



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Agenda - Final Environmental Sustainability Board

*Lisa Bakosi, Chair; Heather Ward, Vice-Chair; Susan Barns;
Dorothy Brown; Amanda MacDonald; Warren Mazanec; and
Heidi Rogers; Members*

Thursday, August 15, 2019

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue, Suite 110

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*This section of the agenda is reserved for comments from the public
on items that are not otherwise included in this agenda.*

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[12208-19](#) Approval of the July 18, 2019, Environmental Sustainability Board
Minutes

Presenters: Lisa Bakosi

Attachments: [A - Draft ESB Minutes July 18, 2019](#)

5. **BOARD BUSINESS**

[12209-19](#) Update on Save As You Throw Research Subcommittee Progress

Presenters: Susan Barns

Attachments: [B - SAYT Update on July-August 2019 Actions](#)

[12210-19](#) Removal of Environmental Sustainability Board Member

Presenters: Lisa Bakosi

6. **REPORTS**

A. **Chair's Report - Lisa Bakosi**

B. **Board Member Reports**

C. **Liaison's Reports**

- 1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns
- 2). Planning and Zoning Commission - Vacant
- 3). Transportation Board - Heather Ward
- 4). Parks and Recreation Board - Heidi Rogers
- 5). Community Development Advisory Board - Warren Mazanec
- 6). County Council Liaison - Antonio Maggiore

D. Subcommittee/Team/Working Groups Reports

- 1). Sava As You Throw - Sue Barns
- 2). Green Schools Task Force - Lisa Bakosi
- 3). Zero Waste Los Alamos - Dorothy Brown

7. STAFF REPORT

[12211-19](#) Zero Waste Events Update

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [C - Los Alamos Summer Concert Series - Zero Waste Stations](#)

[12212-19](#) July 2019 Residential Sustainability Report

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [D - Residential Sustainability Report - July 2019](#)

[12213-19](#) Environmental Services Business & Operation Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [E - Resource Recycling - Feature - LA Eco Station - August 2019 Issue](#)

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

1. *Yard Trimming Updates - Staff*
2. *Biodigester Presentation - Steve Hanson, SFCC, Biofuels Center of Excellence*

*3. Food Composting - Erik Loechell***9. ADJOURNMENT**

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the County Human Resources Division at 662-8040 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the personnel in the Community Services Administration Office at 662-8163 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.



County of Los Alamos

Staff Report

August 15, 2019

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Lisa Bakosi

Legislative File: 12208-19

Title

Approval of the July 18, 2019, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Recommended Action Motion

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board approve the July 18, 2019, minutes as presented.

Or

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board approve the July 18, 2019 minutes as amended.

Body

The ESB will review and approve the July 18, 2019, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes.

Attachments

A - Draft ESB Minutes July 18, 2019



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Minutes

Environmental Sustainability Board

Lisa Bakosi, Chair; Heather Ward, Vice-Chair; Susan Barns; Dorothy Brown; Amanda MacDonald; Warren Mazanec; and Heidi Rogers; Members

Thursday, July 18, 2019

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue, Suite 110

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

ESB Vice-Chair, Heather Ward, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

The following members were in attendance:

Present: Vice-Chair Ward, Member Barns, Member Brown, Member MacDonald and Member Rogers

Absent: Chair Bakosi and Member Mazanec

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Brown, seconded by Member Barns, that the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the June 20, 2019, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: Heather Ward

Attachments: [A - Draft ESB Minutes June 20, 2019](#)

A motion was made by Member Barns, seconded by Member Brown, that the June 20, 2019 minutes be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

Los Alamos County Energy Use and Green House Gas Emissions Report
by Robert Gibson

Presenters: Heather Ward

Attachments: [B - Los Alamos County Energy Use and GHG Emissions Report.](#)

The ESB received a presentation from Robert Gibson regarding his report on Los Alamos County Energy Use and Green House Gas Emissions. He reported about where the green

house gas comes from in Los Alamos as well as showed the history of energy usage in the county not including Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Special note - Robert Gibson performed this study on his own accord. His position in this report is not that of the County and the County cannot confirm, deny or agree with the conclusions drawn.

