On the Road to Zero Waste

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LA Sanitation and the Environment
Council instructed LASAN to report back on multiple motions dealing with plastic and single-use products.

- Plastic straws—on-request 2019
- Foodware accessories—on-request 2022

Council instructed LASAN to be “aggressive and bold” and develop a long-term plastic reduction strategy that goes beyond the scope of the following eight council motions.
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LASAN Policy Recommendations

- LASAN is recommending multiple policies for the Council to consider. These are grouped into seven broad recommendations.

- All recommended policies aim to reduce the entry of plastic waste into the environment, reduce waste generation, eliminate single-use products, and encourage sustainable green procurement.

- The recommended policies are about exerting local control over products and materials entering Los Angeles, as the City is responsible, operationally and financially, for managing items at the end of their useful lives.
Policy #1: Zero Waste City Facilities and City–Sponsored Events

Direct City Facilities & City–sponsored events to be zero waste.

- Ensure organic waste and recycling collection is made available at all City–sponsored events.
- Prohibit the use of expanded polystyrene cups, plates and containers at all City facilities, and City–sponsored or supported events.
- Prohibit catering events at City facilities from utilizing single–use plastic items.
- Adopt a policy banning the purchase and use of single–use plastic beverage bottles in all City facilities and at City–sponsored events.
- Direct City departments to begin consultations with City unions to evaluate uniform specifications and investigate non–synthetic options.
Policy #2: Ban Expanded Polystyrene Foam (EPS)

- Adopt an ordinance prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and use of specific expanded polystyrene (EPS) goods.

- This ban would apply to foodware; packing materials including “peanuts” and shipping boxes; meat and fish trays, and egg cartons; coolers, ice chests or similar containers; pool or beach toys; dock floats, mooring buoys, anchor or navigational markers.
Policy #3: Ban Single-Use Bags and Cups

- Ban All Types of Single-Use Plastic Bags:
  - Plastic produce bags
  - Produce in pre-packaged plastic bags/wraps
  - All plastic shopping bags of any thickness or style in all stores
  - Plastic films used for dry cleaner bags
  - Ban single-use plastic cups
Policy #4: Bottled Beverages

- Ban the sale of water in non-refillable plastic bottles.
- Ban the sale of water in plastic bottles at City facilities and City-sponsored events.
- Ban the sale of LA-sourced water outside of LA due to drought conditions.
- Ban the inclusion of plastic in tea bags.
- Mandate that 25% of all plastic bottles sold in LA must be refillable.
- Mandate that 10% of beverage bottles sold in LA must be refillable within 5 years.
- Mandate post-consumer recycled content in all plastic bottles.
- Mandate leashed-lids on plastic beverage bottles/containers.
Policy #5: Foodware Accessories

- Expand the Disposable Foodware Accessories Ordinance of 2021.
- Mandate reusable foodware for dine-in services (e.g., ban single-use disposable foodware for dine-in service).
- Mandate 30% postconsumer recycled content in disposable foodware.
- Fee for single-use disposable cups and straws.
Policy #6: Promote Reuse/Recycle

- Ban non-recyclable packaging.

- Ban meal kits unless manufacturers promote take-back or reuse programs for the non-recyclable components.

- Require manufacturers to fund take-back programs for non-recyclable components.
Policy #7: Ban the Disposal of Textiles

- Adopt ordinance to ban manufacturers and retailers (online and brick & mortar) from disposing apparel and textiles.

- Ban disposal of returned items, unsold items, and excess fabric scraps/remnants.
Additional Policies for Consideration

- Ban the sale and use of bio-plastic products
- Ban the manufacture, sale, and use of materials that contain Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
  - AB 1200, signed into (CA) law in October 2021, bans the use of PFAS in paper-based food packaging and disclosure of toxic substances in cookware beginning in 2023.
- Mandate that clothes washers be equipped with a microplastic filtration system.
- Fee on washable synthetic items.
- Improve local and regional utilization of recyclables, including domestic content disclosure, labelling, and post
## Potential Policies Achievable in the Short Term

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<th>Recommend Policy</th>
<th>Estimated Time Frame</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zero Waste City Facilities and City-sponsored Events</td>
<td>Six Months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citywide EPS Foodware Ban</td>
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<td>Lift exemptions from Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance</td>
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Next Steps

- LASAN will coordinate with the City Attorney and conduct additional analyses of these policies, including legal review and compliance with CEQA.

