Ground yard waste and compostable material ready for composting.

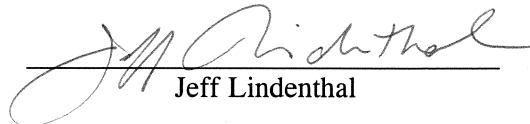
Food Waste Compost Program Welcomes New Participants

Santa Cruz County has been conducting food waste composting under a pilot program permit exemption for several years at the Buena Vista Landfill. Their permit exemption recently expired and as a result Santa Cruz County began delivering food waste loads to the District effective May 1st. The County operates a collection route for approximately 50 local restaurants and schools to divert food scraps and other compostable items which is generating approximately 100 tons of material per month. The University of Santa Cruz (UCSC) also began directing their food waste loads to the District as this material was formerly composted at the Buena Vista Landfill. Staff at UCSC reported that the District will be receiving approximately 25 tons a month from their diversion efforts. District staff has been routinely screening incoming loads to remove contaminants such as plastic bags, beverage containers, and waxed cardboard while working with Santa Cruz County staff to provide feedback they can use in educating their customers.

District staff also met on May 3rd with a consultant for Costco stores who is working to set up food waste diversion programs at stores in the region. The company presently has 19 northern California stores with food waste diversion programs. The District is able to accept material from local stores, as available and will work closely with Costco representatives and local haulers to maximize outreach and education to help ensure clean material is received.

Strategic Planning Impact

- 2c Program focus on public awareness, increased diversion of organics and commercial wastes, proper management of hazardous & prohibited materials, litter abatement, & sustainability.


Jeff Lindenthal