Save As You Throw Update

Presenters: Heather Ward

Attachments: [C - SAYT Update July 2019](#)
[Save As You Throw - Frequently Asked Questions - 07082019](#)

The Save As You Throw (SAYT) Research Subcommittee provided an update about SAYT findings and their research to date. The subcommittee has performed various education and outreach activities, as well as performed research on other communities that have a pay as you throw tiered rate system in place. The ESB was also presented with a timeline for future events, including the Open Forum poll and recommendation process.

Public comment:

Nancy Bliss, 74 La Paloma Dr., commented that this program will lessen the County's carbon footprint and is for that concept. She also commented her concern of which option would be the best option for people who produce little trash but when family visits will produce much more in that time frame.

Lisa Shin, 637 47th St., commented about infringement of personal freedom to choose which trash bags to buy. As well as commented about businesses having dumpsters and trying to figure out who is using the correct trash bags.

Kathy Taylor, 57 Todd Loop, commented her concerns of the type of bags that will be used and was concerned that light duty bags would tear on the curb.

Carrie Walker, 973 Nambe Loop, commented her concerns about that someone's trash could be subject to IPRA.

Stephanie Haaser, 2145 41st Unit A, commented about cleanup activities that boy scouts do, not in conjunction with Clean Up Los Alamos Day. She commented about the negative effect the program would have on the incentives to pick up trash on the roads or trails. As well as the effect it would have on larger families, families who open their house to students and single-family homes.

6. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report -Lisa Bakosi

No report was given.

B. Board Member Reports

No report was given.

C. Liaison's Reports

1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns

Member Barns reported that the board welcomed Philo Shelton as the new Utilities Manager, he has had meetings with Utah Associated Municipal Power Services and will be the new representative taking Tim Glasco's position. There is continued software

integration issues with the Munis system and the SMART meters that is being worked on. There have been meetings with NNSA to talk about water right renewals. The 1 megawatt PV Solar array that was scheduled to be installed on the closed landfill this year has been postponed based on lease issues. There was an approval of the design of the White Rock Waste Water Treatment Plant. There was a discussion about an opportunity to buy into more of the NuScale Small Modular Reactor project in Utah.

2). Planning and Zoning Commission - Vacant

No report was given.

3). Transportation Board - Heather Ward/Don Machen

Vice-Chair Ward reported on the highway 502 construction and the resurfacing of Diamond Dr. from Omega Bridge to the roundabout at San Ildefonso Road.

4). Parks and Recreation Board - Heidi Rogers

No report was given.

5). Community Development Advisory Board - Warren Mazanec

No report was given.

6). County Council Liaison - Antonio Maggiore

Councilor Maggiore reported about the petition on banning single use plastic bag, straws and styrofoam and stated that the Council created a subcommittee to research this issue.

D. Subcommittee Reports

1). Sava As You Throw - Sue Barns

Member Barns restated information from the SAYT presentation and mentioned that the subcommittee continues to meet every other Friday.

2). Los Alamos Public Schools Team - Angelica Gurule

Liaison Gurule reported that the subcommittee is working on Operation Green Cafeteria based off student requests to get rid of single use items in their cafeterias. The students also asked for more recycling in their schools. She also reported that July 29th there will be a roll up your sleeves meeting with Dr. Kurt Steinhaus, asking for greener cafeteria and greener schools as well as looking into incorporating sustainable designs in the schools.

