

Regional Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: 7/23/24

Meetings take place the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10am – 12pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Teams

Host: Eric.Wolff@sdcounty.ca.gov

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista
- Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach
- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Danielle McIntosh, City of Poway
- Ofelia Andrade, City of Coronado
- Fernando Moreno, SCS Engineers
- Brooke Flinn, County of San Diego
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Mallika Sen, Solana Center
- Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway
- Jill Larner, CalRecycle
- Emily Creegan, City of San Diego
- Heather Heckman, City of Santee
- Leslie Webb-Blanco, City of Vista
- Kirk Kinder, County of San Diego
- Lily Wang, Demi -Composting for Apartments
- Kaitlyn Elliott-Norgrove, City of Del Mar
- Cynthia Mallett, WM
- Jesus Aramburo , PSS Team WM, Oceanside
- Maddie LaScola, Goodwill San Diego
- Rick Anthony
- Daron Warkentin, City of San Diego
- Vecita Jones, City of Carlsbad
- Megan Kendall, City of San Diego
- Alma Ramirez, City of Escondido
- Natalia King, County of SD
- Abby Hunt, Republic Services
- Amy Unruh, I Love A Clean San Diego.
- Jenna Roripaugh, WM
- Yvonne Cordero, City of Imperial

2. Open Forum

- **Malika Sen, Solana Center:** Regions Solana Center works with are finding that scheduling inspections work best to ensure the right personnel can be there. Some jurisdictions are requiring hotels and other similar facilities to donate edible food to employees, others are only encouraging, and corporate chains are beginning to seem more open to inspections. Solana Center has upcoming education events in August, including single use plastics & composting education: <https://solanacenter.org/events/>
- **Amy Unruh, I Love a Clean SD:** I Love a Clean San Diego shared upcoming events including Valley Center Swap event (7/24), Save Your Scraps Workshop (8/24), and the fall social celebrating the I Love's 70th anniversary. <https://www.cleansd.org/events/list/>

3. Presentation

- **Demi - Composting Reimagined for Multifamily Buildings:** Demi's representative and COO Kristina Choo presented on the concept and business model. They are a startup based in Chicago but looking to expand to more markets, especially in places with organics recycling mandates. They offer a

smart composting system optimized for multi-family complexes, they find that most organics systems are optimized for single family homes, but there are 40 million apartments in the US that are not well served by the current system. They have identified the current systems most common for apartments: floor by floor pickups, door by door pickups, compost shoots, and shared on-site dumpsters. These systems have caused resistance from management and residents due to issues such as large quantities of food waste causing an “ick” factor due to concerns about odor or pests, it can also cause a burden for on-site staff to facilitate pickups and to maintain and clean collection points, it can also be an unpleasant experience for residents which can reduce participation and cause increased contamination. Demi has learned that it is very important to engage residents. They help educate residents in their app and by tabling, they “gameify” the experience through streaks and other challenges against their neighbors. They also have innovated on the current system creating their own airtight bins that create a cleaner and odorless experience. Residents collect their scraps in these bins and return them to locker. They can also pick up a clean container from the locker reducing the ick factor from having to clean the bins. They also focus on providing responsive customer service to rebuild trust. Demi has found that a clean and efficient form of compost service can be an incentive that residents are willing to pay a premium for.

- **Questions:**

- 1. Malika Sen, Solana Center:**

- a. What are the costs? – They contract with the building manager or owner to offer the service to all residents in the building at a per-unit rate. They determine the pricing based on the building layout and how many units and buildings are being serviced but they find the average price is \$2-10 per unit per month.
- b. What is the customer service like? – customer service has a 24/hr hotline for phone calls and emails, they try to respond within a few hours for residents. Building managers also have their own customer service lines and can call maintenance staff for onsite visits to resolve their issues.

- 2. Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista:**

- a. Do you have any sample educational materials? – You can contact them for examples. They provide their educational materials through their mobile app. The app includes a searchable database to find out if an item is compostable and statistics for users such as streaks, competitions, and tracking their impacts to see how much greenhouse gas emissions they have diverted,
- b. What are some metrics from successful implementation? metrics: 23% adoption in a building in Chicago where it is not required, they are looking forward to see what adoption will look like in a place where it is required.