- The City Council directs the CAO to assist LASAN in identifying funding opportunities to help support affected organizations and groups, such as sidewalk street vendors, small food establishments and others to transition away from EPS foodware products.
SB 1383: Organics Diversion

Q: What is SB 1383

A: In September 2016, the State of California set methane emissions education targets for California (SB 1383 Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP). The measure requires the state to reduce organic waste disposal (food waste, green waste, paper products, etc.) by 75% by 2025, which translates to more than 20 million tons annually. With one in five children in California going hungry every night, the law also requires the state to increase edible food recovery by 20 percent by 2025. 75% is a statewide goal.

This legislation required CalRecycle to develop new regulations to support the new goals. The resulting regulations, approved by CalRecycle in late 2020, is the most significant waste reduction mandate to be adopted in California in the last 30 years. The new regulations place new requirements on all residential properties, commercial properties, food rescue organizations, and jurisdictions. Many of the new requirements begin in January 2022.
SB 1383: Organics Diversion via the Green Bin

Q: I live in a single family home or smaller multifamily building and receive collection services from the City. Do I need to place food waste in the green bin?

A: Eventually all food waste will need to be placed in the green bin. The City is securing contracts to manage this material; residents will be notified as the program rolls out.

*All food waste, including raw and cooked meat and bones, will be accepted in the green bin.*

Q: I own or manage a large multifamily property or a business or commercial property and receive collection services from a recycLA service provider but I do not have a green bin. Do I need an organics (Green Bin) collection service under California's SB 1383 requirements?

A: Please contact your recycLA Service Provider (RSP) to schedule a waste assessment and arrange for an appropriate service.
**SB 1383: Organics Diversion**

**Q:** I receive collection services from a recyCLa Service Provider. Is there an additional cost for organic (Green Bin) collection services?

**A:** Yes, there is an additional cost associated with organic (Green Bin) service. However, those costs may be mitigated by maximizing recycling properly and right-sizing your service (appropriate number of trash bins).

**Q:** Are there other requirements for businesses under SB 1383?

**A:** Yes. All Tier 1 and Tier 2 large edible Food Waste Generators, such as produce markets, must participate in an edible food recovery program and have contracts in place with Food Recovery Organizations.

**Q:** What is LASAN doing to rescue edible food and reduce the amount of material going to landfill?

**A:** Through the Franchise program agreements and other LASAN programs, financial support, direct cash payments, and in-kind services are provided to food rescue organizations (FRO) to promote and support redistribution of surplus edible food.
RecycLA Franchise Food Rescue & Materials Reuse

**Summary of Food Rescue and Materials Reuse Funding and Tonnage**

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<th>RecycLA Franchise Food Rescue &amp; Materials Reuse</th>
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<tr>
<td>Food Rescue Funding</td>
<td>Food Rescued in Tons</td>
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<td>$5,100,357.95</td>
<td>44,706.39</td>
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_This is the equivalent of 74,510,650 meals_*

*44,706.39 tons = 89,412,780 pounds. One meal = 1.2 pounds. Rescued food = 74,510,650 meals (89,412,780 lbs. / 1.2 lbs.).
SB 1383: Organics Diversion NOW

Q: How many homes and businesses in LA currently are allowed to recycle food scraps via their green bin?

A: As part of a pilot program, 18,000 homes are able to place organic waste (food waste) in the green bin. There are currently 1,900 multifamily and commercial properties that receive organics collection services from their recycLA service providers.

Q: What is the timetable for expanding food scrap recycling to more homes and businesses?

A: LASAN will submit a report in early 2022 on the funding and resources needed to expand the organics program to all residents serviced by LASAN. Businesses and multifamily properties that receive service through the recycling program can contact their recycLA service provider now to arrange for service.

Q: Will residential customers be getting a kitchen compost pail, like the 18K pilot homes did?

A: LASAN’s report recommends that compost pails be provided upon request.
Curbside Recycling

Various iterations:
Source-separated program
Commingled program
Accepted plastics #1 - #7

For 20 years, China accepted virtually all recyclable materials
2017 National Sword initiative

New in 2022

Only plastics #1, #2 and #5 will be accepted in City’s curbside residential program.
(recyCLA program for large multi-family and commercial customers is identical).

Examples include bottles, containers, tubs and jugs.

New bin labels are pending.
Zero Waste

“Before the bin:” Think upstream to reduce waste and avoid making waste in the first place.

Avoid single-use/disposable items.

Practice reuse, share items.

Buy what you *need*.

Consider the recyclability/compostability of packaging and the ratio of packaging:product

Be honest: Conduct a visual waste audit & know what you’re disposing at home and at the office and why, and make necessary changes.

No “wish-cycling:” Recycle according to the bin label.

Focus on organics / food
How You Can Help

Share information.

Let manufacturers & retailers know what you think about their products & packaging.

Lobby lawmakers.
Thank You