3). Zero Waste Los Alamos - Dorothy Brown/Sara Thurgood

Member Barns reported that the Zero Waste Team received a presentation by Jim Little on various food banks and food rescue operations around New Mexico and Aaron's kids who provides meals for school children. They discussed with Mr. Little on how to get donations from Smith's and the Co Op. The team received updates from the Schools Subgroup and the Restaurant Subgroup. The County is looking at putting together bilingual information on recycling in Los Alamos County to help with diversion. Staff Liaison Gurule reported to the board that the next big project that will be looked at is food waste

prevention.

7. STAFF REPORT

June 2019 Residential Sustainability Report

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [D - Residential Sustainability Report - June 2019](#)

The ESB reviewed and discussed the June 2019 Residential Sustainability Report. The data now includes more data and graphs that will demonstrate overall diversion as a result of the new yard trimming program which began on July 9, 2018. The yard trimming program has been in place for one year.

Most recent addition to the report included greenhouse gas emissions reduced by recycling and composting.

The yard trimming program is voluntary and embraced by the community, with support from 59% or 4,092 households. Currently each household is limited to one cart per household to ensure each household can have the ability to participate in the yard trimming program.

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Presentation about Biodigestor

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Barns, seconded by Member Brown that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Susan Barns

Legislative File: 12209-19

Title

Update on Save As You Throw Research Subcommittee Progress

Recommended Action Motion

N/A

Body

The ESB will be provided with an updated regarding the Save As You Throw Research Subcommittee progress.

Attachments

B - SAYT Update on July-August 2019 Actions

Update on July-August Save-As-You-Throw Research Subcommittee progress

- Staff has completed preliminary rate calculations, these are under review.
 - Rate calculations are complex, and require assumptions about amounts of waste reduction, recycling increase, implementation costs, etc.
 - Need to calculate under various scenarios, to provide low and high estimates
 - We want to be sure we have the best estimates possible before proceeding
- Open Forum poll was scheduled to start at the end of August. We have decided to postpone the poll (perhaps indefinitely) due to:
 - Need for finalized rate estimates
 - Questions from the public that suggest that there is still much confusion about the basics of SAYT.
 - Julie Habiger (LAC Public Relations Administrator) suggested that Open Forum poll may not be the best way to query public on complex topics. Not a good venue for informing/educating. People don't take the time to evaluate the information presented and give thoughtful responses.
- The SAYT Subcommittee also met with acting Public Works Director Jon Bulthuis, Councilor Antonio Maggiore and Julie Habiger to ask how to proceed with the change of schedule. They agreed that it would be appropriate and acceptable to postpone or cancel the poll and take whatever time we need to make recommendations to the ESB.
 - We do not need to formally present to Council on our change in schedule. We will consider sending them an update memo after September ESB meeting.
 - We also had a more general discussion about alternate paths forward to reduce waste, including food waste composting and other strategies. The community seems interested in this; perhaps it could be implemented before, with or instead of SAYT.
- We plan to present rate estimates and possible paths forward at ESB meeting on Sept. 19, and ask for your input on how to proceed.



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Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters:

Legislative File: 12210-19

Title

Removal of Environmental Sustainability Board Member

Recommended Action

I move to recommend that Council consider the removal of Warren Mazanec from the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) effective immediately.

Body

Mr. Mazanec was appointed to the ESB on March 6, 2018 by County Council. Mr. Mazanec's term is August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2020. Mr. Mazanec has been absent without notice for three consecutive ESB meetings. Several attempts to contact Mr. Mazanec have been made; however, he has not responded to any of these attempts nor has he come to any additional meetings. Section 3 of the Boards and Commissions Procedure Rules states "Board or commission members serve at the pleasure of the County Council and may be removed for any reason at any time by a majority vote of the Council. The Chair of the Board or Commission, the Council liaison, or the County Manager may recommend consideration of a member's removal to the County Council. The reasons for removal may include, but are not limited to: (A) Continuous absences from all regularly scheduled meetings. Members who impair the proper functioning of the board or commission due to their constant inability to attend meetings or to participate in board commission activities may be removed from the board or commission."