- 3. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego:**

- a. What is the smallest building size that they find is worth servicing?: Demi has found that buildings with more than 50 units enables operational efficiencies and optimizes their resources but they are hoping to expand to smaller or more spread out complexes.
- b. Are all the buildings you service in large high-rise buildings? - as of right now, yes but they are looking to adapt the model to make that different system work.
- c. Does the locker need electricity and wifi? - It doesn't need electricity, but it does need access to wifi mostly for the tenants to access the locker through the app
- d. What would you need to move to San Diego? - Demi wants to see interest from businesses and jurisdictions in San Diego to see if there's a large-scale engagement in order to justify the move & to see if they can work with governing bodies to work together on compliance

4. Amy Unruh, I Love a Clean San Diego:

- a. Where are the contents of the bins going? - They hire employees to haul it to one of their facilities where they sort and then hire a hauler to take the organic waste; mostly they try to consolidate scraps from multiple different buildings at their own facility to then be hauled to reduce contamination and cost.

4. CalRecycle Update:

- **Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle:**
 - Reports due soon: Countywide capacity planning for edible food recovery due 8/1; 2023 Jurisdictional annual report EAR due 8/1
 - The next chat with CalRecycle is Wednesday August 28th about tier 2 edible food generators

5. CPSC Update

- The California legislature is currently on recess. Updates: 2 solar panel related bills are not moving forward but they are currently being rewritten to reintroduce them in January. The Responsible Textile Recovery Act SB 707 is going through revisions. SB1280 is intended to ban single use propane canisters, they believe they have the votes to get it passed but last time it was passed Governor Newsom vetoed it so they are working on a narrative on why the bill is necessary. CPSC is working on a challenge for a cash prize from the Department of Energy. Their project is to make solar panel reuse hubs across the state & to create blueprints for projects you can do with decommissioned solar panels. Please send any information on reutilizing solar panels to CPSC. CalRecycle is launching a solar panel grant, if you are interested CSPSC may offer assistance.

6. NSAC Update

- CPSC presented on behalf of NSAC. All the previous bills that have been discussed have moved out of committee but need to finish appropriations. They

highlighted AB 347 which would require the Department of Toxic Substance Control to adopt regulations to prohibit PFAS chemicals in cookware. Multiple new plastic bag bans are moving forward as well.

7. Wasting Fee Update

- Zero Waste San Diego asked attendees to send a letter of support to each member of the Board of Supervisors encouraging them to support the fee. They are working towards getting a board member to sponsor the bill or else they will take the bill to the board their own.

8. SB1383 Rollout Roundtable

- No updates this month

9. Other Regional Working Group Reports

- **Edible Food – Brooke Flinn, County of San Diego:** The EFR working group met earlier this month, they are updating tier 2 edible food recovery guides going on the DEHQ regional resource website page, making the resources generally applicable to the region. There are upcoming presentations from food recovery apps like flash food. The August meeting is being canceled because it conflicts with CRRA, next meeting September 17th 1-3pm.
- **HHW – Eric Wolff, County of San Diego:** They are still working on getting it off the ground should be starting soon.
- **Organics – Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego:** No updates, the meeting was cancelled in July but the next meeting is August 1st. They are looking for presenters for the meeting, contact Mike W. know if you have a topic request.
- **Reuse and Repair Network – Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista:** Sad news shared at the last meeting, the ReStore (Habitat for Humanity) is closing down both locations sometime in the early fall.
 - **Natalia King, County of San Diego:** National City location could potentially be taken over by a new organization since it is being leased if someone was interested.

10. Roundtable

- **Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista:** Cities with single use plastic bans, are you actively enforcing? How does that look? Feel free to email Manuel if you'd like to share. MMedrano@chulavistaca.gov
 - **Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad:** The City of Carlsbad has begun enforcing, it's a lengthy process and they are focusing on outreach and education but they have enforced. They've sent 135 letters of compliance out and are working with the larger businesses. They've seen a lot of good change, and not everything escalates past the letter of warning for non-compliance, but they do have potential NOV's coming up in the future.

11. Adjournment – the next meeting will be 8/27/24.