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Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Legislative File: 12211-19

Title

Zero Waste Events Update

...Suggested Motion

N/A

Body

The ESB will discuss the Zero Waste Stations at the Los Alamos Summer Concert Series and review total material collected and diverted. There are three concerts remaining and volunteers needed for each concert.

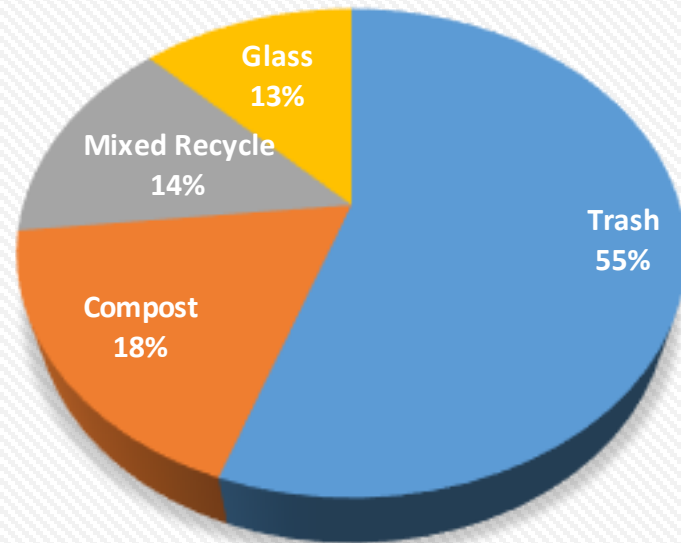
The ESB has also been invited to participate and provide zero waste services at PEEC Bear Buffet on Friday, August 23.

Attachments

C - Los Alamos Summer Concert Series - Zero Waste Stations

Total	Lbs
Trash	4560
Compost	1480
Mixed Recycle	1180
Glass	1020

Zero Waste Stations Materials Collected at Summer Concert Series



■ Trash ■ Compost ■ Mixed Recycle ■ Glass



County of Los Alamos

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August 15, 2019

Los Alamos, NM 87544
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Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Legislative File: 12212-19

Title

July 2019 Residential Sustainability Report

Recommended Action Motion

N/A

Body

The ESB will review and discuss the July 2019 Residential Sustainability Report. The data now includes more data and graphs that will demonstrate overall diversion as a result of the new yard trimming program which began on July 9, 2018.

The yard trimming program resumed on March 18, 2019.

Most recent additions to the report include greenhouse gas emissions reduced by recycling and composting. Since the program has been in existence one full year, we added data that compares tonnages of material collected over each year. Also, there was an error in 2016 brush data, the tare weight of the truck was incorrect and was adding 4 tons to each load. When corrected it significantly reduced the amount of brush collected in those years.

Attachments

D - Residential Sustainability Report - July 2019



Residential Sustainability Report

Service Period: July 2019

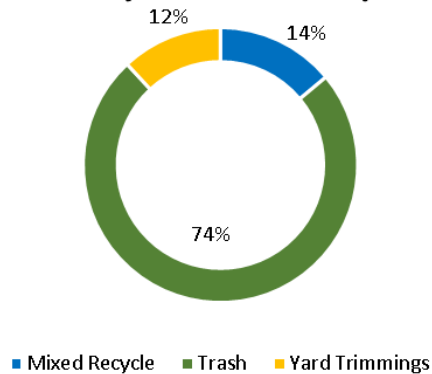


LOS ALAMOS

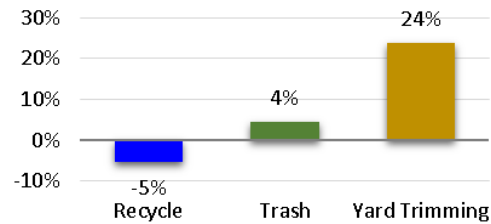
July Diversion Rate: **26%**

The *diversion rate* is the percent of recyclable and compostable material diverted from the landfill.

Monthly Collection Report

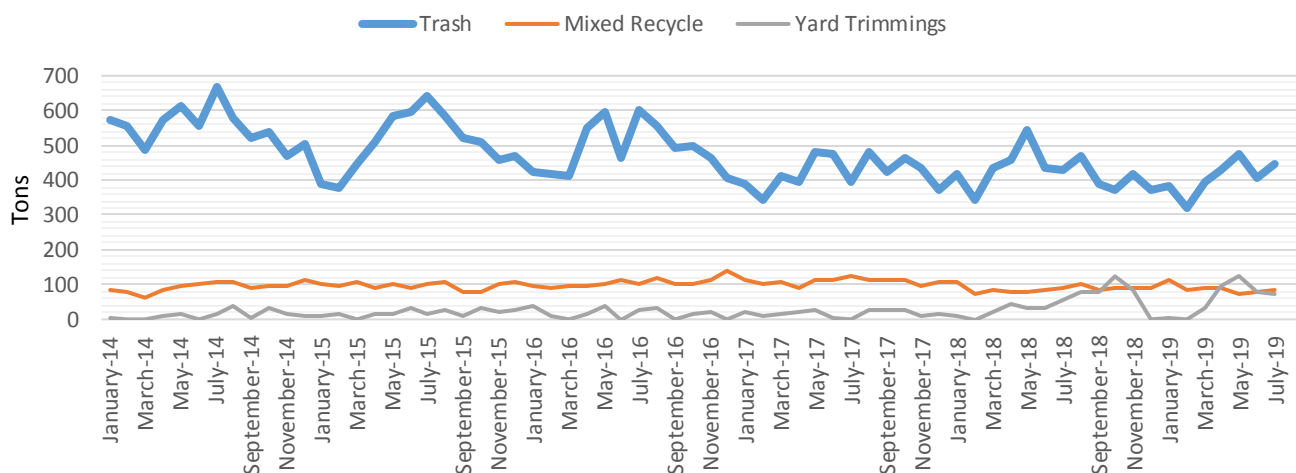


% Change Previous Year

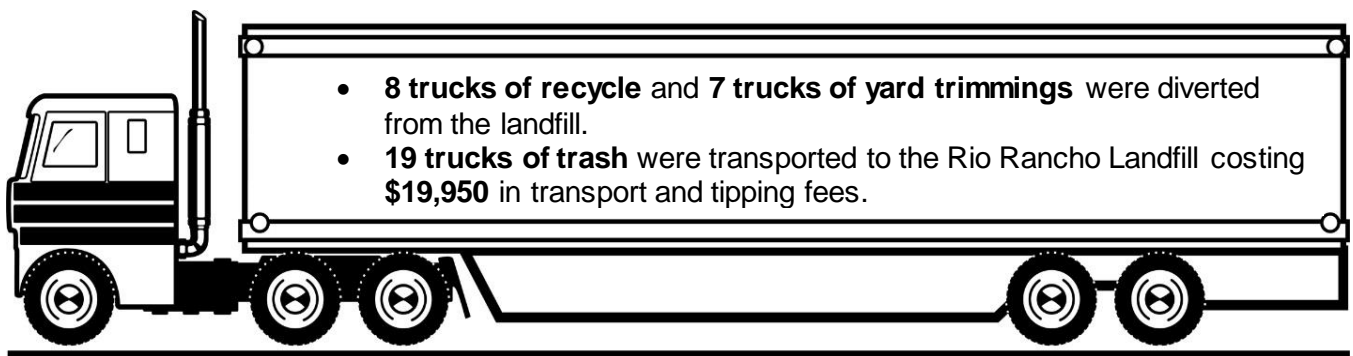


	Jul-18	Jul-19
Yard Trimming	58.16	71.96
Recycle	89.14	84.39
Trash	429.16	448.09

In July by recycling and composting Los Alamos County reduced GHG emissions by ~430 tons



In 2019 by recycling and composting Los Alamos County reduced GHG emissions by ~2922 tons



For more information contact Environmental Services Division at 505.662.8163 or email solidwaste@lacnm.us



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Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Legislative File: 12213-19

Title

Environmental Services Business & Operation Updates

...Suggested Motion

N/A

Body

Environmental Services operates as an enterprise fund. The Eco Station operates seven days per week and provides residential and commercial trash and recycle collection. The ESB is routinely provided with updates regarding business and operations.

1. Household Hazardous Waste is accepted on Friday and Saturday from 9am to 3pm. The County's safety officer asked that HHW materials/chemicals are no longer opened as a means to reduce risk to the County and to our employees. Our employees would open chemicals to test for pH and separate as necessary. This is no longer allowed. As a result, bulking materials is also no longer allowed. This change in operations will cause an overall increase to the program as loose packed materials is more expensive than bulking. We are continuing to research cost saving solutions. From a customer stand point the only impact is we can no longer bulk their old gasoline. The gas needs to be in disposable, leak proof container.
2. NMED Solid Waste Bureau conducted their annual inspection of the Eco Station and noted that the overall operation was compliant and gave good remarks about the overall operation. However, one area that needed to be addressed was fire breaks between brush, mulch and pallet piles. We have corrected the issue and made adequate fire breaks between piles.
3. The Eco Station transfer station ventilation system is inadequately sized and a design for an upgraded system was completed in FY19. We received one bid response that was \$100K over bid. We are looking at the State Price agreement as an alternative means to move forward with the construction of the ventilation system.
4. The Eco Station has had issues with theft in the past. As part of the FY20 budget, a camera system will be installed as a means to increase overall security of the site.
5. Environmental Services Division was featured in Resource Recycling Magazine - August 2019 issue. The article highlighted the recycle and yard trimming program and also our efforts towards Zero Waste at the Summer Concert Series.
6. The County is looking for a new home for the recycle bins currently located at Sullivan

Field. If you have ideas, please let me know.

7. The County solicited vendors for a recycle education and notification app in FY19. A vendor has been selected and the contract is being drafted.
8. The County is currently negotiating the recycle processing contract with Friedman Recycling.

Attachments

E - Resource Recycling - Feature - LA Eco Station - August 2019 Issue

LOS ALAMOS, N.M.

Range of factors drive diversion in corner of New Mexico



Los Alamos is known to many as the site of a major research center that has made some pivotal discoveries, including development of the atomic bomb. In some ways, its research facility also factors into the community's diversion efforts.

The rural community in northern New Mexico has about 18,000 residents and is home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory, one of the U.S. Department of Energy's 16 major research facilities around the country.

That brings a particular type of resident to the community, and it shows in the recycling realm. Although Los Alamos is small, the population is engaged, interested in recycling right and curious about diversion data, said Angelica Gurule, environmental services manager for Los Alamos County, which comprises the unincorporated communities of Los Alamos and White Rock.

According to the county, Los Alamos residents have "among the highest levels of educational attainment of any community anywhere, with many residents holding a masters' degree or PhD."

In addition to its well-educated population, the incorporated county has a practical impetus for achieving strong diversion results. Los Alamos has a closed landfill, and all waste must be transported some 90 miles away for disposal.

"We do our best to keep as much trash out of the landfill as possible," Gurule explained.

SPECIFICS ON THE STREAM

The National Laboratory also contributes its own stream to the city's diversion efforts.

As a major research facility, the lab naturally generates a great deal of clean office paper. The lab separates the paper primarily for data security reasons, wanting the waste paper to remain domestic for processing. More sensitive documents are shredded rather than recycled, but the more routine papers are able to be

recycled, and they provide a clean stream of source-separated material, amounting to 135 tons last year.

On the residential side, the community offers curbside collection of recycling, yard trimmings and trash. Sixty percent of households have a yard trimmings cart, and 85% of households receive recycling service. Those numbers are particularly impressive, given a key fact about recycling in Los Alamos.

"All of our programs are voluntary," Gurule said. "They're not mandatory at all."

The county collects material from households and manages the transfer station. Collected material is sent to regional processor to be sorted and marketed.

Los Alamos also works with the BioPappel/McKinley USA paper mill in Prewitt, N.M., shipping the community's source-separated OCC directly to the mill. In addition, the recycling program also offers OCC drop-off locations around Los Alamos.

The community conducted a waste sort in 2015 and found that yard trimmings would be a relatively easy stream to separate. The yard trimmings collection program was recently launched, and it reflects an emphasis on diverting materials as close to home as possible. The county runs its own compost site.

AT A GLANCE

- **18,000 residents in Los Alamos County**
- **28 percent diversion rate**
- **Recently rolled out curbside yard trimmings collection**
- **17 percent contamination rate**
- **Zero Waste Team exploring diversion in schools and public events**

LOS ALAMOS, N.M.

"We're kind of a little island up here," Gurule said. "So as much as we can maintain, handle or manage the material on-site, within the community, to me that's the most sustainable option."

PROGRAM EVOLUTION THROUGH THE YEARS

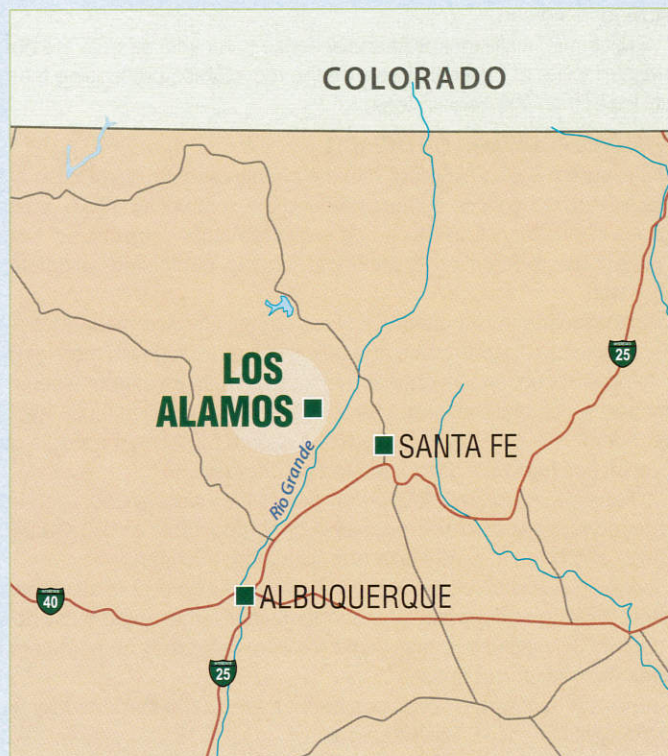
The county closed its landfill 10 years ago because the site had reached capacity. Shortly afterward, the county opened its transfer station and introduced roll-carts for garbage collection. Single-stream, cart-based recycling launched around 2012 and was expanded into its current form in 2014.

The single-stream program accepts most standard recyclables, but it does not take in glass. However, there are drop-off locations for that material, yielding about 300 tons per year.

Los Alamos achieved a 28% diversion rate in June of this year, the most recent period for which figures are available (the county is required to tally a diversion rate each month). That number includes residential recyclables and yard trimmings. The county collected nearly 80 tons of recyclables, 80 tons of yard trimmings and 406 tons of trash during June.

Friedman Recycling, which receives most of the recyclables collected in Los Alamos, conducts an annual material survey, and the county's contamination rate averages about 17%.

Like many programs, the county has seen its recycling financials shift of late – from receiving revenue for recyclables to paying to move the materials. Even so, the program has not stopped accepting any recyclables. Gurule said the recycling program doesn't want to make major shifts in accepted materials, to avoid confusing residents about what is and isn't



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LOS ALAMOS, N.M.

allowed in the cart.

Additionally, it still makes financial sense to recycle despite the depressed value of materials because the recyclables processing fees are still lower than disposal tip fees.

PUSHING FORWARD OUTREACH

The program is also evolving, with the county recently developing a Zero Waste Team to work on outreach around the community. This team engages in a variety of diversion and waste reduction projects. For instance, the Zero Waste Team works with local schools, particularly on cafeteria diversion.

School outreach is a great use of resources, Gurule noted, because students take the lessons home and talk about recycling with their families.

Another recent spot of outreach focus has been a summer weekly concert series that's attended by anywhere from 1,500 to 5,000 people per event. The Zero Waste Team has explored targeting the single-use foodservice materials distributed to concertgoers.

"The vendors were completely on-board, they were encouraged but not required to serve on either recyclable or compostable items," Gurule said. These efforts led to 50% waste diversion at one concert.

Bringing diversion efforts to those types of public events also gets residents thinking about waste at a deeper level. Gurule noted that following a Fourth of July event this year, some residents said they wished there had been more recycling options.

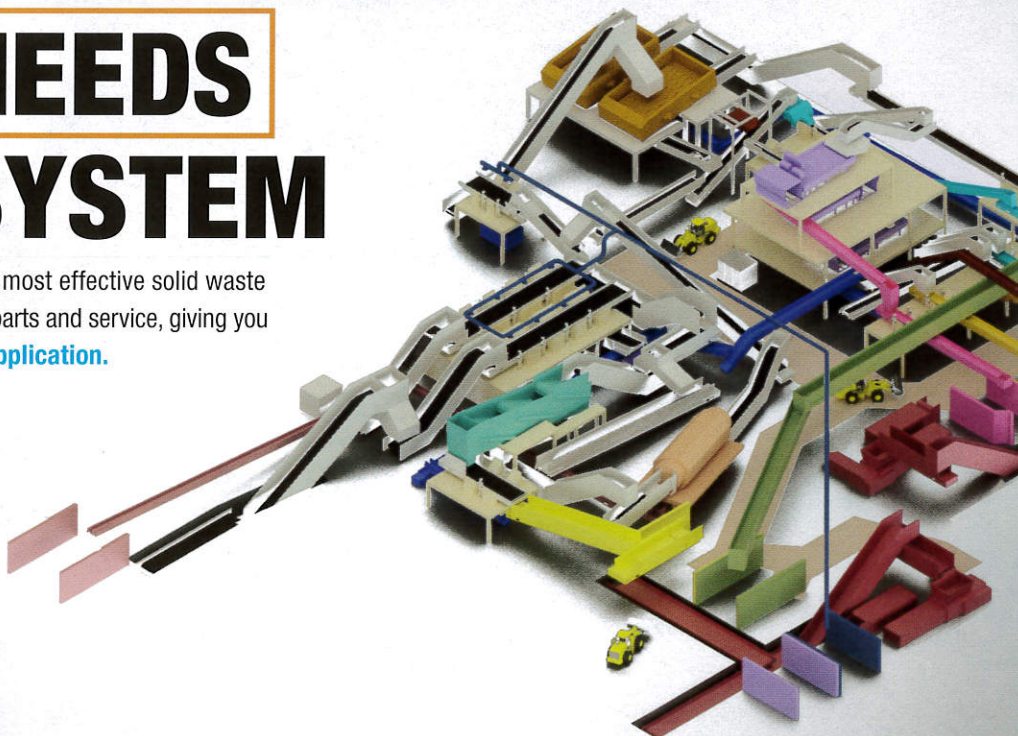
"The fact that they're conscious about trash, to me that's a really big step in the right direction," Gurule said. ■



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